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MI 750 Theories and Models of Mission

Howard A. Snyder

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MI 750. THEORIES AND MODELS OF MISSION

[Syllabus available also on the Seminary Network as: MI750 - S2002]

DESCRIPTION

An examination of the ways Christian mission has been understood historically, with particular focus on Evangelical, Ecumenical, and Roman Catholic approaches to mission during the twentieth century. Attention is given especially to the interrelationships of Gospel, church, and culture in theologies of mission.

OBJECTIVE

The principal objective of this course is to examine, understand, and compare theologies of mission that have had important influence in the history of the church, particularly in the twentieth century. Differing mission theologies are critically examined with a view toward helping equip Christian leaders to carry out mission from a theological base that is informed, coherent, and biblically grounded.

STRUCTURE OF COURSE

We will follow the schedule indicated below. Class sessions will usually be geared to the assigned readings. The approach used combines two methods: A chronological study focusing particularly on important missionary conferences and documents, and a comparative study using models.

TEXTS


RECOMMENDED


COURSE EXPECTATIONS

1. Participate in all class sessions, seeking to advance the learning of others as well as yourself through informed discussion.

2. Complete all the assigned readings (See course schedule below). Usually readings will be discussed in class, and students will be expected to have read the assigned readings in advance. A reading report is due each week; use the form provided at the end of the syllabus. Photocopy additional forms as needed, or copy the form to your computer.
The recommended readings provide more depth and in some cases cover additional material and perspectives not treated in the required reading assignments. Complete as much of the recommended reading as possible.

3. Lead the class discussion of the assigned readings during one class session (date to be determined). This will involve (1) introducing the reading, with any appropriate background; (2) preparing discussion questions; and (3) leading the discussion.

4. Write a critical comparison and evaluation of two of the following documents (approx. 10 pages. Due March 21):

   *The Schleitheim Confession* (1527)
   “Address to the Church,” Ecumenical Missionary Conference (NY 1900), 2:348-50
   “The Christian Message,” Jerusalem 1928 (Hedlund, 71ff)

   *The Barmen Declaration* (1934)
   “The Unfinished Evangelistic Task,” Madras 1939 (Hedlund, 110ff)
   “Reshaping the Pattern of Missionary Activity,” Willingen 1952 (Hedlund, 139ff)

   *The Wheaton Declaration* (Hedlund, 169ff)
   “Decree on the Missionary Activity of the Church” (from *Ad Gentes*) (Hedlund, 213ff)

   *Nostra Aetate*, 1965 (Flannery, 738ff)
   “Renewal in Mission,” Uppsala 1968 (Hedlund, 242ff)

   *The Frankfurt Declaration* (Hedlund, 250ff)
   *The Lausanne Covenant* (Samuel & Sugden, 503-11)
   “Confessing Christ Today,” Nairobi 1975 (Hedlund, 374ff)

   *The Manila Manifesto*, Manila 1989 (Stott, 225-48)
   “Mission and Evangelism,” Geneva 1982 (Hedlund, 443ff)

   *“Come Holy Spirit, Renew the Whole Creation”* (Hedlund, 461ff)
   “A Covenant on World Evangelization” (Hedlund, 481ff)

   *The Chicago Declaration*, 1973 (Samuel & Sugden, 501f)

   AD 2000 and Beyond Movement Declaration (GCOWE 1995)

5. Write a review of one of the following books, evaluating its significance in terms of the issues studied in this course (5 to 10 pages. Due May 2):

   Roland Allen, *Missionary Methods: St. Paul’s or Ours?* (1912)
   Karl Barth, *Theological Existence Today* (1933)
   Guilhermo Cook, *The Expectation of the Poor* (1985)
   William Hocking, *Re-Thinking Missions* (1932)
   A. G. Hogg, *Karma and Redemption* (1909)
   Paul Knitter, *No Other Name?* (1985)
   Donald McGavran, *The Bridges of God* (1955)
   J. A. Mackay, *The Other Spanish Christ* (1932)
   John R. Mott, *The Evangelization of the World in This Generation* (1901)
   John R. Mott, *The Decisive Hour for Christian Missions* (1910)


   J. W. Pickett, *Mass Movements in India* (1933)

   A. T. Pierson, *The Divine Enterprise of Missions* (1891)

   R. E. Speer, *What Constitutes a Missionary Call?* (1918)


   W. A. Visser ‘t Hooft, *No Other Name* (1963)

6. FINAL EXAM: In lieu of a final exam, students in the class will jointly produce a **Statement of Mission**. It may be called a Confession, Declaration, Covenant, Affirmation, Manifesto, or any other appropriate term. Students enrolled in the course will jointly produce this document in any manner they choose. (The professor will appoint one student as convenor of a meeting for students to decide on the process.)

This Statement of Mission should meet the following criteria:

1) It should affirm basic truths of the Gospel and the church’s mission in light of current global social, cultural, and spiritual realities;

2) It may incorporate ideas and/or quotations from prior mission statements, but not more than one fourth of the document may be direct quotations;

3) Scriptures may (and probably should) be referenced, but no more than one fourth of the document may be direct biblical quotations;

4) The document may not be longer than the Lausanne Covenant.

Historically such mission declarations have been issued in part to address some current crisis or situation in the world. The class Statement of Mission should be written in this spirit. (For instance, is it true that “the world changed” on September 11, 2001? If so, what does this mean for mission? What about other issues that should be addressed, directly or by implication?)

This Statement of Mission will be due May 16 and will be discussed in class. (Thus everyone should have a copy.)

**ATTENDANCE POLICY:** See the current seminary *Catalog*, p. 25.

**EVALUATION**

In grading, the course components will be weighted approximately as follows:

- Class participation, including discussion and input from readings: 25%
- Completion of readings: 30%
- Written assignments #4 and 5: 25%
- Class Statement of Mission: 20%
### SCHEDULE AND ASSIGNED READING

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Readings</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FEB. 14</td>
<td>INTRODUCTION: History, Paradigms, Models</td>
<td>Models of Mission: The Kingdom of God (1)</td>
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<td>Readings: Snyder, <em>MOK</em>, 7-66</td>
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<td>Recommended: Bosch, 1-11</td>
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<td>Snyder, <em>GGN</em>, 7-25</td>
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<td>FEB. 21</td>
<td>MODELS OF MISSION: The Kingdom of God (2)</td>
<td>Readings: Snyder, <em>MOK</em>, 67-131</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Stott, xi-xxiv</td>
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<td>Samuel &amp; Sugden, ix-xviii</td>
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<td>Recommended: Bosch, 123-89</td>
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<td>Snyder, <em>GGN</em>, 55-64</td>
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<td>FEB. 28</td>
<td>MISSION AS EXPANSION (1900-1910)</td>
<td>Readings: Yates, 3-33, 252</td>
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<td>Samuel &amp; Sugden, 3-75</td>
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<td>Recommended: Bosch, 190-213</td>
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<td>Thomas, 3-14</td>
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<td>Snyder, <em>GGN</em>, 113-37</td>
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<td>MAR. 7</td>
<td>MISSION AS CHURCH OF A PEOPLE (1910-1920)</td>
<td>Reading: Yates, 34-56</td>
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<td>Samuel &amp; Sugden, 76-117</td>
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<td>Guest Lecturer: Daniel Jeyaraj (to be confirmed)</td>
<td>Recommended: Bosch, 214-61</td>
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<td>Thomas, 16-48</td>
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<td>Snyder, <em>GGN</em>, 190-207</td>
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<td>MAR. 14</td>
<td>REAPPRAISAL OF MISSION (1920-1940)</td>
<td>Reading: Yates, 57-93</td>
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<td>Guest Lecturer: Greg Leffel</td>
<td>Samuel &amp; Sugden, 134-65</td>
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<td>Readings: Yates, 57-93</td>
<td>Recommended: Bosch, 262-313</td>
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<td>Thomas, 50-60</td>
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<td>Snyder, <em>GGN</em>, 138-52</td>
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<td>MAR. 21</td>
<td>REAPPRAISAL OF MISSION (1930-1950)</td>
<td>Reading: Yates, 94-124</td>
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<td>Samuel &amp; Sugden, 166-222</td>
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<td>Readings: Yates, 94-124</td>
<td>Recommended: Bosch, 313-45</td>
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<td>Thomas, 61-76</td>
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<td>Snyder, <em>GGN</em>, 208-19</td>
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<td>MAR. 28</td>
<td>MISSION AS PRESENCE AND DIALOGUE (1950-60)</td>
<td>Reading: Yates, 127-62</td>
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<td>Samuel &amp; Sugden, 277-320, 410-28</td>
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<td>Readings: Yates, 127-62</td>
<td>Recommended: Bosch, 349-67</td>
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<td>Snyder, <em>GGN</em>, 41-54</td>
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[APRIL 1-5 — READING WEEK — No Classes]
APR. 11 - MISSION AS PROCLAMATION, DIALOGUE AND LIBERATION (1960-1970)
Readings: Yates, 163-92
    Samuel & Sugden, 323-59, 477-502
Recommended: Bosch, 368-93
    Thomas, 81-121
    Snyder, GGN, 160-75

Readings: Yates, 193-223
    Stott, 1-72
Recommended: Bosch, 393-420
    Thomas, 122-68
    Snyder, GGN, 96-110, 176-89

Readings: Yates, 224-51
    Stott, 73-153
Recommended: Bosch, 420-57
    Thomas, 169-221
    Snyder, GGN, 26-40

MAY 2 - MISSION AS TRANSFORMATION
Readings: Samuel & Sugden, 225-76, 438-55
    Hoefer, xi-44
    Stott, 155-64
Recommended: Bosch, 457-89
    Thomas, 223-86
    Snyder, GGN, 153-59

MAY 9 - MISSION AS “CHURCHLESS CHRISTIANITY”
Readings: Hoefer, 47-226
Recommended: Bosch, 489-510
    Thomas, 287-321
    Snyder, GGN, 65-95

MAY 16 - MODELS OF MISSION TODAY / REVIEW AND SUMMARY
Readings: Snyder, MOK, 132-56
    Hoefer, 229-64
    Stott, 165-251
Recommended: Bosch, 511-19
    Snyder, GGN, 220-35
COURSE BIBLIOGRAPHY


_______. *Evangelii Nuntiandi.*


**JOURNALS**

*Ecumenical Review*. Published by WCC.

*Evangelical Mission Quarterly*. 
International Bulletin of Missionary Research. (Ecumenical, Evangelical, Roman Catholic.) Published by OMSC.

International Review of Mission. Published by Division of World Mission and Evangelism DWME/WCC (World Council of Churches)


Missiology. (Ecumenical, Evangelical, Roman Catholic.)

Missionalia. Especially useful for its abstracts.

**WEEKLY READING REPORT**

Name_____________________________    Date___________

Readings completed this week:

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What issues emerged which have relevance for the theology of mission, or your own ministry?

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