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MI 880 Seminar in Mission

Eunice L. Irwin

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SEMINAR IN MISSION
(for the Ph.D. degree program)

MI 880           Dr. Eunice Irwin, Leader
Spring 2008       Office: McPheeters 311
Meeting Room: ESJ Conference Room Phone: 858-2148 (Office)
                        858-0705 (Home)

Course Description:
Seminar presentations surveying major transitions in Christian mission from
theological and historical perspectives, with special attention given to the leaders, Church
and mission conferences (including some writings and documents) which have shaped
the concept and directed the task of mission. Students will participate in constructing
parameters for a contemporary missiological paradigm in line with the values and
objectives of our tradition.

Readings: (Abbreviations of readings follow authors' last name initials: B, BS, E, N, SS, T, V.)

- Transforming Mission*  David J. Bosch
- Constants in Context  Stephen Bevans & Roger Schroeder
- The New Global Mission  Samuel Escobar
- A Reader’s Guide to Transforming Mission [Read with Bosch]  Stan Nussbaum
- Mission as Transformation  Vinay Samuel, Chris Sugden
- Mission on the Way  Charles van Engen
- [*Classical Texts in Mission & World Christianity (augments Bosch)  Norman Thomas]

Course Objective: To provide a seminar environment in which doctoral students:

1. Develop interdisciplinary focus in the field of Missiology by studying Christian
mission from the vantage points of theological, regional, and strategic histories.

2. Use methods of critique and informal debate during seminar discussions in order
to strengthen their analytical skills.

3. Use methods of dialogue and consensus-building during seminar discussions in
order to advance a missiological tradition of interpretation, appropriate to the E.
Stanley Jones School of World Mission and Evangelism. The process will involve
the group in evaluating, selecting and incorporating contributions made by the
participants.

4. Make scholarly presentations and experience the critique of colleagues.

5. Enhance skills in research and scholarly writing.

Course Requirements and Grading Ratio:
1. **Attendance and prepared participation in seminar discussions.** This includes reading assigned pages before presentations; oral report on some assigned pages; and writing “summary statements” (your own concise statements articulating summation of the ideas formulated as a result of the class presentation, and on subsequent discussion of the group for consensus) at the end of seminar presentation sessions. 15%

2. **Leading one seminar session.** The format will be: (1st) to make a presentation on a topic, and (2nd) to facilitate group discussion of that material. Then, at the conclusion of discussion, (3rd) to provide an open-ended summary sentence that will guide members in their writing of “summary statements”. Finally, at the beginning of class the next week, (4th) to lead a second discussion on the topic, helping the group to clarify their ideas and (ideally, if possible) to form a statement of consensus on the topic presented, for the class record. [Schedule will be negotiated in the first week.]

Topics for presentation will be chosen from the course readings and will examine:
   a. Current theological theme(s) in mission, and
   b. Specific regional or vocational contexts of mission.

A class handout (outline) covering material in the presentation is required. 35%

3. A **scholarly paper** (of publishable quality) that investigates an issue of immediate concern to Christian mission today. This paper may be an expansion of your seminar presentation, or develop another worthy topic by approval (such as a research theme related to your dissertation). 50%

Students are responsible to prepare and give:

   a. A **topic proposal** for scholarly paper (rationale and bibliography). Due: Feb. 27
   b. A **10-minute oral report** of the paper's research strategy and conclusion. On: May 21
   c. A **final draft of the paper** (between 20-30 pages) Due: May 14

   [An extra copy of paper should be submitted to the ESJ to be kept on file.]
   [Follow ESJ guidelines for writing, taken from *Missiology* journal.]

**REGIONAL MATERIALS* FOR SEMINAR REPORTS, as needed, from:**

Taylor, William D., ed.
Grand Rapids: Baker Academic.

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<thead>
<tr>
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<th>African perspective:</th>
<th>Ta: 259-283</th>
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<td>*2</td>
<td>South Pacific perspective:</td>
<td>Ta: 285-294</td>
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<td>East Asian perspective:</td>
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<td>Latin American perspective:</td>
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<td>*7</td>
<td>Western cultures’ older perspectives:</td>
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<td>*9</td>
<td>Spirituality as a mission perspective:</td>
<td>Ta: 489-517</td>
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<td>*10</td>
<td>Globalizing: keeping touch in mission:</td>
<td>Ta: 477-488, 519-556</td>
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**SAMPLE below 2007 Course Schedule:** *(2008 Course Schedule arranged in 1st classes)*

February 9  
Introductions, Syllabus, and Overview of Seminar Strategy
February 13

"Metaphors of Mission"
Orientation to Bosch: and Bevans & Schroeder: 281-398

February 16
The Contemporary Environment of Missiology

February 20
"What is Mission Theology?" V:9-31
Biblical and Theological Foundations (a) SS:3-44
"Mission Modernity: Seven Checkpoints" SS:290-320
"Framework of Post-Modern Mission" B:1-11, 349-367
"Mission in the Wake of the Enlightenment" T:50-77
"Modernity and Postmodernity in Mission Theology" V:191-229
Student interaction on information from BS:xi-72

Presenter: Eunice Irwin

February 23
Scholarly Paper: Topic Proposal Due (2-3 pages)

February 27
Theology of Mission from the Evangelical Tradition of Scripture
“Mission Theology and the Bible” V:35-68
Missio Dei B:389b-393a, T:101-121, BS:286-304
[Mission as] Theology B:489b-498a, T:287-303
Student interaction on information from BS:73-136

Presenter: Eunice Irwin

March 2
PART I: Mission as...

March 5
See Reading Schedule for BS:276-347 on page 9
"Elements of an Emerging Ecumenical Paradigm"
Evangelism B:409-420a
"Mission as Evangelization" T:154-168
Stuttgart Consultation SS:277-289
The Lausanne Covenant SS:503-511
"Evangelical and Conciliar Mission Theologies" V:127-156*
Student interaction on information from BS:138-205

Presenter: ____________

March 9
GUEST: Dr. Roger Schroeder, Associate Professor
of Missiology at Catholic Theological Union, Chicago
He is co-author of the new mission textbook Constants in Context.
In 2008, we anticipate that Dr. Roger Hedlund from India with be our guest, speaking on April 23.

March 12
March 16
"Elements of an Emerging Ecumenical Paradigm"

March 19
Church with Others  B:368-389a, T:81-100
Biblical and Theological Foundations (c)  SS:118-133
"Concern for Kingdom Ethics"  SS:208-222
"Mission Theology and the Church"  V:105-124

Presenters: ____________

March 23
"Elements of an Emerging Ecumenical Paradigm"

March 26
Mediating Salvation  B:393b-400a, T122-135
Biblical and Theological Foundations (d)  SS:166-207
Missiological Expressions (a)  SS:225-260
Biblical and Theological Foundations (b)  SS:45-117

Presenters: ____________

March 30
SPRING READING WEEK  (Class will not meet.)

April 2

April 6
"Elements of an Emerging Ecumenical Paradigm"

April 9
Quest for Justice  B:400b-408, T:136-153
Liberation  B:432b-447a, T:185-205
"Political Mission of the Church"  SS:438-455
"Constructing Mission Theology in the City"  V:90-101

Presenters: ____________

April 13
"Elements of an Emerging Ecumenical Paradigm"

April 16
Contextualization  B:420b-432a*, T:169-184
Inculturation  B:447b-457a, T:206-222
"The New Covenant: Mission Theology in Context"  V:71-89
April 23  
We anticipate Dr. Roger Hedlund will be with us!  
In preparation, read: Samuel Escobar’s *The New Global Mission*  
[NOTE: Of interest here is Philip Jenkins’ *The New Faces of Christianity*]

April 20  
"Elements of an Emerging Ecumenical Paradigm"  
"Mission in Paul: Invitation to Join the Eschatological Community"  
*Action in Hope*  
"Eschatology and Ethics"  
*Missiological Expressions (b)*  
*Transformation and Praxis (a)*  

April 27  
"Elements of an Emerging Ecumenical Paradigm"  
"Contextualization"  
"People of Other Faiths"  
"Mission Theology and Religious Pluralism"  
(Other material may be assigned here by presenter.)

May 5  
"Elements of an Emerging Ecumenical Paradigm"  
"Common Witness"  
"Whole People of God"  
"Evangelical and Conciliar Mission Theologies"

May 12  
"Elements of an Emerging Ecumenical Paradigm"  
"Matthew: Mission as Disciple-making"  
"Ministry Theology and Ministry Formation"  
*Mission in Many Modes*
Presenter: ____________

*** Final Draft of Scholarly Paper Due ***

PART II: Parameters for a Current [ESJ] Missiological Paradigm
Summarizing the ESJ Missiological Paradigm
Constructing a Contemporary Tradition for Mission
"A Theology of Mission-on-the-Way"  V:253-262

May 19  FINALS WEEK  (Class will meet 10:00 to 12:30 pm)
May 21

Summaries of Scholarly Papers  (All students will have 10 minutes to summarize their topic, research process and findings.)

Supplementary Texts or References:

Anderson, Gerald et al.

Escobar, Samuel

Hedlund, Roger E.

Jenkins, Philip

Moreau, Scott, ed.

Muller, Karl et al., eds.
Ott, Craig and Harold Netland, eds.  
2006  *Globalizing Theology: Belief and Practice in an Era of World Christianity.*  

Sanneh, Lamin  
2003  *Whose Religion is Christianity? The Gospel beyond the West.*  
Grand Rapids: Eerdmans.

Shenk, Wibert, ed.  

Maryknoll, N.Y.: Orbis Books.

Taylor, William D., ed.  
Grand Rapids: Baker Academic.

Thomas, Norman, ed.  
Atlanta, GA: Scarecrow Press.

See January 2006 issue of *Missiology* journal where major new resources introduced.

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**Reading Schedule for Bevans & Schroeder, *Constants in Context* (BS) in left column.**  
[Note parallel pages on topics and themes from David Bosch’s *Transforming Mission* (B) are listed in the right column. **Reading Bosch’s Part’s 1 and 2 is optional!**]  

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<td>PART I</td>
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<td>pp. 7-72</td>
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<td>“Missionary by Its Very Nature”</td>
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<td>“You Are Witnesses of These Things”</td>
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|     | Introduction |
|     | pp. 1-11    |
|     | pp. 84-122  |
|     | “Mission in Paul” |
|     | pp.123-178  |
Part 2
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“Eastern Church” pp. 190-213
“Medieval Roman Catholic” 214-238

_2/27_ PART II pp. 138-205
“Mendicant Movement”
“Age of Discovery”
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“Protestant Reformation”

_3/5_ PART II pp. 206-238
“Age of Progress”
“Wake of the Enlightenment” 262-345

_3/12_ PART II pp. 239-280
“Twentieth Century”
Part 3

_3/19_ PART III pp. 281-285
“Emergence/ Postmodern Paradigm” 349-362
“Theology of Mission/Today”
“Time of Testing” 363-367

_3/26_ Part III pp. 286-347
[Themes] [Elements of Emerging Ecumenical Missionary Paradigm]
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_4/11_ Part III pp. 348-398
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