1-1-2003

MB 765 Colonialism and Neo-Colonialism

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[This is a draft, final copy will be distributed the first day of class]

**Course Description**
All mission is carried out in a geographical setting and a historical context. Not all mission personnel recognize the political and economic entanglements of their own lives with the lives of the people and with the lives of those back home. Fewer still understand the impact of world systems as these processes privilege the West and subvert the rest. Most seem to settle for some notion of a “colonial past” that no longer need affect the present nor shape the future. However, reality is much more complex and the impact of colonialism is more subtle, more powerful, and more lasting than anticipated. What kind of change is possible? What is expected of converts if persons in mission address only ideological change and exclude any concern with economic and political hegemonies? This course will explore both historical and current manifestations of colonialism as a preparation for holistic Christian mission.

**Course Objectives**
It is anticipated that the student in this course will develop the following competencies:
1. To understand the history of colonialism and neo-colonialism from a large-scale perspective (persisting over 500 years and existing over the world).
2. To understand the political, economic and ideological webs of relationships that operate to establish power, wealth and privilege in the world.
3. To develop skills for analyzing situations of colonialism and neo-colonialism, including exploring the position of the United States in current world systems.
4. To be able to dialogue about these issues with reasonable control of the appropriate authors and literature, assumptions and conclusions, and theories and theologies of mission.
5. To develop a theology of the mission context that seeks to address the economic and political prisons in which people find themselves trapped.

**Required Reading**
1. A package of readings (source: the professor, not the bookstore) from the following:
   c. Kwame Nkrumah: “Obstacles to Economic Progress,” “Imperialist Finance,” “Companies and


5. Globalization and Its Discontents.

Course Requirements

1. Attend class regularly. Class is a commitment and can become a community, but only if students attend and participate.
2. Read the weekly assignments. Understanding the lectures and entering the dialogue requires critically engaging the books and articles.
3. Write critical reflection papers. A brief review of the literature will be due at the beginning of each week in order to assure that the students have been engaged with the readings.
4. Make a class presentation. Reading and reflecting is one thing, but praxis is another, so students will be asked to demonstrate engagement with the ideas by presenting a line of argument in class.
5. Write research papers. Each essay should be about fifteen pages, double spaced. The essays should show engagement with the literature in that: the research behind the essay is clear (referenced), a wide range of appropriate literature has been consulted, the variety of positions taken on the issue is clear, and the student has taken a position and has defended it well. References and bibliography will follow the style of the journal Missiology.

   Topic 1: What is the current political and economic situation of either rural or urban citizens of a particular country or region where mission work could be done?
   Topic 2: As a follow up to the first paper, what are the issues that mission work should address in this country, and how can the gospel be best presented?
   Alternative topics will be considered.

Course Evaluation

30% Critical Reflection Papers, weekly for 9 weeks.
20% Class Presentations, one for fifteen minutes.
25% First Paper, due November 11.
25% Second Paper, due Exam week.

Course Schedule

Date  Readings
9/2   None

Class Dynamics

Lecture: Concepts, History & Geography
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Activity</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9/9</td>
<td>Packet Lecture: History &amp; Geography, Examples</td>
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<tr>
<td>9/16</td>
<td>None Gray: Guest Lecture</td>
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<tr>
<td>9/23</td>
<td>Comaroff &amp; Comaroff, 1 Discussion</td>
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<td>9/30</td>
<td>Comaroff &amp; Comaroff, 1 Discussion</td>
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<td>12/2</td>
<td>None Student Presentations</td>
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<tr>
<td>12/9</td>
<td>Final Paper Due</td>
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**Office Hours**  Wednesday 1:00-3:00 or by appointment. I’m located on the third floor of the McPheeters Center in the ESJ School.

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