MW 770 Contemporary Cults/ New Religious Movements

Steven Tsoukalas
ASBURY THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
Fall 2005

MW780  Comparative Missiology
        Thursday, 6:00 – 9:00 pm

Room:
Instructor:  Terry C. Muck
Phone:  858-2145           E-Mail:  terry_muck@asburyseminary.edu
Office Hours:  Wednesday 2:00 – 4:00 or by appointment

Required Texts:
Park, Chris C.  Sacred Worlds:  An Introduction to Geography and Religion.  
Readings as assigned by instructor

Requirements:
1.  Attendance and participation in all classes.
2.  Reading of assigned texts and articles.
3.  Lead one (1), one-hour discussion of week’s assigned readings.
5.  Write a five-page paper on the self-advocacy role of each religion or religious group 
    discussed:  Hinduism, Buddhism, Chinese religions, Judaism, Christianity, Islam, 
    Indigenous religions, New religious movements, Atheism/secularism.  Due at the 
    class time of each group discussed.
6.  Final take home exam to be scheduled.

Description:
This course examines how the religions of the world self-advocate, that is, attempt to 
promote themselves to their children and to those in other religious traditions and to those with no 
religion.  Nine different religions or religious categories will be examined:  Hinduism, Buddhism, 
Chinese religions, Judaism, Christianity, Islam, Indigenous religions, New religious movements, 
Atheism/secularism.  After a study of these religions and how they “do mission/evangelism,” 
students will then consider the Christian missiological implications of the way other religions are 
promoting themselves in the world today.

Course Objectives:
1.  Students will be able to write 300 word summaries of the way each of the nine 
    religious traditions studied during the semester promote themselves to non-adherents.
2.  Students will be able to do field research into a religion’s worship practice and 
    behavior.
3.  Students will be able to compare and contrast the way Christians do mission with the 
    way other religious traditions do mission.
4.  Students will be able to devise mission strategies to other religions depending on the 
    nature of the competition in discrete contexts.