

## **CURRENT MISSIOLOGICAL ISSUES: HUMAN RIGHTS and ECOLOGY**

EM3363  
Fall 2011

**Instructor:** Frances S. Adeney  
Wed. 6:00-8:50 Schlegel 123

**Course Description:** This course provides a study of current issues in the international missiological discussion and/or national and local mission contexts. This semester we will focus on human rights and ecology as mission issues. We will survey Christian views of human rights and their biblical roots, analyze current issues of human rights around the globe, and formulate Christian responses to those issues. As Christian mission enters the twenty-first century, concerns for ecology and the impact of economic globalization on people and environments confront the Church. We will examine the current ecological crisis, develop a theological framework for care of the planet, and suggests strategies for leading congregations and individuals to active stewardship of the earth.

**Learning Outcomes:** Students will:

- learn to articulate the connections between Christian mission, human rights and ecology
- analyze current issues of human rights and gather information about the current state of the earth's resources.
- understand the biblical roots and Christian theologies of human rights and care for the planet
- develop a theology of care for the earth and the human rights of others that affects spiritual practices, lifestyle changes, and mission orientation
- be prepared to lead congregations in developing concerns for human rights and ecology that leads to local and global mission responses
- master the techniques of graduate seminar learning including writing and presenting critical book reviews in class, and leading discussion on the texts

Course Requirements and Evaluation:

1. Attendance accompanied by thorough reading and understanding of texts to be demonstrated through in-class assignments and active engagement with class discussion including questioning, contributing, and respectfully responding to the ideas of others. (20%)
2. Two written Critical Book Reviews, (1500 words each, Typed, double-spaced) of selected texts, to be distributed to students and presented in class.(40%)
3. One written paper (3000 words. Typed, double spaced) outlining a current issue in human rights or ecology and giving a rationale or theology for Christian involvement in that issue. Show how the issue relates to the mission of the Church, particularly the work of congregations in the U.S.A. (40%)

Required Texts:

Adeney, Frances S. and Arvind Sharma, eds. *Christianity and Human Rights: Influences and Issues*. Albany, NY: SUNY Press, 2007. ISBN 9780791469521 (pbk.)

D'Souza Joseph and Benedict Rogers. *On the Side of the Angels: Justice, Human Rights, and Kingdom Mission*. Colorado Springs: Authentic Publishing, 2007 ISBN: 9781932805703

Grey, Mary C. *Sacred Longings: The Ecological Spirit and Global Culture*. Minneapolis, MN: Fortress Press, 2004). ISBN# 0800636473

Hessel, Dieter and Larry Rasmussen, eds. *Earth Habitat: Eco-Injustice and the Church's Response*. Minneapolis, MN: Fortress Press, 2001.

Kalu, Ogbu U., Peter Vethanayagamony and Edmund Kee-Fook Chia, eds. *Mission After Christendom: Emergent Themes in Contemporary Mission*. Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox, 2010. ISBN: 9780664234652

Marshall, Christopher D., *Crowned With Glory and Honor: Human Rights in the Biblical Tradition* (Studies in Peace & Scripture, v.6). Pandora Press, 2002 ISBN: 193103804X

Pimm, Stuart L. *The World According to Pimm: A Scientist Audits the Earth*. (New York, NY: McGraw-Hill, 2001). ISBN# 0071374906

Sleeth, J. Matthew. *Serve God Save the Planet: A Christian Call to Action*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2006. ISBN: 0800636473.

NOTE: Plagerism will not be tolerated. More than two absences will result in a lowered grade.