

Paradigms for Christian Mission:
Historical and Theological Perspectives (1/31)

EM 3173 or TH 2173
Spring 2013, Wed. 3:30-6:20 Schlegel 122

Cliff Kirkpatrick, Professor
Jo Ella Holman, Teaching Ast.

Course Description: This course will survey the development of Christianity through mission and evangelization using a combination of historical and theological approaches. Students will trace changes in conceptions and practices of mission beginning with biblical and early church models, moving through historical paradigms of Christian mission, and exploring relevant postmodern approaches to mission today. This semester will include a special focus on 21st century global mission challenges: justice and development, mutual mission, mission from the margins, dialogue and witness with people of other faiths, and evangelism in a post-modern world.

Purpose and Objectives: This course is designed to acquaint students with historical accounts and contemporary challenges relative to the expansion of Christian mission and the church's changing theological self-understandings of that task. Students will achieve the following learning objectives:

- assess the contemporary crises and opportunities in Christian mission
- trace the historical growth of Christian mission and evangelization
- evaluate changing theological paradigms for evangelism and mission
- develop contextually appropriate directions for Christian mission in today's world

Themes by week for the class, which will be conducted in plenary lectures, in discussion sessions, and in smaller reflection groups:

1. The Changing Context and the Crisis in Mission and Evangelism Today
2. Beginnings: New Testament as a Missionary Document I – focus on the Gospels.
3. New Testament as a Missionary Document II – focus on Paul and the Early Church.
4. The Missionary Paradigms of the Eastern Church, the Medieval Catholic Church, and the Reformation
5. The impact of the Enlightenment and Colonialism on Christian Mission
6. Research and Study Week – No Class Session
7. The Emerging Ecumenical Paradigm at the Close of the 20th Century: “*Missio Dei*, Justice, Evangelization, Liberation, Common Witness, and Dialogue with People of Other Faiths”
8. 21st Century Challenge I: Development and Service that Really Help
9. 21st Century Challenge II: Missiologies for Dialogue with People of Other Living Faiths (plus attendance at Festival of Faiths lectures by Stephen Prothero)
10. 21st Century Challenges III: The Prophetic Voice in Mission: Justice, Reconciliation, and Mission from the Margins
11. 21st Century Challenges IV: Models of Mutual Mission with the Global Church
12. 21st Century Challenges V: A “Mission-Shaped” Church: Evangelism in a Post Modern Age
13. Changing Paradigms and Challenges in Mission in the Caribbean and Latin America

Requirements and Evaluation:

1. Active participation in class discussions and that displays a thorough understanding of the assigned readings and short weekly assignments to aid in discussion. (20%)
2. A Take Home Exam—assigned at conclusion of class on March 27 and due back electronically to the professor by April 8. (25%)
3. One Presentation and Prayer leadership (by teams of two students) for a particular region of the world, using the Ecumenical Prayer Cycle (10%), at the beginning of class.
4. Presentation and leading of discussion in reflection groups around a Critical Reading Review (1000 words) on portions of assigned texts. (20%) See Critical Reading Review Format (attached).
5. A project (short essay, interpretation or evaluation of a mission program, a Sunday school lesson, a proposed mission strategy, etc.) centered on one of the five contemporary mission challenges – development and service, dialogue/witness with people of other faiths, justice ministries, mutual mission, and evangelism. (25%) Project is due by May 3 so that it can be shared with small groups electronically prior to class session on May 8, where the projects will be discussed.

Required Texts:

Bosch, David J. *Transforming Mission: Paradigm Shifts in Theology of Mission* (20th Anniversary Edition). Orbis Books, 2011

George, Sherron Kay. *Called as Partners in Christ's Service: The Practice of God's Mission*. Geneva Press, 2004

Articles/Chapters (available electronically or on CAMS):

Adeney, Frances and Terry Muck, *Christianity Encountering World Religions*. Baker Academic, 2009. pp. 7-11 (on CAMS)

Corbett, Steve and Fikkart, Brian, "McDevelopment: 2.5 Billion People NOT Served," chapter six in *When Helping Hurts*, <http://www.whenhelpinghurts.org/assets/WhenHelpingHurtsCH6.pdf>.

Farrell, Hunter, "Short Term Missions: Paratrooper Incursion or Zaccheus Encounter?" (on CAMS)

Knisely, Stephen, *Faith in Action: Understanding Development Ministries from a Christian Perspective*. Worldwide Ministries Division, 2007. pp. 1-17 and 47-48. (on CAMS)

Kirkpatrick, Clifton, "Changes in the Global Church: What We Can Learn" in thethoughtfulchristian.com. (on CAMS)

March, Eugene, *The Wide, Wide Circle of Divine Love*. Westminster, John Knox Press, 2005. (Selected Readings on CAMS)

Miles, Joshua. "Mission in the Old Testament" (on CAMS)

Nolan, Albert, "Four Stages of Spiritual Growth in Helping the Poor." (on CAMS)

Nussbaum, Stan, *Reader's Guide to Transforming Mission*, Orbis, 2005. (Selected readings on CAMS)

Robert, Dana L., "Witnessing to Christ Today": Mission and Unity in the "Long View"
["http://www.edinburgh2010.org/en/resources/papersdocumentsc852.pdf?no_cache=1&cid=33076&did=21483&sechash=9a1c5a86"](http://www.edinburgh2010.org/en/resources/papersdocumentsc852.pdf?no_cache=1&cid=33076&did=21483&sechash=9a1c5a86)

Sanneh, Lamin. , *Translating the Message: The Missionary Impact on Culture*, Orbis, 2008. (Selected readings on CAMS)

Walls, Andrew, "Christianity in the Non-Western World," in *The Cross-Cultural Process in Christian History*. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis, 2002, 27-48. (available on CAMS)

EXCERPTS FROM *MISSION-SHAPED-CHURCH* - THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND'S STRATEGY FOR FRESH EXPRESSIONS OF CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY (on CAMS)

Global Ecumenical Statements:

"Together towards Life: Mission and Evangelism in Changing Landscapes"
http://www.oikoumene.org/en/resources/documents/wcc-commissions/mission-and-evangelism/together-towards-life-mission-and-evangelism-in-changing-landscapes.html?print=1_print%20Common%20parents%20in%20the%20faith

"Summary of the (Lausanne Movement's) Cape Town Commitment,"
<http://www.lausanne.org/en/documents/ctcommitment/ctc-summary.html>

"Mission and Evangelism: An Ecumenical Affirmation"
<http://www.religion-online.org/showchapter.asp?title=1573&C=1525>

"Christian Witness in a Multi-Religious World: Recommendations for Conduct" (joint document from the Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue, WCC, World Evangelical Alliance)
<http://www.oikoumene.org/en/resources/documents/wcc-programmes/interreligious-dialogue-and-cooperation/christian-identity-in-pluralistic-societies/christian-witness-in-a-multi-religious-world.html>

"The Accra Confession" <http://www.pcusa.org/media/uploads/hunger/pdf/accra-confession.pdf>

Resource for Prayer Leadership:

Ecumenical Prayer Cycle, *In God's Hands*, <http://www.oikoumene.org/en/resources/prayer-cycle.html>

Policies of LPTS:

Inclusive Language:

In accordance with seminary policy, students are to use inclusive language in class discussions and in written and oral communication by using language representative of the whole human community in respect to gender, sexual orientation, ethnicity, age, and physical and intellectual capacities. Direct quotations from theological texts and translations of the Bible do not have to be altered to conform to this policy. In your own writing, however, when referring to God, you are encouraged to use a variety of images and metaphors, reflecting the richness of the Bible's images for God. See for further assistance,

http://www.lpts.edu/Academic_Resources/ASC/avoidinggenderbiasinlanguage.asp.

Academic Honesty:

All work turned in to the instructors is expected to be the work of the student whose name appears on the assignment. Any borrowing of the ideas or the words of others must be acknowledged by quotation marks (where appropriate) and by citation of author and source. Use of another's language or ideas from online resources is included in this policy, and must be attributed to author and source of the work being cited. Failure to do so constitutes plagiarism, and may result in failure of the course. Multiple occurrences of plagiarism may result in dismissal from the Seminary. Students unfamiliar with issues relating to academic honesty can find help from the staff in the Academic Support Center. For the Seminary policy, see The Code of Student Conduct, 6.11; Student Handbook, p. 19.

Special Accommodations:

Students requiring accommodations for a documented physical or learning disability should be in contact with the Director of the Academic Support Center (kmapes@lpts.edu) during the first two weeks of a semester and should speak with the instructor as soon as possible to arrange appropriate adjustments. Students with environmental or other sensitivities that may affect their learning are also encouraged to speak with the instructor.

Citation Policy:

Citations in your papers should follow the Seminary standard, based on these guides: Kate Turabian, *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*, 7th ed. Chicago, IL: University of Chicago Press, 2007.

The Chicago Manual of Style, 15th ed. Chicago, IL: University of Chicago Press, 2003.

Copies of these guides are available at the library and in the Academic Support Center.

Attendance Policy:

According to the Seminary catalog, students are expected to attend class meetings regularly. Where an absence is unavoidable, students should if possible consult with the instructors in advance. In any case, they should be in communication with them no more than 24 hours after the class session. Multiple unexcused absences may result in a lowered grade; missing 3 sessions or more may result in failing the course.

Weekly Schedule of Themes and Readings

- 1 - Feb. 13 The Changing Context and the Crisis in Mission and Evangelism Today
David Bosch, *Transforming Mission*, pp. 1-11
Dana Robert, "Mission and Unity in the Long Run"
- 2 - Feb. 20 New Testament as a Missionary Document I – focus on the Gospels.
Bosch, pp. 57-124
- 3 - Feb. 27 New Testament as a Missionary Document II – focus on Paul and the Early Church and a Brief Review of Old Testament Mission Themes.
Bosch, pp. 125-181
Miles, *Mission in the Old Testament*
- 4 - March 6 The Missionary Paradigms of the Eastern Church, the Medieval Catholic Church, and the Reformation
Bosch, pp. 210-267
- 5 - March 13 The impact of the Enlightenment and Colonialism on Christian Mission
Bosch, pp. 268-353. (or Stan Nussbaum, *Readers Guide to Transforming Mission*, pp. 69-84 [chapter 9, "Enlightened Mission?"])
Andrew Walls, "Christianity in the Non-Western World"
Lamin Sanneh, *Translating the Message*. pp. 1-7 and 122-163.
- 6 - March 20 Research and Study Week – No Class Session
- 7 - March 27 The Emerging Ecumenical Paradigm at the Close of the 20th Century: "Missio Dei, Justice, Evangelization, Liberation, Common Witness, and Dialogue with People of Other Faiths"
Bosch, pp. 357-376, 398-402, 410-430, 442-458, and 485-501
WCC, "Mission and Evangelism: An Ecumenical Affirmation"
Stan Nussbaum, *Readers Guide to Transforming Mission*, pp. 145-154.
- 8 - Apr. 3 21st Century Challenges II: Development and Service that Really Helps
Steve Corbett and Brian Fikkert, *When Helping Hurts* (selected portions)
Stephen Knisely, *Faith in Action* (pp. 1-17 and 47-48)

Albert Nolan, "Four Stages of Spiritual Growth in Helping the Poor"

9 - Apr. 10 21st Century Challenge I: Missiologies for Dialogue with People of Other Living Faiths

Eugene March, *The Wide, Wide Circle of Divine Love*, pp. 3-12, 23-32, and 130-139.

Frances Adeney and Terry Muck, *Christianity Encountering World Religions*, pp. 7-11

Attend lectures by Stephen Prothero on Religious Diversity at the Festival of Theology

10 - Apr.17 21st Century Challenges III: The Prophetic Voice in Mission: Justice, Reconciliation, and Mission from the Margins

WCC, "Together Toward Life," pp, 1-13

WCRC, "The Accra Confession"

Kirkpatrick and Williamson, *Just Engagement: A Public Theology for Global Community*
(a yet to be published manuscript – to be distributed on CAMS)

11 - Apr. 24 21st Century Challenges IV: Models of Mutual Mission with the Global Church

Sherron Kay George, *Called as Partners in Christ's Service*

Hunter Farrell, "Short Term Missions"

Clifton Kirkpatrick, "Challenges in the Global Church: What We Can Learn"

12 - May 1 21st Century Challenges V: A "Mission-Shaped" Church: Evangelism in a Post Modern Age

WCC, "Together Toward Life," pp. 13-19

Church of England, "Mission Shaped Church" (on CAMS)

Bosch, pp. 537-551

Lausanne, "Summary of the Cape Town Commitment"

Dorothy Bass, "The Great Reversal" (to be distributed in class)

13 - May 8 Changing Paradigms and Challenges in Mission in the Caribbean and Latin America and Sharing of Projects

Critical Reading Review Format

The critical reading review provides an assessment of a portion of a text and an interaction of the ideas of that text with the ideas of others in the field and with your own analysis. The review should be five to six pages, typed (10-12 point text) and double-spaced. Divide the review into the following sections:

1. Finding the golden thread: Summarize the argument in about **two pages**. Focus on the main thesis of the section, how it relates to the topic of the whole book and how the author proceeds to make his/her case as the section progresses. Lengthy summaries are unnecessary. Look for the links between ideas and how those ideas move the argument along and result in a conclusion. In the case of an edited book, discover the rationale for grouping these articles together and show how, taken together, they provide a perspective or contrasting perspectives on a particular topic. While you may compare points of view in your account, do not summarize each article individually. When there is more than one

reading assigned for a particular class, select one of the readings around which to develop your “golden thread” and treat the other reading as an “external critique.” (see below)

2. Internal critique: Show how the reading holds together. Is it well-organized? Is the argument sound? Is it well-researched and documented? Are the conclusions warranted? Does the writing style fit the content? Does the section fit well with the whole book? Internal analysis of the text should be done in **one to two pages**.

3. External critique: What are others in the field saying about this topic? Bring into dialogue the argument of the reading with other voices. A book review off the web might be helpful. This section should take about **one page**.

4. Your critique. On the basis of your knowledge and experience, what is your opinion of this work (these works)? How will the understanding this text has given you aid in your own thinking and action? Use about **one page** for this analysis.

5. Questions for discussion. Compose **five** questions that will stimulate discussion on the issues raised in the readings.