

**ASSEMBLIES OF GOD THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY**  
**Valley Forge Christian College**  
**1401 Charlestown Road**  
**Phoenixville, PA**  
**July 25-29, 2005**

**MHTB 631 CONTEXTUALIZATION**  
**(3 Credits)**

**DeLonn Rance, Ph.D.**

**Summer 2005**

**COURSE SYLLABUS**

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

Contextualization has to do with the knowledge of God, a God who is unchanging yet reveals himself uniquely within specific contexts. Authentic knowledge of God is assured because of God's action in *missio Dei*. God's people are guided by the Holy Spirit to be his missionary people in an ever-changing world. This course examines both the theoretical and practical aspects of contextualization as related to biblical interpretation, theology, missiology and leadership development. Contextualization is reviewed and evaluated in terms of its bearing on the communication of the Gospel, the expression of the Christian faith and its spread in various cultural settings.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES**

At the end of this course, the student should be able to:

- Understand the origin, significance and role of "contextualization" in present day missions.
- Evaluate several contemporary attempts to do contextualized theology.
- Develop a model for contextualized theological reflection that is informed by Pentecostal experience.
- Plan a strategy for communicating the Gospel in a particular contemporary context.
- Articulate a contextual response to the multicultural and multigenerational challenges facing the American church.

## **TEXTBOOKS**

Anderson, Ray S. *Ministry on the Fireline: A Practical Theology for an Empowered Church*. Pasadena, CA: Fuller Seminary Press, 1993.

Carson, D. A. (ed). *Biblical Interpretation and the Church: The Problem of Contextualization*. Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson Publishers, 1984.

Gilliland, Dean S. (ed). *The Word Among Us: Contextualizing Theology For Mission Today*. Dallas, TX: Word Publishing, 1989.

Hesselgrave, David J. and Edward Rommen. *Contextualization: Meanings, Methods, and Models*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Book House, 1989.

Shawchuck, Norman. *What it Means To Be a Church Leader: A Biblical Point of View*. Indianapolis, IN: Spiritual Growth Resources, 1984.

## **BASIC OUTLINE**

Introduction  
Defining Contextualization  
Communication and Culture in Contextualization  
Models of Contextualization  
A Pentecostal Model for Theological Reflection.  
Case Studies

## **METHODOLOGY**

Lectures  
Class Discussion  
Video Presentation(s)  
Theological Reflection paper  
Book Reviews

## **COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

1. Reading of the required textbooks and assigned readings. A report must be submitted for each reading as outlined in the addendum.
2. Faithful attendance to class as required by the *Student Handbook* of the seminary.
3. Prepare two book reviews per instructions provided in the addendum: one review must be of a missionary biography; the other directly related to contextualization, both books must be approved by Dr. Rance

4. Successful completion of the Theological Reflection Paper.
  - A. The paper is due within 90 days of the end of class sessions.
  - B. There will be a deduction of one (1) letter grade if the paper is turned in late.
  - C. There will be a hand-out detailing the requirements for the paper. The paper should be 15-20 pages in length, double spaced, 12 point font size and in accordance with Turabian Style formatting.

### **GRADING PROCEDURE**

1. Class attendance and participation	10%
2. Completion of all required reading and reading reports	30%
3. Book Reviews (2 @ 10%)	20%
4. Theological Reflection Paper	40%

### **BIBLIOGRAPHY**

See final syllabus.

### **SPECIFIC DATA**

Prepared by Dr. DeLonn Rance, April 26, 2005.

**ADDENDUM**  
**Guidelines for Biography/Book Review**

1. Present the bibliographic information.

e.g. Anderson, Ray S. *Ministry on the Fireline: A Practical Theology for an Empowered Church*. Pasadena, CA: Fuller Seminary Press, 1993.

2. Cite the pages read.

3. Articulate the major thesis.

4. Briefly outline the major sections of the book.

5. Articulate contextualization issues raised by the book.

6. Quote what you consider the most significant or impacting citation.

7. Describe why this citation is significant.

8. Would you recommend this book? Why?