

**ASSEMBLIES OF GOD THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY**  
**MSS 934 Contemporary Missions: Issues and Strategies**  
**Doctor of Missiology**  
**COURSE SYLLABUS**

**December 7-11, 2009**

**Peter Kuzmić, Dr. Theol.**

**Adjunct Professor**

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B.A. Southern California College, Costa Mesa, CA 1971

M.A. Wheaton Graduate School of Theology, Wheaton, IL 1972

M.Th. University of Zagreb, Catholic Faculty of Theology, Zagreb, Croatia 1975

D.Th. University of Zagreb, Catholic Faculty of Theology, Zagreb, Croatia 1980



**BIOGRAPHY**

Dr. Peter Kuzmić is the Eva B. and Paul E. Toms Distinguished Professor of World Missions and European Studies at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary, dividing his time between teaching and missionary roles in the Balkans. A native of Slovenia and a citizen of Croatia in former Yugoslavia, Peter is the foremost evangelical scholar in Eastern Europe and an internationally recognized authority on the subjects of a Christian response to Marxism and Christian ministry in post-Communist contexts.

A former pastor of two growing churches, a practicing evangelist, and national church superintendent, Peter is the founding president of the Evandeoski Teoloski Fakultet in Zagreb/Osijek, Croatia, the first evangelical theological college in Eastern Europe with an accredited graduate program. Together with Phillip Hogan and Dr. Yongi Cho he became one of the founders of World Assemblies of God Fellowship and its humanitarian arm WAGRA, and serves on their Executive Committees. His other leadership roles included the chairmanship of the Theological Commission of the World Evangelical Alliance, Lausanne Committee for World Evangelization, INFEMIT, International Board of AD2000 and Beyond, and Oxford Center of Mission Studies.

As founding president of Agape International, an evangelical relief ministry in the Balkans, Peter takes an active role in ministering to the physical and spiritual needs of his fellow citizens. He has been a regular source for international media and serving as an advisor on reconciliation for international leaders including the State Department. He is a member of the Helsinki Committee for Human Rights in Croatia and has participated in several inter-ethnic reconciliation initiatives. Peter received the Presidential Award for Peacemaking in Croatia, as well as the Outstanding Citizen Award.

In great demand as a speaker, he has ministered in more than eighty nations on every continent. His global platform has included plenary addresses at major global and European Christian congresses and consultations.

An award-winning writer, Dr. Kuzmic has authored eight books and hundreds of articles and newspaper columns, as well as contributed to numerous compendiums and encyclopedias in several languages.

## **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

A study of current theological and global issues and strategies in world missions. Topics such as challenge of globalization, reconfiguration of world Christianity, interfaith dialogue, ecumenical cooperation, church-state relations, faith-based diplomacy, religious liberty, and economic developments will be evaluated from the perspective of the Kingdom of God.

## **LEARNING OUTCOMES**

### **LEARNING OUTCOMES OF THE GLOBAL MISSIONS DEPARTMENT**

The specific learning outcomes for the programs of the Global Missions Department at AGTS include that the student will be able to:

1. make decisions, live and serve according to revealed truth and the will of God
2. develop biblical theology of missions which addresses the contemporary missional context
3. utilize the tools of the social sciences to develop a plan to communicate the gospel in word and deed to persons of another culture
4. facilitate the ongoing process of contextualization as missional leaders and communities of faith in specific settings
5. articulate a Spirit driven missiology and praxis
6. identify, exemplify and foment biblical leadership

### **THE PURPOSE, PROGRAM GOALS, SPECIFIC LEARNING OUTCOMES FOR THE DOCTOR OF MISSIOLOGY DEGREE**

1. The purpose of the D. Miss. is to prepare persons for denominational and interdenominational leadership roles in cross cultural ministries both in the United States of America as well as around the globe; to educate persons with specialized expertise in missiology and its cognate disciplines; and to train persons for research and teaching in those disciplines.
2. The D.Miss. program goals are to enrich the practice of missionaries serving with our denomination and other agencies through :
  - a. mastery of missiological and cognate disciplines

- b. an advanced understanding of theological disciplines and their relationship to missiology
- c. enhanced ability to provide leadership in cross-cultural ministries, and the capacity to engage in research and teaching
3. The specific learning outcomes for the D.Miss. program are that the upon completing the program the student will be able to:
  - a. express a deepening biblical and theological understanding of *Missio Dei* and the kingdom of God
  - b. articulate a distinctively Pentecostal theology of intercultural ministry
  - c. describe the historical development of the Christian movement and the participant's role in the contemporary world
  - d. discern the Holy Spirit's direction in the fulfillment of the mission of God in diverse cultural settings and to contextualize effective expressions of the Gospel
  - e. establish priorities of evangelism, church planting, leadership formation, and compassion ministries
  - f. model a continuing commitment to personal spiritual formation and growth as a member of God's missionary people
  - g. illustrate the close relationship between the local church and missions; and
  - h. make a scholarly contribution to the understanding and practice of intercultural ministry.

## **OBJECTIVES**

- 1) Create awareness and critical understanding of key missiological issues related to globalization.
- 2) Develop ability to 'discern the times' and interpret contemporary developments and world events in the light of divine purposes for humanity.
- 3) Equip for public and diplomatic engagement in areas of conflict resolution, social reconciliation, and peacemaking in contexts of animosity and violence.
- 4) Enable for critical discernment and constructive involvement in inter-faith dialogue and ecumenical cooperation.
- 5) Articulate a coherent theological vision of the kingdom of God (and consequential transformative missiology) and its advancement among the broken and conflictive kingdoms of this world.
- 6) Integrate the study of world missions with Christian leadership theories and practice in areas of greatest concern of our times.

## **METHODOLOGY**

The course will include lectures, class discussions, and written and oral seminar presentations from students followed by student critique. It will also involve library and field research in the preparation of a final assessment document.

### **Required Textbooks:**

Ramachandra, Vinoth. *Subverting Global Myths: Theology and the Public Issues Shaping Our World*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity, 2008. 296 pages.

Rowell, John. *To Give or Not to Give: Rethinking Dependency, Restoring Generosity, and Redefining Sustainability*. Tyrone, GA: Authentic, 2007. 262 pages.

Sanneh, Lamin. *Whose Religion Is Christianity? The Gospel beyond the West*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2003.

Tennent, Timothy C., *Theology in the context of World Christianity*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2007.

Van Engen, Charles. *Mission on the Way*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1996. 306 pages.

Volf, Miroslav. *Exclusion and Embrace: A Theological Exploration of Identity, Otherness, and Reconciliation*. Nashville: Abingdon, 1996. 336 pages

### **The following article and books be available.**

Carpenter, Joel. "Now What?: Revivalist Christianity and Global South Politics." *Books and Culture*. March/April 2009, 34-37.

Paul Freston, ed., *Evangelical Christianity and Democracy in Latin America* (Oxford Univ. Press, 2008).

David H. Lumsdaine, ed., *Evangelical Christianity and Democracy in Asia* (Oxford Univ. Press, 2008).

Terence O. Ranger, ed., *Evangelical Christianity and Democracy in Africa* (Oxford Univ. Press, 2008).

***(Books will be available at [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com) . Be sure to buy and read the textbooks for every class before you come to the modules. Gary Flokstra at [info@4wrd.org](mailto:info@4wrd.org) also has both new and used books for missionaries & mission organizations***

Relevant articles, reviews and documents will be provided as handouts during the class. Extensive bibliography for further studies will be provided at the same time.

## **CALENDAR AND OUTLINE**

The class will follow the standard format as provided by AGTS. Following is a thematic outline of the lectures and class discussions.

MONDAY	Globalization and the Reconfiguration of World Christianity Megatrends Shaping Missions in the Twenty-first Century
TUESDAY	Religious Fundamentalisms and Missions in the World of Violence and “Clash of Civilizations” Mission as Reconciliation and Faith-based Diplomacy
WEDNESDAY	Inter-faith Relations and Ecumenical Cooperation “Common Word” (Islamic) Document and Christian Response
THURSDAY	Missions at the Intersection of the Kingdom of God and the kingdoms of this world Church-State Relations, Human Rights, and Religious Liberty
FRIDAY	Economic Realities and Trends as Affecting World Missions: Poverty, Dependency, Sustainability, and New Partnerships

## **COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

### ***Pre-Session:***

- 1) Study carefully all the assigned reading materials.
- 2) Write a comparative reflection paper about three books (your choice) from the required list with autobiographical and contextual probing in the area of your experience, expertise, and/or desired specialization. (15-20 pgs)
- 3) Imagine the author(s) of your text book(s) in the class! What substantial and critical questions would you like to ask each one of them? Write up 3-5 questions for 4 of the 6 authors with a brief contextual explanation actualizing the issue, its theoretical implications, and practical consequences and bring them along for class discussion.

### ***Post-Session:***

- 1) Write an integrative paper which incorporates the lessons learned from the readings and class time to help you process the material and relate it to your own area of specialization and/or context of ministry (10-15 pgs). The topics should be agreed upon in consultation with your professor during the residency or through subsequent correspondence.
- 2) Write a personalized “My Missionary Credo” summarizing your fundamental missiological convictions within the context of the reconfigured world Christianity (see *Lausanne Covenant* as a model). (3-4 pgs)

## GRADING PROCEDURE

### General Guidelines for Formal Writing Assignments

Each writing assignment should be typed, double-spaced in a 12 point font. It should contain your name and should conform to Turabian, APA, or other formal academic style manual.

## GRADING SCALE

A+ (10)	publishable	A (96)	100-94	A- (93)	93-90
B+ (89)	89-87	B (86)	86-84	B- (83)	83-80
C+ (79)	79-77	C (76)	76-74	C- (73)	73-70
D+ (69)	69-67	D (66)	66-64	D- (63)	63-60
F	59 or below				

**Students with Disabilities:** If you anticipate the need for reasonable accommodations to meet the requirements of this course, you must register with the Office of Student Services. Contact Student Services, 1435 N. Glenstone Ave, Springfield, MO, 65802, (417) 286-1081 or email: [studentservices@agts.edu](mailto:studentservices@agts.edu). Students are required to provide documentation of disability to Student Services prior to receiving accommodations.

**Non-Discriminatory Language.** All AGTS students, employees, and faculty members are urged to use non-discriminatory language in both verbal and written communication at the Seminary. While AGTS does not endorse the following websites, they provide more information on non-discriminatory language:

General Principles: [http://www.randomhouse.com/words/language/avoid\\_guide.html](http://www.randomhouse.com/words/language/avoid_guide.html)

Gender: <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/workshops/hypertext/apa/gender.html>

Racial and Ethnic Identity: <http://www.apastyle.org/race.html>

Disabilities: <http://www.apastyle.org/disabilities.html>

Age Discrimination: [http://www.randomhouse.com/words/language/avoid\\_guide.html](http://www.randomhouse.com/words/language/avoid_guide.html)

***ALL Post-session work must be submitted within 90 days of the last day of class.***

Prepared Dr. Peter Kuzmic, October 20, 2009