

**ASSEMBLIES OF GOD THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY**  
**MATS Degree Completion Program**  
**THED 545 THEOLOGY OF MISSION**

R. Paul Wood, D.Min.

Fall 2004

**COURSE SYLLABUS**

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

An examination of the mission of the Church and various models of Christian missions from biblical, theological, and historical perspectives. This interdisciplinary study, integrating theory and praxis, is designed to move the student toward a more responsible understanding, imaging, and proclamation of the Kingdom of God in the diverse cultural milieus of our global village.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES**

Upon completion of this course, the student should be able to

1. Present the biblical and theological basis of the mission of the Church in the world.
2. Identify and understand historical paradigms in the theology of mission.
3. Identify and analyze contemporary challenges in the theology of mission.
4. Define and articulate clearly the missionary task.
5. Understand and respond to a personal role in the mission of the Church.
6. Develop and embrace biblically sound guidelines for fulfilling the mission of the Church in one's ministry setting.

**TEXTBOOKS**

Grenz, Stanley J., David Guretzki and Cherith Fee Nordling. *Pocket Dictionary of Theological Terms*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1999.

Winter, Ralph D. and Steven C. Hawthorne, eds. *Perspectives on the World Christian Movement*, Third edition. Pasadena: William Carey Library, 1999.

York, John V., *Missions in the Age of the Spirit*. Springfield: Logion, 2000.

**METHODOLOGY**

The teaching-learning experience will include lectures, guest presenters, class discussions, small group discussions, collateral reading, and applied research.

**COURSE CONTENT**

SECTION ONE: An Introduction to the Study of Mission

SECTION TWO: The Covenants and Mission

- The Older Covenant
- The New Covenant

SECTION THREE: Theological Issues and Mission

SECTION FOUR: Changing Historical Paradigms in Mission

SECTION FIVE: Contemporary Challenges to Mission

- Universality versus Universalism
- Proclamation versus Dialogue
- Contextualization versus Syncretism
- Salvation Theology versus Liberation Theology
- Evangelism and Social Concern
- The Urban Challenge
- The Islamic Challenge
- Women in Mission

SECTION SIX: The Missionary and the Mission

- The Local Church
- The Sending Agency
- The Missionary
- The Assemblies of God World Mission

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

**I. Class Participation**

The importance of promptness, class attendance, preparation, and participation cannot be overstated. Only the most dire emergency should deter one from attending a class session. Any absence will impact the course grade and more than one absence will require the intervention of the academic dean to salvage the course. (These measures are mandated by federal government policy.)

**II. Reading**

A. Read the following:

1. York: *Missions in the Age of the Spirit*.
2. Winter and Hawthorne: *Perspectives on the World Christian Movement*.
  - Division One: "The Biblical Perspective"  
Assigned Articles: 1,2,4,9,13,14, 21,25,26,27.
  - Division Two: "The Historical Perspective"  
Assigned Articles: 35, 37, 40, 44, 45, 50.

- Division Three: “The Cultural Perspective”  
Assigned Articles: 54, 55, 56, 59, 60, 65, 68, 69.
- Division Four: “The Strategic Perspective”  
Assigned Articles: 72, 77, 78, 81, 85, 89, 91, 92, 94, 95, 96, 102, 104, 107, 109, 111, 112, 119, 120, 123, 124.

3. Two hundred (200) pages from a relevant source--book(s), articles, or web publications--selected by the student.

- B. Develop a reading report which includes the following:
- a bibliographical entry on each source.
  - a statement of how thoroughly the material was read.
  - the specified number of direct quotes or insights from each source that relate to the learning objectives and that can be integrated into the applied scholarly paper. Each insight should be presented in a short paragraph. (The locus of the source referenced should be indicated so it can be footnoted properly when used in the applied scholarly paper. The report should be typed and double-spaced.

York: <i>Missions in the Age ...</i>	At least 7 Quotes or Insights
Perspectives: Division One	At least 4 Quotes or Insights
Perspectives: Division Two	At least 4 Quotes or Insights
Perspectives: Division Three	At least 4 Quotes or Insights
Perspectives: Division Four	At least 5 Quotes or Insights
Source Selected by Student	At least 6 Quotes or Insights

## II. Applied Scholarly Paper

- A. Write a 15 – 20 page (double-spaced), scholarly paper that presents a strategic plan to fulfill the mission of the Church in a specific context. The plan may focus on a people, a religious group, a geographical area, or a type of ministry. It should take into consideration the practical concerns of demography, personnel, program or initiative development, funding, etc.

**NOTE:** The paper should reflect the student’s interest and his/her present or projected ministry involvement. It is expected that the reading quotes or insights will be reflected in the paper.

- B. The paper must be written exclusively for this course. It should evidence good research, careful documentation, and follow the Turabian format, 6th edition.

**DUE DATES FOR COURSE ASSIGNMENTS**

<b>DUE DATE</b>	<b>ASSIGNMENT</b>
Thursday - November 11, 2004	York: First Textbook Interaction
Thursday - November 18, 2004	Perspectives: Division I & II
Thursday - December 2, 2004	Perspectives: Division III & IV
Thursday - December 9, 2004	Source (200 pg.) selected by the student
December 16, 2004	Final Examination
Tuesday - December 28, 2004	Scholarly Paper

**NOTE:** Assignments submitted after class time on the due date will receive a grade reduction of 5 points per day or any part thereof.

**GRADING PROCEDURE**

<b>ASSIGNMENT</b>	<b>GRADE VALUE</b>
Class Preparation and Participation	15%
Reading Reports (4 @ 5% each)	20%
Scholarly Paper	35%
Final Examination	30%

SESSION	PREPARATION GUIDE AND THEMES
<p><b>WEEK 1</b> <b>NOV. 11, 2004</b></p>	<p>Should have read: York: <i>Missions in the Age of the Spirit</i></p> <p>Course Orientation</p> <p>Section I: Introduction to the study of mission(s)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Terms and concepts – Define mission theology</li> <li>• Mission and the problem of sin</li> </ul> <p>Section II: The Covenants and mission</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Older Covenant and mission</li> </ul>
<p><b>WEEK 2</b> <b>NOV. 18, 2004</b></p>	<p>Should have read: York: <i>Missions in the Age of the Spirit</i></p> <p>Should have read: <i>Perspectives: Division I &amp; II</i></p> <p>Section II: The Covenants and mission (Continued)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Older Covenant and mission</li> <li>• The New Covenant and mission</li> </ul>
<p><b>WEEK 3</b> <b>DEC. 02, 2004</b></p>	<p>Should have read: <i>Perspectives: Division III &amp; IV</i></p> <p>Section II: The Covenants and mission (Continued)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The New Covenant and mission</li> <li>• Paul, the missionary-apostle</li> <li>• The A/G World Missions – values and structure</li> </ul> <p>Section III: Theological issues and mission</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Triune God</li> <li>• Hermeneutics</li> </ul>
<p><b>WEEK 4</b> <b>DEC. 09, 2004</b></p>	<p>Should have read : 200 pages - source selected by the student</p> <p>Section IV: Changing paradigms in mission</p> <p>Section V: Contemporary challenges to mission</p>
<p><b>WEEK 5</b> <b>DEC. 16, 2004</b></p>	<p>Course Evaluation</p> <p>6:15 – 8:00 Final Examination</p> <p>8:15 – 10:00 Course Summary</p> <p>The missionary and the mission</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Local church</li> <li>• The sending agency</li> <li>• The missionary</li> </ul>

**SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY**

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