

ASSEMBLIES OF GOD THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
MHT/BTH 501
MISSION OF GOD IN BIBLICAL AND CONTEMPORARY CONTEXTS

R. Paul Wood, D.Min.

Fall 2005

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 complete understanding and responsible proclamation of the Kingdom of God in today's diverse cultural milieu.

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 describe 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.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS

Glasser, Arthur F. with Charles E. Van Engen, Dean S. Gilliland, and Shawn B. Redford.
Announcing the Kingdom: The Story of God's Mission in the Bible. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2003.

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

METHODOLOGY

The teaching-learning experience will include lectures, guest presenters, class discussions, small group interaction, 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(s)

SECTION SIX: The Missionary and the Mission

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

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

I. Class Participation

The importance of promptness, class attendance, preparation, and participation cannot be overstated. Only a dire emergency should deter one from attending a class session. Any absence will impact the course grade, and absence(s) in excess of AGTS accepted policy 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. Arthur F. Glasser, et al.: *Announcing the Kingdom: The Story of God's Mission in the Bible*.
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.

Glasser: Announcing the Kingdom	At least 10 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

III. Applied Scholarly Paper

- A. Write a 12 – 15 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, 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. The failure to document sources, in any media format, constitutes plagiarism and will be dealt with accordingly. The paper should evidence good research, careful documentation, and follow the Turabian format, 6th edition.

SPIRITUAL FOCUS

Spiritual formation is essential to fulfilling Missio Dei. The class will participate in the AGTS community chapel on: **Tuesday, November 29, 1:30-2:45 p.m.**

I am recommending an outstanding missions speaker and District Official for Chapel. Immediately after Chapel, he will join us for the class session. Attendance is expected.

DUE DATES FOR COURSE ASSIGNMENTS

DUE DATE	ASSIGNMENT
Tuesday – September 20, 2005	Glasser: First Textbook Interaction
Tuesday – October 4, 2005	Perspectives: Division I & II
Tuesday – October 18, 2005	Mid-Term Examination
Tuesday – October 25, 2005	Perspectives: Division III & IV
Tuesday – November 8, 2005	Reading (200 pg.) Source is student’s choice
Tuesday – November 22, 2005	Scholarly Paper
Tuesday - November 29, 2005	Chapel 1:30 - 2:45
Tuesday - December 13, 2005	Final Examination

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

ASSIGNMENT	GRADE VALUE
Class Preparation and Participation	5%
Reading Reports (4 @ 5% each)	20%
Mid-Term Exam	20%
Scholarly Paper	25%
Final Examination	30%

SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

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