

**Assemblies of God Theological Seminary**  
**MSS 545 CURRENT ISSUES IN MISSIOLOGY**  
**COURSE SYLLABUS**

**Barbara Cavaness, Ph.D.**

**Fall 2005**

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

A course dealing with the trends and issues affecting contemporary missionary outreach of the Church throughout the world. Emphasis will be placed on the practical implication of these issues on present and future missionary activity.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES**

1. Recognize the complexity of challenges impacting the effective cross-cultural communication of the gospel in the twenty-first century.
2. Understand his/her role in confronting issues hindering or helping the missionary outreach of the Church.
3. Demonstrate an understanding of significant terminology used in the discipline of missiology.
4. Know the implications of his/her gifts and training in view of the Great Commission.
5. Identify and discuss the components of holistic mission and ethics in a multicultural world.
6. Appreciate the dynamics of interdenominational missions efforts.
7. Correlate his/her missiological studies into a synthesized whole in order to develop a personal philosophy and strategy of missions.

**TEXTBOOKS**

Required textbooks:

Adeney, Bernard T. Strange Virtues: Ethics in a Multicultural World. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1995. (250)

Guthrie, Stan. Missions in the Third Millennium: 21 Key Trends for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. Waynesboro, GA: Paternoster Press, 2000. (198)

Sanneh, Lamin. Whose Religion Is Christianity? The Gospel beyond the West. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2003. (130)

Scherer, James A. and Stephen B. Bevans. New Directions in Mission and Evangelization 3. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis, 1999. (230)

Recommended Textbooks:

Elmer, Duane. Cross-Cultural Conflict: Building Relationships for Effective Ministry. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity, 1993.

Elmer, Duane and Lois McKinney, eds. With an Eye on the Future: Development and Mission in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, Monrovia, CA: MARC, 1996.

Pittman, Don A., Ruben L. F. Habito, and Terry C. Muck, eds. Ministry and Theology in Global Perspective: Contemporary Challenges for the Church. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1996. (Intro, Parts II and III —approx. 300)

Rosen, Robert, Patricia Digh, Marshall Singer, and Carl Phillips. Global Literacies. Riverside, NJ: Simon & Schuster, 2000.

## **METHODOLOGY**

Lectures (instructor and guests), small group discussion, video presentation(s), book interactions, research/case study paper, and final exam.

## **COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

**IMPORTANT NOTICE: Students registered for this course are asked to attend at least two of the three services of the Day of Renewal on September 23 in lieu of attending class. The first class session will convene Sept. 24 at 9:00 a.m.**

1. Reading of the required textbooks and assigned readings, with written interactions on the required texts. Assigned collateral readings will be placed on reserve in the library for reading or photocopying. Graduate study assumes readings are complete and the student is conversant in the content. Students will be asked to affirm the completion of readings at exam time.
2. Successful completion of a final exam.
3. Papers to be written (typed, double-spaced, including your name and the title of the paper). Late papers will be penalized by a reduction in grade. Plagiarism will result in a failing grade for the paper and possibly for the course.

### **Pre-session:**

- a. **Due Sept. 24:** Interaction\* (2-4 pages) with Guthrie text, including a page on which of the trends you consider the most compelling and why think so.

### **Mid-session:**

- b. **Due Oct. 14:** Interaction\* (2-4 pages) with Adeney text, including a page relating a personal experience involving an intercultural ethical issue.
- c. **Due Nov. 4:** Interaction\* (2-4 pages) with assigned portions of Sherer and Bevans/Sanneh texts.

\*Interactions should affirm that the student has completed the reading of the book, cite some of its strengths and weaknesses, evaluate its significance, reflect on how the book applies to the student's present or future ministry, etc. Please do not retell the content of the book. Some useful questions include the following:

- What's the point? (main thesis, issue, claim of the book)
- On what grounds? (basis of history, Bible, philosophy, etc.)
- What's new? (fresh insight, breakthrough, interpretation)
- What's strange or weak? (ideas hard to understand or agree with)
- What now? (missiological implications in general and impact for you personally)

**Post-session:**

d. **Due Dec. 2:** Research/personal philosophy paper (10-15 pages). Further details and instructions for the paper will be explained in class. Papers are to be typed in a 12-point font, double spaced, according to Turabian’s 6th edition guidelines. Please include a title page, table of contents page, and bibliography (only those sources consulted) page and submit two copies. Please note that the grade will be reduced one letter grade per week for late work.

- 4. Oral presentation: Each student will be asked to prepare a presentation for the class on one current issue in missiology. These will be presented Nov. 18-19. Further instructions and topics will be explained in class.
- 5. Faithful attendance to class (as per the Student Handbook) and participation in discussions/groups. Due to the intense scheduling of this course, absence for any part will negatively impact the student’s course grade.

**GRADING PROCEDURE**

Attendance and class participation	10%
Three textbook interactions	30%
Class presentation	20%
Research/personal philosophy paper	20%
Final exam	20%

**SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY**

A selected bibliography will be distributed in class.

**WEBSITES**

- [www.strategicnetwork.org](http://www.strategicnetwork.org)—multiple e-zines on cross-cultural issues
- [www.missiology.org](http://www.missiology.org)—connected to Dr. Gailyn Van Rheenen at Abilene Christian University
- [www.gmi.org](http://www.gmi.org)—site for the Global Mapping project
- [www.omsc.org](http://www.omsc.org)—site for Overseas Ministries Study Center at Yale University
- [www.ad2000.org](http://www.ad2000.org)—site focused on world evangelization plan
- [www.gsmweb.org](http://www.gsmweb.org)—site for American Society of Missiologists
- [www.mislinks.org](http://www.mislinks.org)—site of Scott Moreau, editor of massive Evangelical Dictionary of Mission
- [www.ethnicharvest.org](http://www.ethnicharvest.org)—key links to ethnic church planting in the U.S.
- [www.gocn.org](http://www.gocn.org)—site for Gospel and Culture Network

**SPECIFIC DATA**

Prepared by Barbara Cavaness, June 2005.