

Assemblies of God Theological Seminary

MCS/MHT 642: Contextualized Theology
Friday and Saturday September 5-6/October 3-4/November 14-15

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Fall 2008

Course Syllabus

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Contextualized Theology is communicating the Truth and mission of the God in the Old and New Testaments to a globalized world. Less and less is *Contextualized Theology* about specific places, but rather peoples with their respective faiths and unique languages and cultures regardless of where they reside. However, people do not live in a vacuum. Each people have a background of theology, culture and history. To effectively strategize to reach them the missional Church must consider these areas of influence to effectively communicate the gospel. Therefore, this course will follow reflection/action praxis to discuss and implement *Contextualized Theology*.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

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

- Theologically reflecting on Scriptures about the mission of God to all peoples
- Analyze people in their respective cultural/social context
- Understand how historical perspective shapes how a people have become who they are
- Strategically formulate a plan for contextualized theology and mission based from reflecting on the above objectives

REQUIERED TEXTBOOKS

Anderson, Ray S. An Emergent Theology for Emerging Churches. Downers Grove, IL: IVP, 2006.

Anyabwile, Thabiti M. The Decline of African American Theology: From Biblical Faith to Cultural Captivity. Downers Grove, IL: IVP, 2007.

Bakke, Ray and Jon Sharpe. Street Signs: A New Direction in Urban Ministry. Birmingham, Alabama: New Hope Publishers, 2006.

Bevans, Stephen B. and Roger P. Schroeder. Constants in Contexts: A Theology of Mission for Today. Maryknoll, New York: Orbis Books, 2004.

Fleming, Dean. Contextualization in the New Testament: Patterns for Theology and Mission. Downers Grove, IL: IVP, 2005.

Hausfeld, Mark A. Islam in America: Understanding and Engaging Diaspora Muslims through the Local Church. Springfield, Missouri: J. Phillip Hogan World Missions Series Monograph Vol. II, Assemblies of God Theological Seminary, 2008.

BASIC OUTLINE (subject to change)

Introduction

The Mission of God and Systemic Globalization of Peoples

Defining Contextualized Theology via the “Missional Helix”

Theological Reflection

Cultural Analysis

Historical Perspective

Strategic Formation

METHODOLOGY

Lectures

Class Discussion

Community Exegesis

Media

Book Reviews

Research Project

COURSE REQUIERMENTS

1. Read all textbooks and write a 3 page reflection paper on Fleming **due Saturday September 6**; on Bevans/Schroeder **and** Anyabwile **due Saturday October 4**; on Anderson **and** Bakke/Schroeder **due on Saturday November 15**.
2. Faithful attendance to all classes required by the *Student Handbook* of the seminary.
3. Successful completion of a research project that is the implementation of the "Missional Helix." The student will construct a reflective contextualized theology and strategic plan of action for mission in real time and place. The research project is to be 20 pages with footnotes. **This research project is due no later than December 14, 2008.**
4. All book reviews and the research project are to be submitted electronically; double spaced; font 12 Roman.

GRADING PROCEDURE

1. Class attendance and participation: 15%
2. Book Reviews: 25%
3. Research Project 60%

SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

The Selected Bibliography will be distributed in first class session.

SPECIFIC DATA

Revised by Mark Hausfeld, July 11, 2008.