

Assemblies of God Theological Seminary

MHT 631 CONTEXTUALIZATION

COURSE SYLLABUS

Warren B. Newberry, D.Th.
Visiting Professor of Missions
Time: 1:00-2:15 PM, Wednesday & Friday

Fall 2002

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

This course examines both the theoretical and practical aspects of contextualization as related to the following areas: biblical interpretation, theology, church methodologies/strategies, and leadership development. Contextualization is reviewed and evaluated in terms of its bearing on the communication of the Gospel, the expression of the Christian faith, and its spread in various cultural settings.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

1. To understand the origin, significance, and role that “contextualization” can play in present day missions.
2. To appreciate that there are theologies in the so-called Two-Thirds World that may be equal to or perhaps superior to Western interpretations of theology.
3. To study existing contextualized theologies and understand their implications to the Christian global scene today.
4. To determine if a more contextualized presentation of the gospel would result in the resistant people groups of this world coming to Christ in a greater measure.
5. To realize that the goal of contextualization is not to make the Gospel relevant but, rather, to enable a people to understand the significance of the gospel in terms which they can comprehend it.

TEXTBOOKS

Required Textbooks

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

Drynness, William A. *Invitation to Cross-Cultural Theology: Case Studies In Vernacular Theologies*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishing House, 1992.

Schreiter, Robert J. *Constructing Local Theologies*. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books, 1985.

Recommended Textbooks

Drynness, William. *Learning About Theology From the Third World*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1990.

Fleming, Bruce . *Contextualization of Theology*. Pasadena, CA: William Carey Library, 1980.

Gilliland, Dean S (ed). *The Word Among Us: Contextualizing Theology For Mission Today*. Dallas: Word Publishing, 1989.

BASIC OUTLINE

Introduction
Defining Contextualization and Related Issues
Culture in Contextualization
The Dimensions of Religious Experience
Contextualizing Theology
 a. Fundamentals and Presuppositions in Theology
 b. Constructing Local Theologies
 c. Contextualizing Theology in Africa
 d. Contextualizing theology in Latin America
 e. Contextualizing Theology in Asia
Contextualizing Ethics
Case Studies

METHODOLOGY

Lectures
Class Discussion
Video Presentation(s)
Research Paper
Examinations, a mid-term and final exam

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. Reading of the required textbooks and assigned readings.
2. Successful completion of the examinations.
3. Faithful attendance to class as required by the *Student Handbook* of the seminary.
4. Successful completion of the Research Paper.

- A. The paper is due at the beginning of class on November 15, 2002.
- B. There will be a deduction of one (1) letter grade if the paper is turned in late.
- C. There will be a hand out detailing the requirements for the Term Paper.

GRADING PROCEDURE

1. Completion of all required readings	25%
2. Research Paper	35%
3. Exams, averaged together	40%

SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

Archer, Gleason L. "Contextualization: Some Implications From Life and Witness In The Old Testament." In *New Horizons In World Mission: Evangelicals and the Christian Mission in the 1980s. Papers and Responses Prepared for the Consultation on Theology and Mission. Trinity Evangelical Divinity School, School of World Mission and Evangelism. March 12-22, 1979.*, ed. David J. Hesselgrave, 199-216. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1979.

Bevans, Stephen. "Models of Contextual Theology." *Missiology: An International Review* 13, no. 2 (April 1985): 185-202.

_____. *Models of Contextual Theology*. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books, 1992.

Blair, Colin F. "Tentmaking: A Contextualized Approach to Islam." *Missiology: An International Review* 11, no. 2 (April 1983): 219-27.

Buswell, James O. III. "Contextualization: Is It Only a New Word for Indigenization?" *Evangelical Missions Quarterly* 14, no. 1 (January 1978): 13-20.

_____. "Contextualization: Theory, Tradition and Method." In *Theology And Mission: Papers and Responses Prepared for the Consultation on Theology and Mission. Trinity Evangelical Divinity School., School of World Mission and Evangelism, March 22-25, 1976.*, ed. David J. Hesselgrave, 87-111. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1978.

_____. "Contextualization: Theory, Tradition, and Method." In *Theology and Mission*, ed. David J. Hesselgrave, 87-111. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1978.

Conn, Harvie M. "Contextualization: A New Dimension for Cross-Cultural Hermeneutic." *Evangelical Missions Quarterly* 14, no. 1 (January 1978): 39-46.

- . "Contextualization: Where Do We Begin?" In *Evangelicals and Liberation*, ed. Carl E. Armerding, 90-119. Phillipsburg, NJ: Presbyterian and Reformed Publishing Company, 1977.
- Connor, John H. "When Culture Leaves Contextualized Christianity Behind." *Missiology: An International Review* 19, no. 1 (January 1991): 21-29.
- Engle, Richard W. "Contextualization in Missions: A Biblical and Theological Appraisal." *Grace Theological Journal* 4 (1983): 85-107.
- Ericson, Norman R. "Implications From The New Testament For Contextualization." In *Theology And Mission: Papers and Responses Prepared for the Consultation on Theology and Mission. Trinity Evangelical Divinity School., School of World Mission and Evangelism, March 22-25, 1976.*, ed. David J. Hesselgrave, 71-85. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1978.
- Fleming, Bruce C. E. *Contextualization of Theology*. Pasadena, CA: William Carey Library, 1980.
- Glasser, Arthur F. "Help From an Unexpected Quarter or, the Old Testament and Contextualization." *Missiology: An International Review* 7, no. 4 (October 1979): 403-10.
- Gration, John. "Willowbank to Zaire: The Doing of Theology." *Missiology: An International Review* 12, no. 3 (July 1984): 297-309.
- Haleblian, Krikor. "The Problem of Contextualization." *Missiology: An International Review* 11, no. 1 (January 1983): 95-111.
- Hatcher, Mark J. "Contextualizing the Creed Through Structured Bible Study." *Missiology: An International Review* 26, no. 3 (July 1998): 315-28.
- Heibert, Paul G. "Critical Contextualization." *Missiology: An International Review* 12, no. 3 (July 1984): 288-96.
- Heideman, Eugene S. "Syncretism, Contextualization, Othodoxy, and Heresy." *Missiology: An International Review* 25, no. 1 (January 1997): 37-49.
- Hiebert, Paul G. "Sets And Structures: A Study Of Church Patterns." In *New Horizons In World Mission: Evangelicals and the Christian Mission in the 1980s. Papers and Responses Prepared for the Consultation on Theology and Mission. Trinity Evangelical Divinity School, School of World Mission and Evangelism. March 12-22, 1979.*, ed. David J. Hesselgrave, 217-27. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1979.
- Ingleby, Jonathan. "Trickling Down or Shaking the Foundations: Is Contextualization Neutral?" *Missiology: An International Review* 25, no. 2 (April 1997): 183-87.

- Kim, Chung-choon. "The Contextualization of Theological Education." *Northeast Asia Journal of Theology* 12 (March 1974): 1-9.
- Kinsler, F. Ross. "Mission and Context: The Current Debate About Contextualization." *Evangelical Missions Quarterly* 14, no. 1 (January 1978): 23-29.
- Kraft, Charles H. "The Contextualization of Theology." *Evangelical Missions Quarterly* 14, no. 1 (January 1978): 31-36.
- Krass, Alfred. "Contextualization for Today." *Gospel In Context* 2 (July 1979): 27-30.
- Lind, Millard C. "Refocusing Theological Education to Mission: The Old Testament and Contextualization." *Missiology: An International Review* 10, no. 2 (April 1982): 141-60.
- McKinney, Lois. "Contextualizing Instruction: Contributions to Missiology from the Field of Education." *Missiology: An International Review* 12, no. 3 (July 1984): 311-26.
- Netland, Harold. "Toward Contextualized Apologetics." *Missiology: An International Review* 16, no. 3 (July 1988): 289-303.
- Nichols, Bruce J. *Contextualization: A Theology of Gospel and Culture*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1979.
- Nida, Eugene A. "New Religions for Old: A Study of Culture Change in Religion." In *Church and Culture Change in Africa*, ed. David J. Bosch, 9-44. Pretoria: N. C. Kerkboekhandel, 1971.
- Packer, James I. "The Gospel: Its Content and Communication." In *Down To Earth: Studies in Christianity and Culture*, ed. John R. W. Stott and Robert Coote, 97-114. Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1980.
- Ramirez, Eduardo Miguel. "Contextualization in the Local Church." *Evangelical Missions Quarterly* 14, no. 1 (January 1978): 49-58.
- Samuel, Vinay, and Chris Sugden. "Comments on 'The Contextualization Continuum'." *Gospel in Context* 2 (July 1979): 17-19.
- Schlorff, Samuel P. "The Catholic Program for Dialogue with Islam: An Evangelical Evaluation with Special Reference to Contextualization." *Missiology: An International Review* 11, no. 2 (April 1983): 131-48.
- Schreiter, Robert J. "Culture, Society and Contextual Theologies." *Missiology: An International Review* 12, no. 3 (July 1984): 261-73.

Spielberg, Fana, and Stuart Dauermann. "Contextualization: Witness and Reflection Messianic Jews as a Case." *Missiology: An International Review* 25, no. 1 (January 1997): 15-35.

Taber, Charles R. "Contextualization." In *Exploring Church Growth*, ed. Wilbert Shenk, 117-31. Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1983.

———. "Contextualization: Indigenization and/or Transformation." In *The Gospel and Islam: A 1978 Compendium*, ed. Don McCurry, 143-54. Monrovia: MARC, 1979.

———. "Contextualization: Whose Ox is Being Gored?" *Gospel in Context* 1 (October 1978): 2-3.

Tennent, Timothy C. "Contextualizing the Sanskritic Tradition to Serve Dalit Theology." *Missiology: An International Review* 25, no. 3 (July 1997): 343-49.

Whiteman, Darrell L. "Contextualizing the Gospel." *Missiology: An International Review* 25, no. 1 (January 1997): 3-4.

Zahniser, A. H. Mathias. "Ritual Process and Christian Discipling: Contextualizing a Buddhist Rite of Passage." *Missiology: An International Review* 19, no. 1 (January 1991): 3-19.

SPECIFIC DATA

Prepared by Dr. Warren Newberry, June 2002