

M518 - MISSIONS
Reformed Theological Seminary
Summer Term, 2008
Professor: Samuel H. Larsen, D.Min., Ph.D.
(rev. 12/14/07)

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

2 hours. An introductory course in missions history and anthropology for cross-cultural workers that surveys theological foundations, historical events, personalities, and trends, theories, and anthropological tools in order to develop an appreciation and understanding of the task of bringing the Gospel across cultural and ethnic boundaries.

COURSE OBJECTIVES: Students will demonstrate the following understandings, motivations, and skills:

1. Students will be able to trace biblical and theological foundations for missions.
2. Students will be able to identify key historical events, personalities, and trajectories of the missionary enterprise.
3. Students will demonstrate an understanding of important missiological theories and strategies as they have historically influenced and currently influence missions.
4. Students will show a grasp of basic tools for intercultural communication and cross-cultural ministry

REQUIRED TEXTS:

Bavinck, J. H. 1960. *An introduction to the science of missions*. Transl. David H. Freeman. Phillipsburg, NJ: Presbyterian and Reformed. (323 pp.)

Hiebert, Paul G. 1985. *Anthropological Insights for Missionaries*. Grand Rapids: Baker. (315 pp)

Kane, J. Herbert. 1982. *A concise history of the Christian world mission: A panoramic view of missions from Pentecost to the present*. Grand Rapids, Mich.: Baker. (216 pp)

Larsen, Samuel H. 2008. Global kingdom vision and the Westminster Confession of Faith. In —, ed. Robert Penny. Location: Publisher. (12 pp)

-----, 2005. A Christocentric understanding of linguistic diversity: Implications for missions in a pluralistic era. In *The centrality of Christ in contemporary missions*, ed. Mike Barnett and Michael Pocock, 233-245. Pasadena, Calif.: William Carey Library.

Young, John M. L. 2007. *Missions: The Biblical Motive and Aim*. Pittsburgh, PA: Crown and Covenant. (156 pp.)

RECOMMENDED READING:

Anderson, Gerald H., et al., eds. 1998. *Mission legacies: Biographical studies of leaders of the modern missionary movement*. Maryknoll, N.Y.: Orbis. (654 pp)

Bosch, David J. 1991. *Transforming mission: Paradigm shifts in theology of mission*. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis. (587 pp)

Dodd, Carley H. 1998. *Dynamics of Intercultural Communication* (fifth edition). Boston: McGraw-Hill. (289 pp)

Glasser, Arthur F. 2003. *Announcing the kingdom: The story of God's mission in the Bible*. Grand Rapids, Mich.: Baker. (400 pp)

Grunlan, Stephen A., and Marvin K. Mayers, eds. 1988. *Cultural Anthropology: A Christian Perspective*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan. (303 pp)

Hall, E.T. 1981. *Beyond culture*. New York: doubleday. (281 pp.)

Harley, David. 1995. *Preparing to Serve: Training for Cross-Cultural Mission*. Pasadena, Calif.: William Carey Library. (156 pp)

Hastings, Adrian, ed. 1999. *A world history of Christianity*. Grand Rapids, Mich.: Eerdmans. (594 pp)

Hiebert, Paul G. 1983. *Cultural Anthropology*. Grand Rapids: Baker. (476 pp)

Irvin, Dale T., and Sunquist, Scott W. 2001. *Earliest Christianity to 1453*. Vol. 1 of *History of the world Christian movement*. Maryknoll, N.Y.: Orbis. (519 pp)

Kaiser, Walter C., Jr. 2000. *Mission in the Old Testament: Israel as a light to the nations*. Grand Rapids, Mich.: Baker. (101 pp)

Kirk, J. Andrew. 2000. *What is mission: Theological explorations*. Minneapolis, Minn.: Fortress. (302 pp)

Kohls, L. Robert. 1996. *Survival Kit for Overseas Living: For Americans Planning to Live and Work Abroad*. Yarmouth, Maine: Intercultural Press. 165 pp)

Kostenberger, Andreas, and O'Brien, Peter T. 2001. *Salvation to the ends of the earth: A biblical theology of mission*. Downers Grove, Ill.: InterVarsity Press. (351 pp)

- Larkin, William J., Jr., and Williams, Joel F., eds. 1999. *Mission in the New Testament: An evangelical approach*. Maryknoll, N.Y.: Orbis. (265 pp)
- Latourette, Kenneth Scott. 1965. *Christianity through the ages*. New York: Harper. (321 pp)
- Luzbetak, Louis J. 1989. *The Church and Cultures: An Applied Anthropology for the Religious Worker*. Pasadena: William Carey. (429 pp)
- Moreau, A. Scott, et al., eds. *Introducing world missions: A biblical, historical, and practical survey*. Grand Rapids, Mich.: Baker. (349 pp)
- Neill, Stephen. 1986. *A history of Christian missions*, 2nd ed. New York: Penguin. (528 pp)
- O'Brtien, P. T. 1995. *Gospel and mission in the writings of Paul: An exegetical and theological analysis*. Grand Rapids: Baker. (161 pp)
- Peskett, Howard, and Ramachandra, Vinoth. *The message of mission*. Downers Grove, Ill.: InterVarsity Press. (288 pp)
- Peters, George W. 1972. *A biblical theology of missions*. Chicago: Moody Press. (368 pp)
- Piper, John. 1993. *Let the nations be glad: The supremacy of God in missions*. Grand Rapids, Mich.: Baker. (240 pp)
- Tucker, Ruth A. 2004. *From Jerusalem to Irian Jaya: A biographical history of Christian missions*. Grand Rapids, Mich.: Zondervan. (526 pp)
- Walls, Andrew F. 1996. *The missionary movement in Christian history: Studies in the transmission of faith*. Maryknoll, N.Y.: Orbis. (266 pp)
- . 2002. *The cross-cultural process in Christian history*. Maryknoll, N.Y.: Orbis. (284 pp)
- Winter, Ralph D., and Hawthorne, Steven C., eds. 1999. *Perspectives on the world Christian movement: A reader*. Pasadena, Calif.: William Carey Library. (782 pp)
- Woodberry, J. Dudley, ed. 1998. *Reaching the resistant: Barriers and bridges for mission*. Pasadena, Calif.: William Carey Library. (252 pp)
- Wright, Christopher J. H. 2006. *The mission of God: Unlocking the Bible's grand narrative*. Downers Grove, Ill.: InterVarsity Press. (581 pp)

COURSE ASSESSMENT:

1. Class participation (includes attendance and contribution to class discussions): 20%
2. Research paper (12-15 pages) on a topic previously approved by the professor: 40%
3. Take-home final examination (open book essays - no collaboration permitted): 40%

NOTE: Spelling and grammar of written submissions must be accurate and will be taken into account in course assessment. Format must comply with the standards of Reformed Theological Seminary. Submissions which are submitted late will be reduced one letter grade for each week or partial week beyond the date due. Course work turned in after the last day of class for the semester will not be accepted.

OFFICE HOURS:

Dr. Larsen is available before or after class by appointment and may also be contacted by e-mail (slarsen@rts.edu) or by telephone (601-923-1685).

COURSE SCHEDULE: (each session comprises a block of 3 ½ hours; students are encouraged to interact with one another and the with the professor over lunch)

Session I: Toward a Biblical Theology of Missions: Seeing the Big Picture

Session II: History of Missions: Pentecost to the Conversion of the Vikings

Session III: History of Missions: Crusades to Reformation

Session IV: History of Missions: Reformation to Present

Session V: Mission Strategies and Critiques: Venn/Anderson/Nevius Method; Homogeneous Unit Method; Unreached Peoples Strategy; International Partnerships/Teams

Session VI: Globalization and Missions

Session VII: Contextualization and Missions

Session VIII: Exegeting Culture and Worldview: Bringing the Gospel to Bear

Student Course Evaluations