4MS518 - MISSIONS
Reformed Theological Seminary
Fall Term, 2011
Professor: Samuel H. Larsen, D.Min., Ph.D.
(rev. 7/18/11)

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: (1267 pp)


**RECOMMENDED READING:**


**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%
   (due Friday, December 9, 2011)

3. Take-home final examination (open book essays - no collaboration permitted): 40%
   (due Friday, December 9, 2011)

**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 December 9, 2011 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*).

**COURSE SCHEDULE:** Classes meet for eight three-hour sessions from Noon to 3 pm, Tuesdays and Thursdays, at the RTS/Atlanta campus, according to the following schedule:
September 13, 15, 27, and 29, October 11, 13, 18, and 20. (Students are encouraged to interact with one another and 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

Extension Policy

All assignments and exams are to be completed by the deadlines announced in this syllabus or in class.

Extensions for assignments and exams due within the normal duration of the course must be approved beforehand by the Professor. Extensions of two weeks or less beyond the date of the last deadline for the course must be approved beforehand by the Professor. A grade penalty may be assessed.

Extensions of greater than two weeks but not more than six weeks beyond the last deadline for the course may be granted in extenuating circumstances (i.e. illness, family emergency). For an extension of more than two weeks the student must request an Extension Request Form from the Student Services Office. The request must be approved by the Professor and the Academic Dean. A grade penalty may be assessed. (RTS Catalog p. 42 and RTS Atlanta Student Handbook p. 14)

Any incompletes not cleared six weeks after the last published due date for course work will be converted to a failing grade. Professors may have the failing grade changed to a passing grade by request. (RTS Catalog p. 42)