COURSE SYLLABUS – 1MS518
Reformed Theological Seminary
5422 Clinton Boulevard
Jackson, MS 39209
601-923-1600

MISSIONS
Fall 2015

Professor: Charles M. Wingard, D. Min.  E-mail: cwingard@rts.edu
Teaching Assistant: Adam Parker  E-mail: adamc.parker@gmail.com
Time: Mon. 8 a.m. to 9:55 a.m.
Class Hours: 2
Syllabus Revised: June 4, 2015

COURSE PURPOSE
This course examines issues in the world mission enterprise in light of today’s challenges, opportunities, and obligations. The call to mission service is examined, the theological mandate for missions is clarified, the historical advance of the Church through missions is reviewed, and strategies for effective contemporary missions are considered.

COURSE OBJECTIVES
This course introduces the student to four key motivations toward cross-cultural missions as they relate to the Christian ministry: pastoral, biblical/theological, historical, and practical (strategy). Our goal is to learn in order to reach. The question to keep in mind is this: What does it have to do with God’s glory, the edification (building up) of the church, and the salvation of the unconverted across the street and around the world? These “lectures” and activities have been designed to be reproduced in the context of the local churches.

COURSE TEXTS
Required Texts:


At least 250 pages of reading from a missionary biography. Book Report Due on December 4th. Please note that this final book review is up to your own discretion. You must ensure that the biography that you do a book review of is of a cross-cultural
missionary, not simply a preacher or evangelist. If in doubt, ask the teacher or teaching assistant to ensure that the book you are reading meets this requirement.¹

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. ATTENDANCE — Class attendance is mandatory. If a student anticipates an unavoidable absence, he should notify the instructor in advance. Each hour of unexcused absence subjects the student to reduction of his final grade by one-half of a letter grade. Students missing one or more session (for any reason other than sickness) may either submit an additional, compensatory assignment [determined by the instructor] or choose to receive a half letter grade reduction in their final grade for each hour missed. In the event of a planned absence, written work and memory verses must be submitted to the teaching assistant electronically by the start time of the class missed. In the event of absence due to sickness, arrangements must still be made with the TA to turn in those assignments that are due on the day that they are due.

2. READING ASSIGNMENTS — Textbook assignments must be read prior to class.

3. PAPER FORMATTING – All papers must be typed double-spaced using 12 pt Times New Roman font, and include pagination. Improperly formatted papers will receive a full letter grade deduction.

   Each assignment must included the following:
   a. Name(s)
   b. Course
   c. Date
   d. Assignment (e.g., Book Review 1)

5. GRADES – The overall grade will be calculated as follows:

   a. Three Book Reviews 60% (20% Each)
   b. Acts Reading Report 10%
   c. 10 Minute In-Class Presentation 10%
   d. Interview with a Non-Christian 10%
   e. Classroom Participation 10%

   a. THREE BOOK REVIEWS – In this class you will give three book reviews. Note that this is meant to be a critical interaction with the book. While quotes are allowed, the review should not be simply a collection of block quotes or of shorter quotes strung together. Students who have read the book ought to be able to do three things (giving

roughly a page to each): (1) summarize the book in their own words, (2) analyze the author’s primary argument, and (3) give their own evaluative response in the conclusion of the review.

b. ACTS READING REPORT – Students will read the book of Acts in its entirety. Students will contact the teaching assistant to let him know when the reading has been completed. This assignment is due on September 14th before or during class time. It is the student’s responsibility to turn this report in on time. Late submissions will be docked 10% for each day the reading report is turned in late.

c. 10-MINUTE IN-CLASS PRESENTATION – Beginning in class on October 12th, students will each give a 10-minute oral presentation, as if being taught in a Sunday School class. This presentation will be biographical in nature, focusing on the work of a specific missionary of the student’s choice in a cross-cultural context. Students will be called upon randomly, and there will be a one letter grade penalty if the student is not ready to give their presentation at the time when called upon.

d. INTERVIEW WITH MEMBER OF NON-CHRISTIAN WORLD RELIGION – Interview (conversation with) a member of one non-Christian world religion (Muslim, Hindu, Buddhist, Jewish, etc.) and write one page report about your experience. This is not simply a run-of-the-mill pagan, Roman Catholic, cultist (Mormon, Jehovah’s Witness, etc.) or atheist, but an adherent of a different world religion. This one-page report is due on the last day of class (December 4th).

e. PARTICIPATION IN CLASSROOM ACTIVITIES – Each day class will begin with a different group of students doing a presentation on a particular country or ethnic group. These presentations should be no more than 20 minutes in length. Groups will be assigned by the teaching assistant and posted on Canvas on the first day of class.

10. GRADING SCALE -

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<tr>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tr>
<td>97-100%</td>
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<td>94-96%</td>
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<td>91-93%</td>
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<td>88-90%</td>
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<td>86-87%</td>
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<td>83-85%</td>
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<td>72-74%</td>
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<tr>
<td>70-71%</td>
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11. CANVAS – Canvas is a tool that will be used to track student assignments and grades during the course of the semester. Students can access Canvas at https://rts.instructure.com.
Students should check Canvas often, as announcements and updates to the syllabus will be posted there.

12. JOHN REED MILLER LECTURES – Students will attend all four John Reed Miller Preaching Lectures, November 10-12, and submit an outline of each lecture. Place outlines in my box by November 16. If you cannot attend any of these lectures, contact Adam Parker to make alternative arrangements. **Students who do not complete this assignment will receive an unexcused absence for the November 9th class.** We would remind students that according to the syllabus “Each hour of unexcused absence subjects the student to reduction of his final grade by one-half of a letter grade.” [Note: If you are already a student in Comm 1 this semester, you need only turn in one outline of the lectures.]

13. DEADLINES - All course materials must be submitted at the beginning of class on the date due. Hard copies only; only submit work electronically to the teaching assistant on dates when you will be absent from class. Late work will be penalized a full letter grade each day thereafter.

14. ELECTRONIC DEVICES - Computers and tablets are not permitted in the classroom. Cell phones should be turned off and put away. Voice recorders are not permitted in class.

15. DISCLAIMER - The instructor reserves the right to modify any portion of this syllabus during the semester. Students are expected to keep up with syllabus revisions, which are posted online on Canvas. Late work because an out of date syllabus was consulted will not be excused.

16. OFFICE HOURS – Monday through Thursday, by appointment or whenever my office door is open. My office is in the Dean Center attic.

**COURSE OUTLINE**

**August 24** – LECTURE 1: Motivation #1 – PASTORAL

**August 31** – LECTURE 2: Motivation #1 – PASTORAL (PT 2)

**September 7** – NO CLASS (LABOR DAY)

**September 14** – LECTURE 3: Motivation #2 – BIBLICAL/THEOLOGICAL

Acts Reading Due

**September 21** – LECTURE 4: Motivation #2 – BIBLICAL/THEOLOGICAL (PT 2)

**September 28** – LECTURE 5: Motivation #3 – HISTORICAL/BIOGRAPHICAL
October 5 – NO CLASS (READING WEEK)

October 12 – Student Biographical Presentations in Class
*Let the Nations Be Glad* Book Review Due

October 19 – Student Biographical Presentations in Class

October 26 – Student Biographical Presentations in Class

November 2 – LECTURE 6: Motivation #3 – HISTORICAL/BIOGRAPHICAL (PT 2)
*John G. Paton: Missionary to the New Hebrides* Book Review Due

November 9 – NO CLASS – Students will attend all four John Reed Miller Preaching Lectures, November 10-12, and submit an outline of each lecture.

November 16 – LECTURE 7: Motivation #4 – PRACTICAL
*John Reed Miller Lecture Outlines Due*

November 23 – LECTURE 8: Motivation #4 – PRACTICAL (PT 2)

November 30 – DISCUSSING OUR INTERVIEWS WITH NON-CHRISTIANS

December 4 – NO CLASS – Final Book Report Due

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Dictionaries


Reading on Islam


Recommended Reading


**Other Readings in Biblical Theology of Mission**

For texts online see: http://www.religion-online.org/listbycategory.asp?Cat=4. See also the Bibliography on Mission Studies (*International Review of Mission*).


__. *The spontaneous expansion of the church: And the causes which hinder it*.


**Websites**

http://www.joshuaproject.net/ (Check it out)
http://www.lausanne.org (Check it out)
http://www.ad2000.org/ (Check it out)
http://home.snu.edu/~hculbert/intro.htm (Check it out)
http://home.snu.edu/~hculbert/anthro.htm
http://www.acts29network.org/
http://www.thereresurgence.com/
http://www.perspectives.org/
http://www.wholesomewords.org/missions/bioindex.html (Mission Biographies)
http://www.aims.org/ (Mission Strategies)
http://www.worldchristiandatabase.org/wcd/default.asp (Mission Statistics)
http://www.newchurches.com/ (Church Planting)
http://www.monergism.com/thethreshold/articles/topic/missions.html
http://www.missionology.org/
http://www.gca.cc/ (Church Planting)
http://www.strategicnetwork.org/
http://www.imb.org (Biblical Basis of Missions)
http://www.ntslibrary.com/PDF%20Books.htm (Books online)

(The Biblical Basis of Missions)
http://www.gutenberg.org/
http://www.asmweb.org (Missiology Research Sites)
http://www.bible-researcher.com/links.html
http://www.biblicalfoundations.org (Köstenberger’s webpage and blog)
http://www.gmi.org/ (Global Mapping International)
http://www.martynmission.cam.ac.uk (Henry Martyn Centre, United Kingdom)
http://www.missionstudies.org/ (International Association for Mission Studies)
http://www.religion-online.org/ (Full texts online)
http://www.mislinks.org/topics/theology.htm
http://www.christiananswers.net/evangelism/home.html