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MI 600 History of the Christian Movement

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Muck, Terry C., "MI 600 History of the Christian Movement" (2004). *Syllabi*. Book 1387.
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Asbury Theological Seminary
Fall Semester, 2004
Tuesday, Thursdays, 4:00-5:15
Home: 502-893-2868

Professor: Terry C. Muck
Office: MC312 - Ext. 2145
Room:

[Syllabus available also on the Seminary Network as: MI600/700 - F04]

MI 600. HISTORY OF THE CHRISTIAN MOVEMENT
MI 700. HISTORY OF CHRISTIAN MISSION

DESCRIPTION

A survey of the expansion of the Christian Faith from its beginnings to the present time. Gives attention to emerging factors, themes, and practices contributing to advance or decline at key historical junctures and assesses the present state of Christianity in its worldwide spread.

OBJECTIVE

The principal objective of this course is to give a broad understanding of the story of the church's missionary self-understanding and practice, and to assist in identifying issues that have continuing missiological relevance. The course traces the growth of the church with particular attention to the crossing of cultural barriers and adaptation to various social-cultural contexts.

STRUCTURE OF COURSE

We will follow the schedule indicated below. The readings will give a fairly comprehensive overview of the subject matter. Class sessions will focus on a series of missiological events and issues viewed historically, and the agents of those events whose lives and actions personify those issues.

Class sessions will be conducted as a graduate seminar. Students will be expected to contribute to our shared learnings based upon their readings, research, and experience. In addition, each student will prepare one major research paper during the semester.

TEXTS

Neill, Stephen. *A History of Christian Missions*. Rev. ed. New York: Penguin, 1986.

Stark, Rodney. *The Rise of Christianity: A Sociologist Reconsiders History*. New York, NY: HarperCollins, 1996.

RECOMMENDED [One copy on reserve, also]

Anderson, Gerald H., Robert Coote, Norman Horner, and James Phillips, eds. *Mission Legacies: Biographical Studies of Leaders of the Modern Missionary Movement*. Orbis, 1994.

Fiedler, Klaus. *The Story of Faith Missions*. Oxford, UK: Regnum Books, 1994.

Moffett, Samuel H. *History of Christianity in Asia*, vol. 1 (Rev. ed.). Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books, 1998.

Winter, Ralph D., and Steven C. Hawthorne, eds. *Perspectives on the World Christian Movement*. 3rd ed. Pasadena, CA: William Carey Library, 1999. "The Historical Perspective," pp. 195-370.

Irvin, Dale T., and Scott W. Sunquist. *History of the World Christian Movement*, Vol. 1, *Earliest Christianity to 1453*. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis, 2001.

Tucker, Ruth. *Guardians of the Great Commission: The Story of Women in Modern Missions*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1988. [This book is out of print, but is worth acquiring if you find a copy.]

COURSE EXPECTATIONS

The course has four major components: Reading, class participation, a major research project, and a brief summary paper (which functions as the final exam). There will also be a movie-watching assignment, due on November 2. The expectations are as follows —

MI 600

1. Participate in all class sessions, seeking to advance the learning of others as well as yourself. *Come to each class prepared to share information and insights from your reading.*

2. Complete the reading from the assigned texts. Consult the assignments for each week, and turn in weekly a Reading Interaction Form. (One copy of this form is included at the end of this syllabus. You may photocopy this or duplicate it on your computer.)

Usually readings will be discussed in class, and students will be expected to have read and studied the required assigned readings before class.

3. Research Project: Each student will complete a major research project on a topic in the history of Christian mission. You may choose one of the topics listed on the schedule, or request another topic of your own choosing. Some of the listed topics indicate fairly broad areas, and would need further limitation. The project should focus especially and specifically on missiological issues.

The research project should be submitted to the professor in the form of a research paper (with references and bibliography). Research papers are due November 18, but may be submitted earlier. This paper should be in the range of 15-20 pages, approximately.

4. Write a 5-6 page summary or overview of the history of the Christian world mission. The objective here is synthesis: How would you tell the story of the Christian world mission in a very few pages? This paper will function as the final examination. Due Dec. 7.

5. Watch two of the following Hollywood-produced movies with mission themes: *The Mission*, *Hawaii*, *At Play in the Fields of the Lord*, and *Black Robe*. Fill out a movie-watching form. Group viewings will be arranged the week of September 28, 30. Videos/DVDS can also be rented and viewed on your own. Forms are due November 2.

MI 700

1. Participate in all class sessions, seeking to advance the learning of others as well as yourself. *Come to each class prepared to share information and insights from your reading.*

2. Complete the assigned readings. Consult the assignments for each week, and turn in weekly a Reading Interaction Form. (One copy of this form is included at the end of this syllabus. You may photocopy this or duplicate it on your computer.)

Usually readings will be discussed in class, and students will be expected to have read and studied the assigned readings before class.

3. Research Project: Each student will complete a major research project which may also be presented in summary form in. You may choose one of the topics listed on the schedule, or request another topic in place of one of those listed. Some of the listed topics indicate fairly broad areas, and would need further limitation. The project should focus especially and specifically on missiological issues.

The research project should be submitted to the professor in the form of a research paper (with references and bibliography). Research papers are due November 18, but may be

submitted earlier. This paper should be in the range of 20-30 pages, approximately.

4. Write a 6-8 page summary or overview of the history of the Christian world mission. The objective here is synthesis: How would you tell the story of the Christian world mission in a very few pages? This paper will function as the final examination. Due Dec. 7.

5. Watch two of the following Hollywood produced movies with mission themes: *The Mission, Hawaii, At Play in the Fields of the Lord, and Black Robe*. Fill out a movie-watching form. Group viewings will be arranged the week of September 28, 30. Videos/DVDS can also be rented and viewed on your own. Forms are due November 2.

POSSIBLE RESEARCH TOPICS

In addition to the topics suggested in the class schedule, the following would be acceptable topics for the research project:

- Music (or art) as a factor in mission
- Anabaptism as a missionary movement
- Pentecostals in Latin America
- Early 20th-century revival in Korea
- The Crusades
- The “Reduccioness”: Jesuit communities in Latin America
- The birth of the church in [a particular country or people group]
- Revivals as a factor in mission
- Early Methodist missions (Britain or U.S.)
- The Student Volunteer Movement
- Youth With A Mission (YWAM) (or another specific mission)
- Biographical study of a particular missionary

GUIDELINES FOR RESEARCH PAPER

1. You may use either the anthropological style (recommended by the ESJ School) or the Chicago/Turabian style, but be consistent. The paper must be typed or computer-printed, and should include appropriate documentation of sources cited or consulted. (See “Academic Writing in the ESJ School,” available as a hand-out from the ESJ School Office.)

2. Attach a title page giving the paper’s title, your name, course name and number, professor’s name, and date. Staple in upper left-hand corner. *Please do not use a cover or binder.* (I may later request a second clean copy of your paper for my files.)

3. Follow the syllabus guidelines as to the length of the paper. The grade will depend on the content, development of the argument, proper form and style, and evidence of adequate research—not on length.

4. The paper should contain no spelling errors. Use a spell-checker.

5. Students for whom English is not their natural language may want to get editorial assistance. I will evaluate only the final product. Correct English tends to have a favorable influence on grade.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

See the current seminary *Catalog*, p. 25. Attendance will be taken at each class. More than three unexcused absences will result in lowering the grade by one letter. Three unexcused tardies are considered to be equivalent to one unexcused absence.

EVALUATION

In grading, the course components will be weighted approximately as follows: Class participation, including input from readings (20%), movie-watching forms (15%), research project (40%), final synthesis paper (25%).

SCHEDULE & ASSIGNED READING

SEPT. 2 - Introduction

SEPT. 7,9 - Israel, Jesus
Paul
Readings: Neill, 13-23
Stark, 3-29

SEPT. 14, 16 - Asia Minor
Methodius, Cyril
Readings: Neill, 24-52
Stark, 29-49

SEPT. 21, 23 - Slavic
Patrick, Europe
Readings: Neill, 53-85
Stark, 49-73

SEPT. 28, 30, OCT. 5 - Mission Movies and Reports

OCT. 7 - Ricci
Readings: Neill, 85-120
Stark, 73-95

OCT. 12, 14 - China
Carey
Readings: Neill, 120-207

OCT. 19, 21 - India
Shepherd
Readings: Neill, 207-273

OCT. 26, 28 - Africa
Codrington
Readings: Neill, 273-335

NOV. 2, 4 - Oceania
Barthelome de La Casas
Readings: Neill, 335-380
Stark, 95-129

Movie Reviews due Nov. 2

NOV. 9, 11 - Latin America
Wesley
Readings: Neill, 380-414
Stark, 129-163

NOV. 16, 18 - North America
Booth (The Secular West)
Readings: Neill, 414-478

Research Paper due Nov. 18

NOV. 23, 25 - [NO CLASS – READING WEEK]

NOV. 30, DEC. 2 - Mother Theresa (The Two-Thirds World Poor)
Thomas Aquinas (Islam)
Reading: Stark 163-217

Summary Paper due Dec. 7

MI600/700

History of Christian Mission
Reading Interaction Form

Fall 2004

Name _____

Date _____

Assigned
Reading _____

What were your major learnings from this material? (List up to 5)

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

What questions would you like to raise for class discussion?

1.

2.

What are some of the missiological implications of this material?

1.

2.

3.

What issues or concerns for further study and reflection arise from this reading? (Optional)