



**MCS 904: Theological Issues,
Contextualization, and Area Studies**
(4 credits, Core 4)
Doctor of Missiology degree program

July 6-10, 2010

COURSE SYLLABUS

Warren Newberry, D.Th.
Associate Professor of Missions
Admissions Coordinator:
Intercultural Doctoral Studies Programs



B.A: Vanguard University (religion)
M.A. : Assemblies of God Theological Seminary (cultural anthropology)
D.Th.: University of South Africa (missiology)

Dissertation: *Major Missiological Motifs in North American Classical Pentecostal Missions*

Dr. Newberry's 42 year ministry as a missionary educator has led him to Malawi, Jamaica, Bosnia, Singapore, the Philippines and Belize, as well as ministering in a number of other countries. He is an adjunct professor of religion at Global University and regularly teaches at the Caribbean School of Theology Graduate School, Asia Theological Center for Evangelism and Missions (Singapore) and All Nations Theological Seminary (Malawi) . He has served as a missions professor and department chairperson at Southwestern A/G University, and is a member of the Society for Pentecostal Studies and the American Society of Missiology. His current research interest lies in the dialectic tension between experience and theology as related to missiology, the contextualization of indigenous church principles, anthropology of religion and African traditional religions. With the exception of one year in Belize, he has served AGTS since the fall of 2000.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

A course to enable students to respond to theological issues encountered in intercultural contexts, such as Trinitarian concerns, bibliology, local theologies, syncretism and Pentecostalism. Students will work with personally relevant area-specific case studies and principles of "doing theology" in another context will be analyzed

METHODOLOGY

Pre-session required reading
Visiting guest lecturers
Student presentations
Post-session writings

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS

- Fleming, Dean. *Contextualization in the New Testament: Patterns for Theology and Mission*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2005. (322 pp.)
- Ott, Craig & Harold A. Netland (eds). *Globalizing Theology: Belief and Practice in an Era of World Christianity*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2006. (336 pp)
- Love, Rick. *Muslims, Magic and the Kingdom of God: Church Planting among Folk Muslims*. Pasadena: William Carey Library, 2000. (227 pp)
- Kraft, Charles. *Appropriate Christianity*. Pasadena: William Carey Library, 2005. (519 pp)
- Schreiter, Robert J. *Constructing Local Theologies*. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books, 1985. (158 pp)
- Van Rheenen, Gailyn, ed. *Contextualization and Syncretism: Navigating Cultural Currents*. Pasadena, CA: William Carey Library, 2006. (343 pages)
- Yong, Amos. *The Spirit Poured Out on All Flesh: Pentecostalism and the Possibility of Global Theology*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2005. (302 pp)

Background Literature.

These books are standard works on missiology that are particularly relevant to this course. Ideally, you should have already read this material before beginning doctoral studies. If there are any books you have not read on this list, review them and write a summary card for later reference. Even if you have already read these books, it would be good to review them and write a summary card as well. If you will follow this practice throughout your doctoral studies, you should be prepared for the qualifying exam.

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

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

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

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

Conn, Harvie M. *Eternal Word and Changing Worlds: Theology, Anthropology, and Mission in Dialogue*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishing, 1984.

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

Gutierrez, Gustavo. *A Theology of Liberation: History, Politics, and Salvation* revised edition. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books, 1988.

Hesselgrave, David & Edward Rommen. *Contextualization: Meanings, Methods, and Models*. Pasadena: William Carey Library, 2000.

Nichols, Bruce J. *Contextualization: A Theology of Gospel and Culture*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1979.

Books will be available for purchase at the Evangel University [bookstore](#). Be sure to buy and read the textbooks for the class before you come to the module. You may also purchase the books from www.amazon.com or from Gary Flostra at www.4wrd.org

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COURSE LITERATURE

Students should read all the required textbooks. Those who have not read the background literature should also read it to prepare for the qualifying exam later in the program. To facilitate your review of this literature throughout your program, write an electronic summary card of each book or article using *Citation Bibliographic and Research Note Software* (<http://www.citationonline.net>) or other suitable software program. (note: MAC users will need to find a substitute for the Citation software since it is only for the PC.)

These notes will prove to be crucial tools for you in reviewing for the qualifying exams, in which you will be required to show your mastery of missiological literature. Although you may write what you please on these cards, we recommend the following format:

- Bibliographic information (author, date, and title is enough)
- A summary of the book

- Significant quote(s) from the book which you might wish to cite in your research or on the qualifying exams

If you hand-write your cards, be sure to photocopy them and turn them in. If you use a computer program, turn in a computer-generated page. Either way is fine but prefer typed ones. You should periodically review these cards and have them virtually memorized (especially the bibliographic data) by the time of the comprehensive exam.

CALENDAR AND OUTLINE

TUESDAY July 6, 2010

(an outline will be inserted in the syllabus during the month of June, 2010 when the visiting speakers are confirmed)

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Pre-Session:

1. Read the required textbooks listed in this syllabus. Write and submit brief electronic summary cards for all course readings.
2. Based on the reading of the literature and your ministry context, write a 5 page critical reflection paper including responses to the following questions:

- What specific reading(s) most impacted your life? Why?
- What are the most significant missiological issues raised by the reading(s)? Which are most germane to your ministry context? Why?
- How has the reading(s) influenced your missions thinking or future ministry?
- What missions statement or perspective in the reading(s) did you disagree with most?
- Quote what you consider the most significant or impacting citation(s) and describe why the citation(s) is/are significant.

Session:

1. Attend class and participate in discussions.
2. There will be student led discussions of the required literature. A schedule will be posted ahead of time once we know who will attend the class.

Post-Session:

Research paper: Write a research paper dealing with some topic of contextualization that is relevant to your ministry context. The paper should be 18-20 pages in length. Specific instructions for this assignment will be reviewed in class.

ALL Post-session work must be submitted within 90 days of the last day of class

GRADING PROCEDURE

Reading of all required textbooks	35%
4-5 page reflection paper	10%

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Student led literature discussion 15%
Research paper 40%

General Guidelines for Formal Writing Assignments: Each writing assignment should be typed, double-spaced in a 12 point font. It should contain your name and should conform to either Turabian or the APA academic style manual. The paper must be well-structured, clearly written, and grammatically correct. Make sure someone proof reads your paper before you submit it to avoid typographical, grammatical and editorial errors. Papers which do not engage the appropriate bibliographic resources will be returned for rewrites.

All work must be submitted electronically as Word Document attachments to Dr. Warren Newberry at AGTS by e-mail wnewberry@agts.edu. Please include your last name as the first word in the file name.

Students with Disabilities: If you anticipate the need for reasonable accommodations to meet the requirements of this course, you must register with the Office of Student Services. Contact Student Services, 1435 N. Glenstone Ave, Springfield, MO, 65802, (417) 286-1081 or email: studentservices@agts.edu. Students are required to provide documentation of disability to Student Services prior to receiving accommodations.

Non-Discriminatory Language. All AGTS students, employees, and faculty members are urged to use non-discriminatory language in both verbal and written communication at the Seminary. While AGTS does not endorse the following websites, they provide more information on non-discriminatory language:

- General Principles: http://www.randomhouse.com/words/language/avoid_guide.html
- Gender: <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/workshops/hypertext/apa/gender.html>.
- Racial and Ethnic Identity: <http://www.apastyle.org/race.html>.
- Disabilities: <http://www.apastyle.org/disabilities.html>.
- Age Discrimination: http://www.randomhouse.com/words/language/avoid_guide.html.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Bibliographies will be posted on your student portal for this class. Additional ones may be found in your textbooks.

SPECIFIC DATA

Prepared by Warren Newberry, D.Th., November 2009