

**ASSEMBLIES OF GOD THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY**  
**MATS Degree Completion Program**  
**THED 545**  
**THEOLOGY OF MISSION**

R. Paul Wood, D.Min.

Summer 2005

**COURSE SYLLABUS**

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

An examination of the mission of the Church and various models of Christian missions from biblical, theological, and historical perspectives. This interdisciplinary study, integrating theory and praxis, is designed to move the student toward a more responsible understanding, imaging, and proclamation of the Kingdom of God in the diverse cultural milieus of our global village.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES**

Upon completion of this course, the student should be able to

1. Present the biblical and theological basis of the mission of the Church in the world.
2. Identify and understand historical paradigms in the theology of mission.
3. Identify and analyze contemporary challenges in the theology of mission.
4. Define and articulate clearly the missionary task.
5. Understand and respond to a personal role in the mission of the Church.
6. Develop and embrace biblically sound guidelines for fulfilling the mission of the Church in one's ministry setting.

**TEXTBOOKS**

Grenz, Stanley J., David Guretzki and Cherith Fee Nordling. *Pocket Dictionary of Theological Terms*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1999.

Winter, Ralph D. and Steven C. Hawthorne, eds. *Perspectives on the World Christian Movement*, Third edition. Pasadena: William Carey Library, 1999.

York, John V., *Missions in the Age of the Spirit*. Springfield: Logion, 2000.

**METHODOLOGY**

The teaching-learning experience will include lectures, guest presenters, class discussions, small group discussions, collateral reading, and scholarly writing.

**COURSE CONTENT**

SECTION ONE: An Introduction to the Study of Mission

SECTION TWO: The Covenants and Mission

- The Older Covenant
- The New Covenant

SECTION THREE: Theological Issues and Mission

SECTION FOUR: Changing Historical Paradigms in Mission

SECTION FIVE: Contemporary Challenges to Mission

- Universality versus Universalism
- Proclamation versus Dialogue
- Contextualization versus Syncretism
- Salvation Theology versus Liberation Theology
- Evangelism and Social Concern
- The Urban Challenge
- The Islamic Challenge
- Women in Mission

SECTION SIX: The Missionary and the Mission

- The Local Church
- The Sending Agency
- The Missionary
- The Assemblies of God World Mission

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

**I.Class Participation**

Class attendance, promptness, preparation, and participation are required. Only a dire emergency should deter one from attending a class session. Any absence will impact the course grade and more than one absence will require the intervention of the academic dean to salvage the course. (These measures are mandated by federal government policy.)

**II.Reading**

A. Read the following:

1. York: *Missions in the Age of the Spirit*.
2. Winter and Hawthorne: *Perspectives on the World Christian Movement*.
  - Division One: “The Biblical Perspective”  
Assigned Articles: 1,2,4,9,13,14, 21,25,26,27.
  - Division Two: “The Historical Perspective”  
Assigned Articles: 35, 37, 40, 44, 45, 50.
  - Division Three: “The Cultural Perspective”  
Assigned Articles: 54, 55, 56, 59, 60, 65, 68, 69.

- Division Four: “The Strategic Perspective”  
Assigned Articles: 72, 77, 78, 81, 85, 89, 91, 92, 94, 95, 96, 102, 104, 107, 109, 111, 112, 119, 120, 123, 124.

3. Two hundred (200) pages from a relevant source--book(s), articles, or web publications--selected by the student.

- B. Develop a reading report which includes the following:
- A cover page that gives a bibliographical entry on each assigned source and a statement indicating how thoroughly you read the material.
  - A presentation of and interaction with the more significant insights gleaned from each source. Each insight should be clearly presented, and the page number(s) noted. The report should be typed, double-spaced, and commensurate with graduate level work.

## II. Scholarly Papers

- A. Write a 5 to 7 page (double-spaced) scholarly paper focusing on a specific aspect of the Theology of Mission. The paper should evidence as much depth as possible and avoid a generalized and superficial treatment.
- B. Write a second 5 to 7 page scholarly paper that presents a strategic plan to fulfill the mission of the Church in a specific context. The plan may focus on a people, a religious group, a geographical area, or a type of ministry. It should take into consideration the practical concerns essential to a successful mission.
- C. The papers must be written exclusively for this course. They should evidence thorough research, good writing, careful documentation, and adherence to the Turabian format, 6th edition.

### **DUE DATES FOR COURSE ASSIGNMENTS**

<b>DUE DATE</b>	<b>ASSIGNMENT</b>
Thursday - July 14, 2005	York: First Textbook Interaction
Thursday - July 21, 2005	Perspectives: Division I & II First Scholarly Paper
Thursday - July 28, 2005	Perspectives: Division III & IV
Thursday - August 04, 2005	Source (200 pg.) selected by the student
Thursday - August 11, 2005	Final Examination Second Scholarly Paper

**NOTE:** Assignments submitted after class time on the due date will receive a grade reduction.

**GRADING PROCEDURE**

<b>ASSIGNMENT</b>	<b>GRADE VALUE</b>
Class Preparation and Participation	10%
Reading Reports (4 @ 5% each)	20%
Scholarly Paper (2 @ 15% each)	30%
Final Examination	40%

SESSION	PREPARATION GUIDE AND THEMES
<p><b>WEEK 1</b> <b>July 14, 2005</b></p>	<p>Should have read: York: <i>Missions in the Age of the Spirit</i> - Report</p> <p>Course Orientation</p> <p>Section I: Introduction to the study of mission(s)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Terms and concepts – Define mission theology</li> <li>• Mission and the problem of sin</li> </ul> <p>Section II: The Covenants and mission</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Older Covenant and mission</li> </ul>
<p><b>WEEK 2</b> <b>July 21, 2005</b></p>	<p>Should have read: <i>Perspectives</i>: Division I &amp; II - Report</p> <p>First Scholarly Paper due</p> <p>Section II: The Covenants and mission (Continued)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The New Covenant and mission</li> <li>• Paul, the missionary-apostle</li> </ul>
<p><b>WEEK 3</b> <b>July 28, 2005</b></p>	<p>Should have read: <i>Perspectives</i>: Division III &amp; IV - Report</p> <p>Section II: The Covenants and mission (Continued)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The A/G World Missions – values and structure</li> </ul> <p>Section III: Theological issues and mission</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Triune God</li> <li>• Hermeneutics</li> </ul>
<p><b>WEEK 4</b> <b>Aug. 04, 2005</b></p>	<p>Should have read : 200 pages - source selected by the student - Report</p> <p>Section IV: Changing paradigms in mission</p> <p>Section V: Contemporary challenges to mission</p>
<p><b>WEEK 5</b> <b>Aug. 11, 2005</b></p>	<p>Second Scholarly Paper</p> <p>Course Evaluation</p> <p>6:15 – 8:00 Final Examination</p> <p>8:15 – 10:00 Course Summary</p> <p>The missionary and the mission</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Local church</li> <li>• The sending agency</li> <li>• The missionary</li> </ul>

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