

Assemblies of God Theological Seminary
MHT 533/HIS 547 History of Christian Missions

Instructor: Barbara L. Cavaness, Ph.D.

Fall 2002

Course Description

This course is an examination of the history of Christian missions and the reception of the Gospel among indigenous peoples. As such, it is the missiological reinterpretation of the history of the church worldwide, and the application of the insights which emerge to present-day strategies of mission. The theological and institutional development of the church will not be the primary emphasis, but rather the dynamics of its expansion. Special attention will be given to means of renewal, structures of mission, and the relationship between the two. Key personalities and movements, features unique to non-Western Christianity, and major issues facing the Christian world mission today will receive attention. The Pentecostal Movement, including its historical emergence and missions thrust, is discussed in relation to developments in world Christianity.

Objectives

At the end of this course, each student should be able:

1. To recognize theoretical implications of missions history and deduce principles, theories, and major theses to apply to today's strategies of mission.
2. To identify the periods of expansion of Christianity and the major movements and events in their context.
3. To evaluate the major geographical expansions and renewal movements, and the dynamics underlying them.
4. To analyze structures for mission and identify people God has used.
5. To research significant events and trends in the history of Christian missions.
6. To engage in reflective thinking regarding the segment of missions history of which he or she is a part.

Textbooks

Fiedler, Klaus. The Story of Faith Missions. Irvine, CA: Regnum, 1994.

Neill, Stephen. A History of Christian Missions. Rev. ed. NY: Penguin Books, 1986.

(Other required and supplementary readings will be on reserve in the library.)

Recommended:

Guthrie, Stan. Missions in the Third Millennium: 21 Key Trends for the 21st Century. Waynesboro, GA: Paternoster, 2000.

Walls, Andrew. The Cross-Cultural Process in Christian History. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books, 2002.

Basic Outline

1. Introduction: Church History and Expansion
2. The Two Structures of the Church
3. The Early Church: Apostolic and Post-Apostolic
4. Early Monasticism to the Celtic Church
5. The Barbarian World
6. Medieval Renewal Movements and the Crusades
7. The Friars and the Preparation for Reformation
8. Luther, Calvin, and the Anabaptists
9. The Catholic Reformation and Mission
10. Puritanism, Pietism, Moravianism, and Methodism
11. William Carey and the Mission Societies
12. The Beginnings of Mission in North America
13. The CIM, Student Movements, and Women in Mission
14. Edinburgh and the Ecumenical Movement
15. A Survey of Modern Missions: Asia, Latin America, and Africa
16. Pentecostalism and Our Changing Era
17. New Personnel, New Places, and New Patterns in Mission
18. New Churches and Issues for the Future

Methodology

Lectures, class discussion, small group interaction

Video presentation(s)

Research paper

Examinations: mid-term and final

Course Requirements

1. Regular attendance as required by the seminary. (Since this class meets only once a week, each absence will be counted as missing two class sessions.)
2. Reading of the textbooks and turning in one- to two-page reaction papers for each. The due dates are: Neill—Oct. 21; and Fiedler—Nov. 18.

In addition, one-half to one-page responses will be required for approximately eight reserved reading selections. Due dates to be announced.

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3. A research paper of 15-20 pages on an approved topic of student interest is due on November 25. Topics are to be submitted no later than November 4 for instructor approval prior to student research. Papers are to be typed, double-spaced, following Turabian's 6th edition. A deduction of one letter grade per class period will be assessed for late work.
4. Dates for the mid-term and final exams will be announced following a discussion with the class concerning the instructor's necessary absences in October.

Grading Procedure

Class contribution	10%
Reading of texts and reserved selections	20%
Mid-term exam	20%
Research paper	25%
Final exam	25%

Selected Bibliography

A further list of Missions History selections will be distributed in class.

Prepared by Barbara Cavaness, July, 2002.