

Theology of Mission—GS5108
Providence Theological Seminary
(Providence College: 422.21)
January 2012
Instructor: Daryl R. Climenhaga
Syllabus

Course Description

An exploration of Christian mission through the eyes of theology, with special attention to unifying themes that penetrate the diversity of the biblical witness.

3 credits

Objectives

This course is born of the conviction that theology without a missional goal is not theology, and that the missionary task without theology is rudderless. The course therefore has three objectives:

- 1) To understand a theology of mission in biblical perspective;
- 2) To understand something of theology of mission in the church; and
- 3) To form our own theology of mission, taking into account the biblical basis and the church's formulations.

Required Texts

Goheen, Michael

2011 *A Light to the Nations: The Missional Church and the Biblical Story*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic.

Taylor, William D., editor

2000 *Global Missiology for the 21st Century: The Iguassu Dialogue*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic.

Texts on Reserve

The following texts are on one-day reserve in the library. Some are also available in my personal library.

Bosch, David

1991 *Transforming mission: paradigm shifts in theology of mission*. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis.

Costas, Orlando

1989 *Liberating news: A theology of contextual evangelization*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans.

DuBose, Francis M.

1983 *God who sends: a fresh quest for biblical mission*. Nashville, TN: Broadman.

- Dyrness, William
1983 *Let the earth rejoice! A biblical theology of holistic mission*. Westchester, IL: Crossway.
- Glasser, Arthur F. and Donald A. McGavran
1983 *Contemporary theologies of mission*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker.
- Kirk, Andrew
1997 *The mission of theology and theology as mission*. Valley Forge, PA: Trinity Press International.
- Kostenberger, Andreas
1998 *The missions of Jesus and the disciples according to the fourth gospel*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans.
- 2001 *Salvation to the ends of the earth: A biblical theology of mission*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP.
- Legrand, Lucien
1990 *Unity and Plurality: mission in the Bible*. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis.
- O'Brien, Peter
1995 *Gospel and mission in the writings of Paul: an exegetical and theological analysis*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker.
- Scherer, James and Stephen Bevans, editors
1992 *New Directions in mission and evangelization, volume 2*. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis.
- Scott, Waldron
1980 *Bring forth justice: a contemporary perspective on mission*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans.
- Sider, Ronald, J.
1999 *Good news and good works: A theology for the whole gospel*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker.
- Thomsen, Mark W.
2004 *Christ crucified : a 21st century missiology of the Cross*. Minneapolis, Lutheran University Press,
- Van Engen, Charles
1996 *Mission on the way: Issues in mission theology*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker.
- Van Engen, Charles, Dean Gilliland, Paul Pierson, and Arthur Glasser, editors
1993 *The Good news of the kingdom: mission theology for the third millennium*. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis.

Wright, Christopher

2006 *The mission of God: Unblocking the Bible's grand narrative*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP Academic.

Assignments

Reading. The student will read the primary texts for the class and one other choice from the list above (a list of books on reserve in the library).

Class Theology of Mission. Students will work in groups of three to form a theology of mission from the perspective of a particular geographic area: for example, Africa, North America, Asia, and so on. (The precise shape of the group work depends on the number of students in the class.) A primary source for understanding how theology is worked at in each area is the Text, *Global Missiology for the 21st Century*. The groups will come together during the class to formulate a class theology of mission, modelled on *Iguassu Declaration*. At the end of the course, we will seek to reach agreement on our joint statement, such that each member of the class can sign the resulting statement.

Book Reports. The student will write interactive responses to the three texts: the primary text edited by William Taylor, the primary text by Michael Goheen, and one other text chosen from the reserve list. Each response will be four to six pages in length. Each review will consist of three roughly equal parts: summary of content; noting of significant observations or learning from the books; and critique and questions of the ideas and contents in the books.

Major Paper: biblical study. The student will write an essay of at least 2,500 words developing a tentative theology of mission based on a particular book of the Bible. The essay will show significant interaction with the primary course texts, as well as with at least five other secondary sources. The text by Goheen should be especially helpful in this assignment. College students write 1,500 words.

Class participation. Participation in class through attendance, involvement in class activities, and doing the assignments is assumed. Failure to complete the assignments or to attend class regularly (i.e., to participate) may lead to failing the course, even if other grades indicate a pass.

Submitting Assignments

I prefer having assignments submitted by email as an attachment in Word (or other word processing program). Students may send assignments to daryl[dot]climenhaga[at]prov[dot]ca. I will accept hard copies of the assignments if the student prefers not to submit them by email.

Grades

Group Work and Class Theology	40%
Book Reports	30%
Major Paper	20%
Class Participation	10%

Tentative Calendar

Jan 11	1) Introduction – Syllabus and course outline – Dividing into groups for group work	
18	2) Mission theology before the 20 th century – a) Bosch's missionary paradigms; b) Bevans and Schroeder's missionary paradigms	
25	3) Theology of Mission today: the current scene	
Feb 1	The <i>Iguassu Declaration</i>	Book Report 1 Due
8	Group Research and Reporting	
15	4) Theme: God and the Nations	Book Report 2 Due
22	5) Theme: Mission and Covenant	
29	6) Theme: Salvation and Liberation	Book Report 3 Due
Mar 7	March Intrasession	
14	7) Theme: Mission and Eschatology	
21	Group Research and Reporting	
28	8) My personal theology of mission	Major Essay Due
Apr 4	9) Negotiating	Group Theologies Due
11	10) Negotiating, continued	
18	11) Bringing it together and signing on	Class Theology Due