

Intro to Mission
Institute of Biblical Studies
Dr. Allen Yeh
Summer 2017
Course Syllabus

Course Description

Our God is a missionary God. From Genesis to Revelation, God is working to create a community of redeemed people from every tribe, tongue and nation for his glory. This class will help you better understand God's mission (*missio Dei*) and the vital role his church is called to play in advancing his kingdom. We will explore cross-cultural mission from four perspectives. First, we will look at what Scripture says about the mission of God (biblical/theological perspective). Second, we will trace the global history of Christian mission from the first century to the twenty-first century (historical perspective). Third, we will examine culture and how we can more effectively communicate the gospel cross-culturally (cultural perspective). Finally, we will explore how Cru fits into the global story of missions and how we, as Cru missionaries, can participate in God's mission to gather a redeemed people from every nation for his glory (strategic perspective).

Course Objectives

1. Biblical (3 lessons)

- a. Cultivate a God-centered and Trinitarian view of Christian mission (*missio Dei*).
- b. Develop a greater passion to see Jesus Christ exalted in every nation and among every people.
- c. Beginning with God's promise to Abraham (Gen 12:1-3), trace the biblical basis for mission throughout the story of God from Genesis to Revelation.
- d. Better understand the nature and scope of the Great Commission Jesus gave to the church (Matt. 28:18-20; Mark 16:15-18; Luke 24:44-49; John 20:21; Acts 1:8).
- e. Investigate four missiological themes in Acts: the importance of cross-cultural witness, the need for contextualization, the power of the Holy Spirit and reality of suffering in Christian mission.

2. Historical (4 lessons)

- a. Beginning with the first century, learn how the gospel has spread around the world through the witness of the church.
- b. Discover some of the surprising means God, in his providence, has used to spread the gospel around the world.
- c. Better understand barriers to the spread of the gospel in the history of the church.
- d. Further awareness about the current reality of the gospel among the people groups of the world.
- e. Explore the life and ministry of a cross-cultural missionary.

3. Cultural (2 lessons)

- a. Become a humble learner in the area of culture and ethnicity.
- b. Develop greater motivation to cross cultures in bringing the gospel of Jesus Christ to every people group.
- c. Grow in appreciation for the challenge in crossing cultures and effectively communicating the gospel.

- d. Discover tools that enable you to better understand and communicate more effectively with your ministry audience (ethnography).
- 4. Strategic (1 lesson)**
- a. Understand how Cru, as a religious missionary order, fits into the global story of Christian mission.
 - b. Consider and personalize how you, as a missionary with Cru, can participate in God's mission to gather a redeemed people for his glory from every nation.

Required Texts

Timothy C. Tennent. [*Invitation to World Missions: A Trinitarian Missiology for the Twenty-first Century*](#). Grand Rapids: Kregel, 2010: read everything except chps. 6, 7, and 16 (total: 374 pp).

You may also need to purchase a text for your missionary biography assignment (see pp. 3, 6-7).

Required Articles (available on IBS website)

Andrew F. Walls. [*The Missionary Movement in Christian History: Studies in the Transmission of Faith*](#). Maryknoll: Orbis, 1996: read only chp. 1, "The Gospel as Prisoner and Liberator of Culture" (total: 13 pp). This will be provided to you as a PDF (so, no need to purchase the book).

Recommended Texts

Ralph Winter and Steven Hawthorne, eds. [*Perspectives on the World Christian Movement: A Reader*](#). 4th ed. Pasadena: William Carey Library, 2013.

It contains hundreds of short essays addressing key topics in mission.

Timothy Keller. [*Center Church: Doing Balanced, Gospel-Centered Ministry in Your City*](#). Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2012. This book is also a required text for other IBS courses so you will be reading more of it in the future.

Ruth Tucker. [*From Jerusalem to Irian Jaya: A Biographical History of Christian Missions*](#), 2nd edition. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2004.

David Livermore. [*Cultural Intelligence: Improving Your CQ to Engage Our Multicultural World*](#). Grand Rapids: Baker, 2009.

John Piper. [*Let the Nations Be Glad: The Supremacy of God in Missions*](#), 3rd edition. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 2010.

Arthur F. Glasser. [*Announcing the Kingdom: The Story of God's Mission in the Bible*](#). Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 2003.

Christopher J. H. Wright, [*The Mission of God's People: A Biblical Theology of the Church's Mission*](#). Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2010.

Course Requirements

1. **Lectures:** Mandatory in-person attendance for the class lectures, as this is the primary mode of delivery of content other than the readings.
2. **Reading:** Please keep up with the reading according to the class calendar. The reading assignments account for 25% of your grade. At the end of the course you will submit a report showing how much of the reading you completed (you can find the form on p. 8)
3. **Missionary Biography:** You will select a cross-cultural missionary to study. You can either read a biography (minimum of 75pp) or interview someone who has served, or is presently serving, on the mission field in a language and/or culture that is different from his or her own. You will find a list of recommended missionary biographies on pp. 6-7 of the syllabus. After you finish your reading or interview, you will write 7-8pp paper summarizing what you learned. Structure your paper around the following four themes: (1) an introduction which describes the historical, cultural and geographic context of the culture in which your missionary served; (2) a short overview of the missionary's life and ministry; (3) lessons you learned from this missionary about crossing cultures effectively; and (4) any additional personal insights gleaned from studying the life of this missionary. Be sure to include a bibliography at the end, listing the sources you cite (include the author, title, city of publication, publisher, date of publication). The missionary biography assignment accounts for 50% of your grade. This is due the last day of class.
4. **Cultural Learning Experience:** As a missionary and as someone living on mission, cultivating a posture of humility and developing a learner mentality is of prime importance. This is a lifelong journey and we know that you are already on it. This assignment will be one more step and hopefully a significant one. To complete this assignment, you will attend a worship service - at least once, in a church of a culture and ethnicity different from your own. Please note that this should be a new experience, not a reflection on a past experience. Then you will write a short report describing what you observed and upload it to your coach. You will also share what you learned in your coaching group. The cultural learning experience assignment accounts for 25% of your grade. Note that this is due the second Monday of the class. Use the report form (which the professor will post separately) to complete your assignment.

Cross Cultural Observation

Before you go, carefully read the questions that you will answer in the report. It will give you some categories to help you process your experience. The report can be downloaded from the link below.

Cross Cultural Interaction

This assignment also offers an opportunity to engage with someone who is part of the community of this church. While attending the service, seek to engage a conversation with a member of this community. This could be a pastor, another staff member, a greeter, a lay leader or a member you were sitting next to in the service. The value is to have a conversation with an insider before you leave the service. (Note: In some church or religious settings, to pursue a conversation with the lead pastor or key lay leaders might be either impossible or even inappropriate. Be wise as you seek to have this conversation and pursue what opportunities present themselves.) Here are some possible questions for this person:

- How long have you been a part of your community?
- What do you value most about being in your community?
- How would you describe the culture here?
- What are the things that are most important to this community?

Course Grade

Reading	25%
Missionary Biography	50%
<u>Cultural Learning Experience</u>	<u>25%</u>
Total	100%

Grading Scale

94-100	A
92-93	A-
90-91	B+
84-89	B
82-83	B-
80-81	C+
74-79	C
72-73	C-

*You will need a grade of 72 or better to pass the course and obtain the required IBS credit.

Course Schedule – Overview

Date	Reading Schedule	Section	Lesson Schedule
F, 6/30	Tennent, chps. 1-4	Biblical	LESSON 1 – The Missionary Heart of God in the Old Testament
M, 7/3	Tennent, chps. 11-13	Biblical	LESSON 2 – The Gospels and the Great Commission
W, 7/5	Tennent, chps. 5, 14-15	Biblical	LESSON 3 – Missionary Themes in the Book of Acts
TH, 7/6	Tennent, chp. 8	Historical	LESSON 4 – Turning Points in Mission History before 1792
F, 7/7	Tennent, chp. 9	Historical	LESSON 5 – The “Great Century” of Missions (1792-1910)
M, 7/10	Walls	Historical	LESSON 6 – Edinburgh 1910 and ecumenism in the 20 th century <i>Cross-Cultural Learning Experience due</i>
T, 7/11	Tennent, chp. 10	Historical	LESSON 7 – The Flowering of Global Christianity in the 21 st century
W, 7/12		Cultural	LESSON 8 – Becoming a Cultural Learner
TH, 7/13		Cultural	LESSON 9 – Understanding your Audience (Ethnography)
F, 7/14		Cultural	LESSON 10 – Communicating the Gospel Cross-Culturally <i>Missionary Biography due</i> <i>Reading Report due</i>

Recommended Missionary Biographies

Reading missionary biographies offer several benefits:

1. They inspire us to obey God's call wherever, to whomever, whenever...no matter the cost.
2. They challenge us with those who have gone before as we see their faith and flaws, while recognizing God's grace in it all.
3. They teach us what has been done well in missions history and what may need to be "undone".
4. They help us recognize and wrestle with missiological dilemmas.

Anderson, Courtney. *To the Golden Shore: The Life of Adoniram Judson*

Aylward, Gladys. *Gladys Aylward: The Little Woman*

Broomhall, A.J. *The Shaping of Modern China: Hudson Taylor's Life and Legacy*

Brother Andrew. *God's Smuggler*

Carey, S. Pearce. *William Carey*

Chan, Pak-Chue. *The Marvelous Promises: The Miracle of a Chinese Christian Doctor*

Chikane, Frank. *No Life of My Own: An Autobiography*

Cronin, Vincent. *Wise Man from the West: Matteo Ricci and His Mission to China*

Crossman, Eileen Fraser. *Mountain Rain: A Biography of James O. Fraser: Pioneer Missionary to China*

Dick, Lois Hoadley. *Isobel Kuhn: Missionary to the Lisu in China*

Edwards, Jonathan. *The Life and Diary of David Brainerd*

Elliot, Elisabeth. *A Chance to Die: The Life and Legacy of Amy Carmichael*

Elliot, Elisabeth. *Shadow of the Almighty: The Life & Testament of Jim Elliot*

George, Timothy. *The Life and Mission of William Carey*

Goforth, Rosalind. *Goforth Of China*

Grubb, Norman. *CT Studd: Cricketer and Pioneer*

Gutierrez, Gustavo. *Las Casas: In Search of the Poor of Jesus Christ*

Hancock, Christopher. *Robert Morrison and the Birth of Chinese Protestantism*

Hattaway, Paul. *The Heavenly Man: The Remarkable True Story of Chinese Christian Brother Yun*

Hitt, Russell T. *Sensei: The Life Story of Irene Webster-Smith*

Hunt, Rosalie Hall. *Bless God and Take Courage: The Judson History and Legacy*

Harvey. *Bridges of Faith Across the Seas*

James, Sharon. *My Heart In His Hands: Ann Judson of Burma*

MacNutt, Francis. *Bartholomew de Las Casas: His Life, Apostolate, and Writings*

McCasland, David. *Eric Liddell: Pure Gold*

Ogawa, Joshua. *Unlimited Purpose: An Asian Missionary Tells His Story.*

Olson, Bruce. *Bruchko*

Pfister, Lauren. *Striving for the Whole Duty of Man: James Legge and the Scottish Protestant Encounter with China*

Piggin, Stuart, and John Roxborough. *The St. Andrews Seven*

Pollock, John. *The Cambridge Seven*

Rose, Darlene Deibler. *Evidence Not Seen: A Woman's Miraculous Faith in the Jungles of World War II*

Roseveare, Helen. *Give Me This Mountain*

Steer, Roger. *A Man in Christ: The Story of J. Hudson Taylor*

Stevens, Robert J. *Profiles of African-American Missionaries*

Swift, Catherine. *Gladys Aylward: The Courageous English Missionary*

Taylor, J.B. *Biography of Elder Lott Cary*

Ten Boom, Corrie. *The Hiding Place*

Various Authors. *George Liele's Life and Legacy: An Unsung Hero*

Vincent, Eileen. *No Sacrifice Too Great: The Story of C.T. Studd and Priscilla*

Wait, Montrose. *Waite: A Man Who Could Not Wait*

Waters, John. *Storming the Golden Kingdom: Adoniram Judson, Apostle to Burma*

Zebua, Ria. *A Secret Hope*

Zwemer, Samuel. *Raymund Lull: First Missionary to the Moslems*

Note: A list of missionary biographies written in Spanish is provided on the course site.

Reading Report

Lecture	Assignment	Assigned Pages	# Pages Completed
F, 6/30	Tennent, chps. 1-4	109	
M, 7/3	Tennent, chps. 11-13	86	
W, 7/5	Tennent, chps. 5, 14-15	84	
R, 7/6	Tennent, chp. 8	26	
F, 7/7	Tennent, chp. 9	29	
M, 7/10	Walls	13	
T, 7/11	Tennent, chp. 10	39	
	TOTAL	386	