

Intro to Mission
Institute of Biblical Studies
Course Syllabus and Notes

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 examine culture and how we can more effectively communicate the gospel cross-culturally (cultural perspective). Third, we will trace the global history of Christian mission from the first century to the twenty-first century (historical 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. Cultural (3 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. Better understand three aspects of culture (worldview, material-economic, social-relational).
- e. Discover tools that enable you to better understand and communicate more effectively with your ministry audience (ethnography).
- f. Become more persuaded of the need to contextualize the gospel in a way that is faithful to Scripture and meaningful to your ministry audience focusing on three areas: messengers, message and movements.

3. 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.
- 4. Strategic (2 lessons)**
- 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

Ralph Winter and Steven Hawthorne, eds. [*Perspectives on the World Christian Movement: A Reader*](#). 4th ed. Pasadena: William Carey Library, 2013. ISBN-13: 978-0878083909. This will serve as the main course text. It contains hundreds of short essays addressing key topics in mission. The Kindle e-book version is also available. (ASIN: B00N5CI6HE) The EBook version includes two books, the Perspectives Reader and the Study Guide. We will not use the Study Guide in this course.

Timothy Keller. [*Center Church: Doing Balanced, Gospel-Centered Ministry in Your City*](#). Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2012. ISBN-13: 978-0310494188. We will read Keller's discussion of contextualization in this class. This book is also a required text for other IBS courses so you will be reading more of it in the future. The Kindle e-book version is also available. (ASIN: B005JSGB5Q)

You may also need to purchase a text for your missionary biography assignment (see page 4.)

Recommended Texts

Timothy C. Tennent. [*Invitation to World Missions: A Trinitarian Missiology for the Twenty-first Century*](#). Grand Rapids: Kregel, 2010.

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.

Course Requirements

This course is part of your required development as a Cru missionary. The first and most critical step is setting aside a regular weekly time in your schedule to work on the class. Find a time when you are fresh and not likely to be meeting people for appointments (e.g., the morning). Put this class into your schedule as an “appointment!” Occasionally, circumstances will arise that require you to adjust your study time, which means you will need to prioritize at some other time during the week. You will also find it beneficial to work in an undistracted environment. The majority of this course will be completed online and can be accessed at the IBS virtual website: ibsvirtual.cru.org.

For each lesson you will partake in the following activities:

- Praying for an unreached people group using [Joshua Project](#)
- Watching the corresponding video content
- Reading the required materials

In addition to your weekly activities, you will interact with your coaching group via forum posts at the end of each major section. There will also be four virtual coaching group meetings and two special projects during the course.

1. **Video Lectures:** Each lesson contains 60-90 minutes of lecture or other video content (broken into smaller units). The video lectures can be found online via the course site. You may also download these videos to watch on a device of your preference. The course site will have more information about downloading the video lectures.
2. **Reading:** Each session will include roughly 25pp of reading from the *Perspectives Reader*, *Center Church*, or other articles. Through this reading you will be exposed to leading missionary strategists and practitioners around the world. 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.
3. **Group Posts:** At the end of each major section (biblical, historical, cultural, strategic) you will write a short post in a forum describing what you’ve been learning and interacting with what others have shared. The forums can be found on the course site where you will be provided further instruction.
4. **Coaching Group:** You will be assigned to a coaching group with eight to ten other students. Your coaching group will meet on four occasions during the course using Google hangout. You are required to participate in these coaching meetings and need to adjust your schedule accordingly. Your coach will inform you of the dates and times of these meetings. The first meeting (during Lesson 1) will be a time to get to know your coaching group. The second (following Lesson 7) will center around your Missionary Biography assignment. The third (following lesson 10) will focus on your Cultural Learning Experience. The final coaching meeting (following lesson 12) will be geared towards how you’ve grown and what you’ve learned overall in the class. Each meeting will be around 90 minutes, and you will be expected to share, discuss and interact during these times. Coaching Group meetings account for 10% of your grade and will be assessed on your attendance and participation.

5. **Missionary Self-Reflection:** Instructions for this assignment will be updated soon, and a finalized syllabus will be posted on both the course site and the IBS site. You will not need any additional materials for this assignment. (20 Mar. 2020)
6. **Missionary Biography:** You will select a cross-cultural missionary to study. You can either read a biography (minimum of 50pp) 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 at the end of the syllabus (page 7), along with suggested interview questions on the course site (Lesson 7). After you finish your reading or interview, you will write 900-1000 words summarizing what you learned. Structure your paper around the following three themes: **(1)** an introduction which describes the historical, cultural and geographic context of the culture in which your missionary served (additional research beyond your book is welcome, though optional), as well as a brief overview of the missionary's life and ministry; **(2)** positive lessons you learned from this missionary about crossing cultures effectively, and how they may be applicable to your own context, and what you might change about yourself (either cognitively or behaviorally) as a result; and **(3)** any additional personal or critical insights gleaned from studying the life of this missionary, including (for example: how you might disagree with them, or how you might update what they did for the modern world, or how you might revise them to be more biblical, or anything that surprised you, or any huge takeaway that was a revelation to you.) As you reflect on the context of the missionary's audience and the lessons learned by the missionary, be sure to look for and consider the ways God was already at work among this people - individually and collectively - prior to the missionary's arrival. (Theologians call this work of God the *preparatio evangelica*.) Be sure to include a bibliography at the end. Further details and direction can be found on the course site (Lesson 7). You will also share what you learned with your coaching group during one of the virtual meetings. The Missionary Biography constitutes 30% of your grade and is required to pass the course. Points will be deducted for late submissions.

Course Grade**Grading Scale**

Reading	25%	94-100	A
Group Posts	15%	92-93	A-
Coaching Group	10%	90-91	B+
Missionary Biography	30%	84-89	B
<u>Cultural Learning Experience</u>	<u>20%</u>	82-83	B-
Total	100%	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.

How do I get started with the class?

Please order the required texts as soon as possible. Before the course begins, you should receive an email with the necessary information to enroll in the course. At this time you will also be assigned a coaching group. You will have to set up an account on the course site (ibsvirtual.cru.org) using your Relay account. This is the same account information you use for the StaffWeb and to check your Cru email. After you create an account, use the enrollment key provided in the email to enroll in the course. The enrollment email will include more specific details on how to start this process. If you have not received an enrollment email, please contact lbs.Virtual@cru.org.

What if I have Questions?

Your first resource for course questions is your coach. Your coach's contact information will be included in the initial enrollment email. If you still have unanswered questions regarding Intro to Mission or if you are having technical problems, please send an email lbs.Virtual@cru.org.

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.

Note: An exhaustive list of recommended missionary biographies can be found on the course site.

A Chance to Die: The Life and Legacy of Amy Carmichael by Elisabeth Elliot

Missionary: Amy Carmichael
Date: 1867-1951

Missionary's Ethnicity/Nationality: Scottish Irish
Audience of Gospel: Tamil (India)

Bruchko: The Astonishing True Story of a 19-Year-Old American, His Capture by the Motilone Indians and His Adventures in Christianizing the Stone Age Tribe by Bruce Olson

Missionary: Bruce Olson
Date: 1941-

Missionary's Ethnicity/Nationality: Scandinavian American
Audience of Gospel: Barí (Venezuela/Colombia)

Profiles of African-American Missionaries by Robert J. Stevens

***Missionary:** Multiple
***Date:** 1700-present

Missionary's Ethnicity/Nationality: African-American
Audience of Gospel: Multiple

***Note:** For this biography, select one of the eight eras between 1700 to the present and study the missionaries from that era.

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

Missionary: George Liele's
Date: 1750-1828

Missionary's Ethnicity/Nationality: Black American
Audience of Gospel: Jamaica

Biography of Elder Lott Cary by J.B. Taylor OR Lott Carey: First Black Missionary to Africa by Leroy Fitts

Missionary: Lott Cary
Date: 1780-1828

Missionary's Ethnicity/Nationality: Black American
Audience of Gospel: Liberia

Rebecca's Revival: Creating Black Christianity in the Atlantic World by Jon Sensbach

Missionary: Rebecca Proppen **Missionary's Ethnicity/Nationality:** Antigua(African, European descent)
Date: 1718-1780 **Audience of Gospel:** African slaves (St. Thomas), Ghana

A Secret Hope by Ria Zebua

Missionary: Ria Zebua **Missionary's Ethnicity/Nationality:** Indonesian
Date: Current **Audience of Gospel:** Manobo (Philippines)

Samuel Morris: The African Boy God Sent to Prepare an American University for Its Mission to the World by Lindley Baldwin

Missionary: Samuel Morris **Missionary's Ethnicity/Nationality:** Kru (Liberia)
Date: 1873-1893 **Audience of Gospel:** United States

Reading Report

Unless otherwise indicated, all the articles listed below can be found in the Perspectives Reader. The numbers preceding the author and title indicate the chapter. Any PDFs can be found on the course site.

Lesson	Assignment	Assigned Pages	# Pages Completed
Week 1	1. Stott, "The Living God is a Missionary God" (7) 4. Stott, "The Bible in World Evangelization" (6) 2. Kaiser, "Israel's Missionary Call" (7) 5. Wright, "Mission and God's Earth" (7) 11. Blackaby, "On Mission with God" (4) 13. Ladd, "The Gospel of the Kingdom" (13) 17. Goerner, "Jesus and the Gentiles" (6) 19. Coleman, "The Master's Plan" (4) 23. Thomas, "The Turning Point: Setting the Gospel Free" (3) 25. Glasser, "The Apostle Paul and the Missionary Task" (5) 29. McQuilkin, "Lost" (6) 33. Tson, "Suffering and Martyrdom" (4) 35. McClung, "Apostolic Passion" (3)	75	
Week 2	"Building a Biblical Theology of Ethnicity for Global Mission" - PDF (17) 80. Dye, "Discovering the Holy Spirit's Work in a Community" (4) 69. Richardson, "Redemptive Analogy" (7) Keller, <i>Center Church</i> chapter 7, "Intentional Contextualization" (9) chapter 8, "Balanced Contextualization" (6) Keller, <i>Center Church</i> chapter 9, "Biblical Contextualization" (9) chapter 10, "Active Contextualization" (14)	66	
Week 3	37. Beaver, "The History of Mission Strategy" (11) 38. Sunquist, "Asian Christianity: Facing the Rising Sun" (5) 39. Winter, "The Two Structures of God's Redemptive Mission" (10) 40. Walls, "Missionary Societies and the Fortunate Subversion of the Church" (9) 45. Kraft, "Women in Mission" (5) 46. Cornelius, "A Historical Survey of African Americans in World Missions" (6) 47. Howard, "Student Power in World Missions" (7)	53	

Week 4	43. Woodberry, "The Social Impact of Christian Missions" (5) 52. Zwemer, "The Glory of the Impossible" (6) 54. Winter, "The New Macedonia" (14) 55. Mandryk, "The State of the Gospel" (8) 57. Africa Sending, Brazilian Sending, Korean Sending, Indian Sending, Chinese Sending, Filipino Sending, Latin American Sending (5) 61. Johnson and Lee, "From Western Christendom to Global Christianity" (6) 61b. Jenkins, "The Next Christendom: The Coming of Global Christianity" (2)	46	
Week 5	84. Winter and Koch, "Finishing the Task: The Unreached Peoples Challenge" (16) "What is Cru?" - PDF (9) "Win, Build, Send in the Context of Love" - PDF (2) 126. Winter, "Reconsecration: To a Wartime, Not a Peacetime, Lifestyle" (3) 127. Hickman, "Life on Purpose" (6) 133. Shaw and Norsworthy, "Welcoming the World at Your Door" (2) 136. "The Lausanne Covenant" (5)	43	
	TOTAL*	283	

**The total number of pages completed will be submitted at the end of the course on the course site.*