

Abilene Christian University

College of Biblical Studies

Undergraduate Department of Bible, Missions, and Ministry

Gospel in a Multi-Cultural World

BMIS 420
3 credit hours

FALL 2012
MWF 10:00 Room 113

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Mission: The mission of ACU is to educate students for Christian service and leadership throughout the world. The broad mission of the Department of Undergraduate Bible, Missions, and Ministry is to provide Biblical training, Christian spiritual formation, Kingdom expansion, and a Christian world view for every student in the university.

ACU Promise: ACU promises to be a vibrant, innovative, Christ-centered community that engages students in authentic spiritual and intellectual growth, equipping them to make a real difference in the world.

Mission of the DBMM: The mission of the Department of Bible, Missions and Ministry is to provide preparation for congregational leadership through biblical and theological studies and Christian spiritual formation for effective worldwide ministry in the cause of Christ.

Purpose: The purpose of this class is to challenge and equip learners to join God in his mission. The foundation of this course is the conviction that the Bible is a missionary book from cover to cover, and that the God who reveals himself in the Bible is a missionary God. From the beginning God has been seeking, sending and saving. His people must learn to imitate his “missionary” attributes. We must know the gospel and know how to share it appropriately in various contexts.

Audience: This course is intended primarily for Bible/Missions/Ministry majors, but it is open to students in all fields of study who have a concern for God’s missions to the world. Because mission is a central concern of the church, all church members—and especially

leaders—need to be well-informed about what is the gospel and how to share it. In our increasingly multi-cultural world, all church members are likely to have opportunities for cross-cultural ministry, whether or not they are “full-time missionaries.”

Course Description: This course will help students develop a theology of missions by looking at the biblical basis of mission and will sharpen their understanding of the gospel. Students will grapple with the challenge of interpersonal identification and models of communication. Students will explore methods of planting meaningful communities of faith in various cultural contexts. Prerequisite: sophomore standing.

Class Format: Students will learn not only from lectures and readings but also by participation in collaborative learning groups.

Textbooks:

Bible. Bring to class every day.

Corbett, Steve and Brian Fikkert. *When Helping Hurts*. Chicago, IL: Moody Publishers, 2009.

Donovan, Vincent J. *Christianity Rediscovered*. Maryknoll, New York: Orbis Books, 1978.

Hiebert, Paul and Eloise Meneses. *Incarnational Ministry*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 2000.

Lingenfelter, Sherwood and Marvin Mayers. *Ministering Cross-Culturally*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 1986.

Outcomes

Competency	Measurement
<i>Learners will:</i>	<i>The competency will be measured by:</i>
1. Develop a theology of mission as central to the nature of God, his people and to the identity of the church	1. Reading reports and exams.
2. Students will confront their own ethnocentrism in order to communicate the gospel across cultural barriers.	2. Reading reports and exams.
3. Students will be able to distinguish between mission methods that encourage the growth of healthy churches, and methods that foster dependency.	3. Reading reports, exams, and group projects.
4. Develop culturally appropriate, creative approaches to equipping other Christians for responsible participation in God's mission.	4. Application project.
5. Students will demonstrate a clear grasp of	5. Application project, exams and reflection

the gospel and how context influences the sharing of the gospel.	papers.
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Learning Activities

1. Reading responses:

There are three reading assignments from **Incarnational Ministry**. Each student is to read the introduction and chapter one. Write a blog (**due September 3**) that addresses these three areas: New Understandings; Application of new insights to my life; and Problems and Questions from the reading. Each student group will determine which society they will address (Band, Tribal, Peasant, or Urban). They will read the descriptive chapter of that society and the chapter that explores the church in that society. Each student will blog addressing the same three categories (**due October 8**). Read “Truansnational Evangelism” and blog using the same categories (**due November 26**). All together, the reading responses are **10% of your grade**.

2. Exams:

Two exams are scheduled:

Midterm: **Friday, October 19**

15% of your grade

Final: **Thursday, 2:00-3:45**

15% of your grade

Keep the time of the final exam in mind. Final exams cannot be taken in advance, by university policy.

3. Application project:

Students will be divided into learning groups. Each group will decide which context they will address: Band, Tribal, Peasant, or Urban. Each group member will read and blog about the chosen society. Together they will choose a location, representing that kind of society, and plan a mission to plant culturally relevant churches in that context. You will present your information to the class during the last week of classes. Your presentation should demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the uniqueness of the context, how you will enter that world incarnationally, what methods you will use, and what they church should look like. **This project is worth 15% of your grade.**

4. Book Reports:

1. The student will read **Ministering Cross- Culturally** by Lingenfelter and Mayers. The student will take the brief questionnaire that is in the book and write a 3 page reflection on the value and personal challenges presented in this book. Please indicate pages that are referenced (55) in the text. **The assignment is due on September 10 and is worth 15% of your grade.**

1. Read Vincent J. Donovan's **Christianity Rediscovered** and write a 5-page report and reflection. The paper should include a 3-page summary of key points made by the author, followed by your 2-page reflection and application to the North American church. Please indicate material that is referenced (p. 55) in the text. The assignment is due on **October 29 and is worth 15% of your grade.**

2. Read **When Helping Hurts** and write a 5-page report and reflection. The paper should include a 3-page summary of key points made by the author, followed by your 2-page reflection and application to the North American church. Please indicate pages that are referenced (55) in the text. The assignment is due on **Monday, November 19, and is worth 15% of your grade.**

5. Personal Story:

Each student is to write a 3-5 page account of the story of their life intersecting God's story, the Gospel. The account will use the model of Paul's telling of his story in Acts 26. The paper will address: Life before becoming a follower of Jesus; Influences that brought me to become a follower of Jesus; Commitments I made; and What life has been like since being a follower of Jesus. **This paper is due Wednesday, October 10 and is worth 10% of your grade.**

Assignments turned in late will be decreased by ten points for the first seven days, another ten points for the days eight to fourteen. Assignment will be accepted after fourteen days and a zero will be recorded for that grade.

Grade:

Teachers do not **give** grades; they record what the student has accomplished. **Accomplish great things!!**

Reading responses	10%	A	=	92-100
Personal Story	10%	B	=	82-91
Group Project	15%	C	=	72-81
Book Report #1	15%	D	=	62-71
Book Report #2	15%			
Book Report #3	15%	F	=	below 62
Midterm	15%			
Final	<u>15%</u>			
	100%			

Attendance:

Attendance and promptness are important. Roll will be taken every day. Three tardies will equal one unexcused absence. If a student is tardy, it is his or her responsibility to notify the instructor **in writing** at the end of class so that the absence will be changed to a tardy. Excused absences will be accepted only in cases of illness, family emergency, official representation of the University or natural disaster. **After 3 unexcused absences a student will receive a reduction of 2.5 points from the final percentage grade of the course for each additional unexcused absence.** Faculty may withdraw students with a

“W” or “WF” for excessive absences. Or the professor may choose not to initiate a withdrawal form and simply assign a grade of “F” at the end of the semester. In this class, anyone with a total of **9 unexcused absences** during the semester will be dropped from the course. After the 12th week of the semester, students may not withdraw from courses; however, a professor may withdraw a student for non-attendance but only with a grade of “WF.”

Academic Integrity:

Violations of academic integrity and other forms of cheating, as defined in ACU’s Academic Integrity Policy, involve the intention to deceive or mislead or misrepresent, and therefore are a form of lying and represent actions contrary to the behavioral norms that flow from the nature of God. Violations will be addressed as described in the Policy. While the university enforces the Policy, the most powerful motive for integrity and truthfulness comes from one’s desire to imitate God’s nature in our lives. Every member of the faculty, staff and student body is responsible for protecting the integrity of learning, scholarship and research. The full Policy is available for review at the Provost’s office web site (<http://www.acu.edu/campusoffices/provost>) and the following offices: provost, college deans, dean of campus life, director of student judicial affairs, director of residential life education and academic departments.

Make-up exams:

The DBMM office will proctor exams at the following times and locations: Thursday, 3:00-5:00pm @ Faculty Commons, Friday, 8:00-10:00am @ Faculty Commons (BSB 250). Because of weekend courses, September 9 and October 7 will be in the Missions Resource Room (BSB 229).

Americans with Disability Act Policy:

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA): If you have a diagnosed disability, please notify Alpha Academic Services (674-2750) before or immediately after you first scheduled class meeting. After your disability has been verified, your professor will work with you and the Alpha Academic Services to provide reasonable accommodations to ensure you have a fair opportunity to succeed in the course.

Withdrawing: The last day to withdraw from class and receive a 100% refund is August 31.

Food and drinks:

You may bring food and drinks to class (as long as you do not distract your classmates) but please clean up after yourself.

Courtesy:

Please show consideration to your fellow students. **This includes following the university dress code.** Do not use cell phones in class. You may take notes on your computer with permission. Doing non-class-related activity on the computer will result in the loss of this privilege.

Important Dates

Monday, September 3
Monday, September 10
Monday, October 8
Wednesday, October 10
Friday, October 19
Monday, October 29
Monday, November 19
Monday, November 26
Week of December 5
Thursday, 2:00-3:45

Hiebert Reading/Blog
Book Report #1
Hiebert Reading/Blog
Personal Story
Midterm Exam
Book Report #2
Book Report #3
Transnational Evangelism/Blog
Presentation of Projects
Final

Reading Assignments and Weekly Topics

Week	Date Due	Reading assignment	Topic
1	Aug. 27		Humans and Culture
2	Sept. 3	Hiebert 9-49	Understanding our world
3	Sept. 10	Book Report: Ministering Cross-culturally	Human Societies
4	Sept. 17		Summit/What is the Gospel
5	Sept. 24		What is the Gospel
6	Oct. 1		God's story
7	Oct. 8	Read Hiebert: @ one of the societies	God's story/Our story/Their story
8	Oct. 15		Ethnocentrism/Midterm
9	Oct. 22		Incarnational Ministry
10	Oct. 29	BookReport:Christianity Rediscovered	Models of communication
11	Nov. 5		Money and missions
12	Nov. 12		Church maturation
13	Nov. 19	Book Report: When Helping Hurts	Maturation/Dependency/the Poor THANKSGIVING!
14	Nov. 26	*Read Transnational Evangelism	New models of church
			Project presentations

15	Dec. 3		
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***Special Reading Assignment:**

Due November 26. Read “Transnational Evangelism” which is posted on Blackboard, “External Links.” Blog your reflection.

Personal Information:

Dr. Sonny Guild served as a missionary with his wife, Eunice, for 10 years to the AbaLuyia people of Western Kenya. They were part of a three-family team. When they left in 1979, 44 churches had been planted and now there are nearly 300 churches in that region. In the States he preached in Oregon for 14 years. He has been a Missions Coordinator for Africa for 6 years and is now full-time faculty for undergraduate Department of Bible, Missions, and Ministry. He is also the assistant director for missional formation and care in the Halbert Institute for Missions which provides co-curricular training for global workers. Books he has authored are: **Biblia Inasemaje**, a topical index of the Bible in Kiswahili, and commentaries on Matthew and Mark in the **Commentary on the New Testament in Simple English** series. He also contributed a chapter on teams in the book, **100 Years of African Missions**. He has his doctorate in Ministry from ACU and his dissertation was titled, **A Model for Enhancing Interpersonal Relationships Within Mission Teams**. He and his wife have three sons (Chris, Eric, and Theron), two daughters-in-law (Tiffany and Susan), and seven grandchildren (Eden Marie, Jordan Christopher, Matthew Adrian, Anna Victoria and Lily Renae, Rebecca Elaine, Lyren Breanne and Elisabeth Joelle)!