

OMS506 HISTORY OF MISSIONS

Professor: Dr. Samuel H. Larsen

(3 hrs)

Course Description: This course surveys the outreach of the Christian movement from apostolic times to the present. Analysis and evaluation of the relationships between the Christian mission and secular and ecclesiastical cultures are included.

Learning Objectives: By the end of the course, students will demonstrate the following learning outcomes (competencies):

A. Cognitive Learning Outcomes:

1. Students will be able to trace the history of the spread of Christianity and will be able to relate that spread to events, developments, and personalities in both the secular and ecclesiastical cultures of the time.
2. Students will be able to recognize and identify recurring issues and cross-cultural principles relating to the spread of Christianity and will be able to draw lessons for missions today.

B. Affective Learning Outcomes:

1. Students will develop a growing confidence in God's sovereign governance over the affairs of individuals and nations as He carries out His redemptive plan until it is culminated in the return of His Son, when the kingdoms of this world will become the Kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ.

C. Volitional Learning Outcomes:

1. Students will deepen their commitment to the missionary enterprise and to the task of developing tools for their own use in cross-cultural discipleship.

Required Reading:

Neill, Stephen. 1964. *A History of Christian Missions*. Baltimore: Penguin. (624 pp)

Simmons, Scott J. 1996. John Calvin and Missions. (course paper by former RTS student) (14 pp.)

Walls, Andrew F. 1996. *The Missionary Movement in Christian History: Studies in the Transmission of Faith*. Maryknoll: Orbis. (266 pp)

Candle in the Dark Movie. DVD, 1 hr 37 min. Vision Video, Worcester, PA, 1998.

Martin Luther (1953), DVD, 1 hr 45 min. Vision Video, Worcester, PA, 2002.

Recommended Reading:

Hastings, Adrian, ed. 1999. *A World History of Christianity*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans. (594 pp)

Kane, J. Herbert. 1978. *A Concise History of the Christian World Mission*. Grand Rapids: Baker. (216 pp)

Moffett, Samuel. 1998. *A History of Christianity in Asia*.

Shaw, Mark. 1996. *The Kingdom of God in Africa*. Grand Rapids: Baker. (328 pp)

Tucker, Ruth. 1983. *From Jerusalem to Irian Jaya: A Biographical History of Christian Missions*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan. (511 pp)

Course Assessment:

1. Mid-term (30%) and Final (30%) examinations.
2. Course paper or project (35%) on a pre-approved topic.
3. Mentor Report/Course Application Paper (5%)
4. All assignment submissions to RTS/Virtual Student Services (vcstudentservices@rts.edu)

Course Outline

Topic

Course introduction I: Overview

Apostolic missions in the NT and early tradition

Missions in the First Century

First Century Asian Christianity & Buddhism

Conversion of the Roman Empire

Guest lecture: "The Cross and the Crescent: Fourteen centuries of encounter between Christianity and Islam"

Guest lecture: "Missions to the Muslim World"

Guest lecture: "Q&A re Missions to Muslims"

Missions to the Goths

Missions to the Slavs

Missions to the Saxons

Missions to the Northmen

"The World of Martin Luther" (30-min. videotape & discussion)

The Protestant Reformation and missions

Roman Catholic missions to the New World

Moravian missions

The modern Protestant missions movement

The rise of mission societies

Missions in North America

Missions in India

Missions in Asia

Missions in Africa

Missions in Australia and Oceania

Missions in Latin America and Brazil

Mid-term examination

Missionary movements

Ecumenical missions

Pioneers in modern missions: David Brainerd

Pioneers in modern missions: William Carey (videotape & discussion)

Pioneers in modern missions: Adoniram Judson Gordon

Pioneers in modern missions: David Livingstone

Pioneers in modern missions: John Livingstone Nevius

Pioneers in modern missions: J. Hudson Taylor

Pioneers in modern missions: Henry Martyn

Pioneers in modern missions: Alexander Duff

Pioneers in modern missions: E. Stanley Jones

Pioneers in modern missions: Donald McGavran

Final examination