

SYLLABUS – MISSIONS: EVANGELISM AT HOME and ABROAD

GB 5643

Rm BB 117

Dr. Earl Lavender BB suite 205

November 4-8

8:00-4:00

ext. 5834

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Catalogue description:

A study of the principles of missions, including biblical foundations, historical interpretations, and contemporary applications. Special emphasis is given to mission principles as they apply to local congregations. Specific interests are the elders and the mission committee, selection and evaluation of mission activities, and the evangelistic principles which promote understanding and growth. A brief study of cross-cultural understanding and current methodology will also be included. This course is designed to be of value to anyone in ministry, not just the “professional” missionary.

Required texts:

Bible (version of your choice, ideally a Bible in which you will be able to freely mark)

Terry, Smith, and Anderson, ed. *Missiology: an Introduction to the Foundations, History and Strategies of World Missions* (Broadman and Holman)

Gelder, Craig, ed. *Confident Witness, Changing World* (Eerdman’s)

Lavender, Earl *The Church of God’s Intent* (Lochland)

All of these are available in the university bookstore.

Course Design: (the major points of focus are listed below)

1. The course will begin by studying the root of mission in the heart of God as demonstrated in the biblical text. A brief consideration of the post-biblical history of missions will then be pursued.
2. The second section will deal with the changing understanding of mission, particularly as it applies to the post-modern world.
3. The third focus will be on developing a sound theology of mission, which would apply not only to the mission field, but to the context of the church where we are presently working. This will include a discussion on hermeneutics and culture, with a basic survey on the foundations of cross-cultural communication.
4. The fourth section of the course will deal with the practical implications of a biblical theology of mission. This will include a discussion of many of the chapters in Gelder’s book. Also included in this discussion will be the idea of strategic planning, with its strengths and weaknesses.

Course objectives:

To come to a biblical view of the world in which we live, thereby developing a genuine passion for mission.

To become aware of the history of Christian missions, so that informed decisions can be made concerning future efforts.

To develop a “theology of mission” that one will consistently and fervently pursue.

To become aware of the cultural changes which provide tremendous opportunities for missions

To develop the organizational skills needed to plan evangelistic efforts wherever one is.

Course requirements:

Because this is a one week intensive, all course reading must be done before the class begins (see below). A test will be given in our first class meeting over the assigned material.

Attendance all five days is compulsory

Participation in class discussions

Completion of all assignments at designated times

Grading:

First exam (November 4) and reading reviews	20% of final grade	A	93-100
Research Project:	40% of final grade	B	84-92
Final Exam (November 8)	30% of final grade	C	70-83
Participation	10% of final grade	D	60-69

Required Reading Before Class:

All of the Lavender and Van Gelder text will be required reading before class begins on November 4. The following chapters are required reading in Terry, Smith and Anderson: 1-9; 11-16; 18, 22-31; 37-40; 42. These are brief chapters for the most part. The rest of the text is worth reading, but will not be discussed in class. Of the chapters listed above, only the following will be used for *first* test material: 1-9;16, 18, 26, 27, 30, 37, and 40.

Reading Reviews:

On the first day of class, you are to supply a brief one page review for each of the required books. This should include a paragraph on overall content and a paragraph of response (what you learned from the reading). This need not be an extensive work, three total pages will suffice, however, you are permitted to write more than one page per book if you so desire. **You will not be admitted to the course without this exercise being completed.**

Research Project:

Due November 22nd. It is to be a minimum of 12 double spaced pages (normal font, 12 point max). The topic must relate directly to the content of the course and must be approved by the instructor of the course by November 8 (last day of class). You are to include a bibliography with no less than eight sources of varying types (articles, books, web, etc.). This assignment will be thoroughly discussed during the first class meeting.

Late Work:

The graduate school has taken a very strong stand against incompletes. Only under the most difficult circumstances will deadlines be extended. Work which is not handed in on time will not be accepted.

Honor code:

Surely this goes without saying, but you will be expected to abide by the honor code set out in the student handbook on all assignments and examinations.