

MISSION IN CROSS-CULTURAL PERSPECTIVE

EM3373*
Spring 2010

Professor: Frances S. Adeney
Wed. 6:00-8:50 Schlegel Hall 120

Course Description: This course provides a contemporary analysis of Christian mission across cultures. Biblical, theological, and contextual features of the interaction with people of other religions combine with theological appraisals of appropriate mission practices in those settings. Attention is given to cross-cultural communication and understanding, developing a theology of contextualization, and outlining interactive techniques for multi-cultural congregational settings and networking with churches in other parts of the world.

Purpose and Objectives: Students will:

- revision mission as a cross-cultural project
- recognize features of distinct global and local contexts of mission
- develop a theology of contextualization that honors and utilizes the cultural features of various societies
- enhance skills of interacting in multi-cultural settings that will further the mission of the Church
- grapple with cross-cultural issues in the encounter with people of other religions

Requirements and Evaluation:

1. Active participation in class discussions and in-class written and oral assignments that display a thorough understanding of the assigned readings. (20%)
2. Write your own response to two of the case studies from Wolfe and Gudorf. Show how the practices of the Muck and Adeney text guide your analysis. (5 pages each, 12 pt. type, double spaced) (30%)
3. Write a research paper outlining the features of a particular cultural or religious group, describing the approaches you would take in doing mission/evangelism in that setting, and developing a contextual theology that would foster Christian witness. (20 pages, 12 pt type, double-spaced). (50%)*

Required Texts:

Adeney, Frances S. *Christian Women in Indonesia: A Narrative Study of Gender and Religion*. Syracuse University Press, 2002. (ISBN 0-8156-2956-7/ADRGP)

Muck, Terry and Frances S. Adeney. *Christianity Encountering World Religions: The Practice of Mission in the Twenty-first Century*. Baker, 2009. (ISBN: 978-0-8010-2660-7)

Spencer, Aida Besancon and William David Spencer. *The Global God: Multicultural Evangelical Views of God*. (Baker, 1998) ISBN 0-8010-2163-4 (pbk.)

Wolfe, Regina Wentzl and Christine E. Gudorf, eds. *Ethics and World Religions: Cross-Cultural Case Studies*. Orbis, 1999. (ISBN: 1-57075-240-0)

*To meet the Methodist Guidelines for courses in evangelism, students must choose a topic in evangelism for their research paper.

NOTE: More than two absences will result in a lowered grade. Assignments turned in late will be docked one half of a letter grade if received within three days of the deadline, a whole letter grade if received within a week. Plagiarism will not be tolerated—see LPTS Policy.