

# Uganda Christian University

Bishop Tucker Campus – Mukono  
Uganda Studies Program

## Introduction to Christian Mission and Contemporary Missiology

### I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

The topic of Christian Mission can be approached in many different ways and seen from a variety of perspectives. This course will introduce and briefly survey several of these perspectives: history of missions; biblical foundation of mission; theology of mission; the role of the Church; contemporary issues and strategies; cross-cultural and contextual missions today. In dealing with a topic of such breadth, and to avoid mere superficiality, it is important to occasionally dig deeper and allow times of reflection on insights gained through discussion and shared discoveries. When these times occur may depend on the particular constitution of the group, the relevance of certain issues to the lives of the individuals involved, and perhaps to the future possibilities of ministry. However, the course will ground students in the basic definitions, biblical basis, theological purpose, and methods and models of missions, viewing mission from God's universal perspective as well as from the individual Christian's contemporary viewpoint, thus providing a framework by which to assess the complex array of missiological issues in today's world.

### II. REQUIRED TEXTS

There is no single required text for this course. Rather, a variety of selected readings will be required each week, including short articles and anecdotes, case studies, testimonies, and chapters from many of the books listed in the bibliography. A \* in the bibliography indicates a book of exceptional value in terms of current trends and contemporary issues in mission.

### III. AIMS & OBJECTIVES

- To gain a solid understanding of the definition of mission(s) and its importance in relation to the theme of the entire bible: God's plan of redemption for mankind
- To learn to see missions in the context of God's relationship to man and the world, his original plan and purpose, and the need for salvation, restoration, and redemption of the whole earth.
- To develop an informed biblical basis for mission through surveying God's plan in successive redemptive periods of biblical history
- To gain further insight from an overview of the history and progress of the missions endeavor from biblical times to the present day
- To understand the church's role in mission and the relationship between the missionary, sending and receiving church, mission agency, and un-reached peoples
- To develop a personal view of one's own role in missions, in light of God's universal plan of redemption and Christ's return, and incorporating contemporary insights and strategies

### IV. TEACHING METHOD

Inter-active lecture with questions / response, group discussion, small group presentations

## V. EVALUATION & ASSESSMENT

- 40% short assignments (3-4 pages), each on a different aspect of missions (10% each)
- 20% mid-term exam
- 20% participation in seminar sessions and “Missions in Practice”
- 20% long assignment (or exam if needed)

### Short Assignments

**Assignment 1** – Choose and read through a book on “Biblical Theology of Mission”. Write an analytical / interactive book review, and be prepared to share your thoughts with the group.

**Assignment 2** – Choose a particular period in the history of missions, research that period, then write a summary of the type of missions work which took place or was predominant during that period. Give particular attention to the motivation which drove the missionary endeavors, the methods which were used (both positive and negative), the structures / relationships involved, and the overall effectiveness.

**Assignment 3** – Read (skim) 2 different missionary biographies. At least one should be a non-western missionary or a missionary from an earlier era of missions history (prior to the 20<sup>th</sup> C.); you may also wish to consider gender. Write a comparative analysis of their motivations, methods, strategies, goals, cross-cultural challenges, and general missions experience. How did *these* differences reflect differences in context, time period, or culture of the missionary? What of their experience might you imitate today and what would you reject or do differently?

**Assignment 4** – Research a particular unreached people group. By examining aspects of culture, language, religion, national politics, etc, determine what in your view would be the best strategy and plan to reach this people with the gospel. Similarly, determine the barriers which you would expect might prevent them from being reached, and show how your plan will overcome these barriers. This assignment may be done in partners or small groups.

### Long Assignment

**Personal Reflection** – Choose a topic which will allow you to examine and reflect on some aspect of your future role in fulfilling the missions task of the Church. You may want to consider practical issues of plans, goals, short and long-term strategies, etc., or fundamental issues of calling, vocation, giftedness, and guidance. The paper should be both scholarly and personal. Whatever your topic, you must bear in mind the contemporary issues, challenges, and global concerns unique to your generation and 21<sup>st</sup> the century context.

## VI. COURSE CONTENT & SCHEDULE

WEEK	TOPIC	CONTENT	READING / ASSIGNMENT
1	Introduction to Missions	Laying the groundwork: terms and definitions Terminology: <i>mission &amp; missions, evangelism, witness, martyr, missionary, Missio Dei, Imago Dei</i> God’s missionary heart and plan of redemption; The “missional” nature of the Bible	Selected Readings
	<i>Hearing from Others</i>	Personal Missionary Perspective Exploring your ‘calling’	

2	Biblical Foundation of Missions	<p><b>1) Universal History:</b> Progress of Redemption creation, fall, man's need of salvation</p> <p><b>2) God's Mission through Israel:</b> the Abrahamic Covenant: God's promises the Mosaic Covenant: God's law and his people the monarchy: Israel's failure &amp; God's judgment the exile: God's servants and the coming Messiah</p>	Biblical passages & Selected Readings
	<i>Missions in Practice</i>	Case Studies in Missions	
3	Biblical Foundation of Missions	<p><b>3) God's Mission through Christ:</b> Jesus: God's salvation revealed Jesus and KOG: God's redemptive community</p> <p><b>4) God's Mission through Us</b> the Church: proclamation of salvation the Great Commission: our missions mandate</p>	Biblical Passages & Selected Readings  <i>Assignment 1 due</i>
	<i>Hearing from Others</i>	Personal Missionary Perspective Being a woman in missions	
4	The Church and its Mission	The "missionary" nature of the church Upward, Inward, Outward components of Church The task of world evangelization	Selected Readings
	<i>Missions in Practice</i>	Case Studies in Missions	
5	History of Missions	<p>30-100AD: From Jews to Gentiles</p> <p>100-500: Converting the Roman world</p> <p>500-1500: The growth of a "Christian" Europe</p> <p>100-1200: Byzantine, Orthodox, Eastern Missions</p> <p>1500-1750: Missions thru exploration and empire</p> <p>1750-1950: The modern missions movement</p> <p>1950-200?: Global missions in a high-tech world</p>	<b>Individual presentations</b>  <i>Assignment 2 due</i>
	<i>Hearing from Others</i>	Personal Missionary Perspective Cross-cultural challenges	<i>Mid-term Exam</i>
6	Theory and Theology of Mission	<p>Modern theorists and theories: H. Venn, A. Tucker, R. Allen, H. Taylor, etc.</p> <p>Missionary methods and strategies today</p> <p>Mission societies, missionaries, the sending church and the indigenous or national church; partnerships</p>	Selected Readings
	<i>Missions in Practice</i>	Role play dialogue: missionary pitfalls	
7	Crossing Cultures	<p>Culture, Worldview, and the Gospel</p> <p>Christ &amp; Culture - Christianity &amp; Culture</p> <p>Cross-Cultural communication</p> <p>Cross-Cultural living</p>	Selected Readings  <i>Assignment 3 due</i>
	<i>Hearing from Others</i>	Personal Missionary Perspective Missionary life in Uganda (on-site visit)	
8	Unreached Peoples	<p>Exploring Unreached People Groups</p> <p>Terms: unreached; unevangelized; unchurched, etc</p> <p>Anthropological "categories"</p> <p>Current strategies of reaching the unreached</p>	Selected Readings
	<i>Missions in Practice</i>	<p>Praying for Unreached People Groups</p> <p>Forming global "connections" (adopt-a-people)</p>	

9	Role of the Missionary	Changing roles of missionaries today Missionaries from the West & non-Western world; cross-cultural missions teams; missionaries in Christian vs. non-Xn countries; partnerships Short, medium, and long-term missions dynamics Family life & children on the mission field	Selected Readings  <b>Assignment 4 due</b>
	<b>Hearing from Others</b>	Personal Missionary Perspective Dealing with culture-shock and reverse c-shock	
10	The Mission Agency	Becoming a missionary; policies and procedures Finding the right mission agency Missionary / mission agency / sending church and receiving church dynamics The role of the local sending church; denomination	Selected Readings
	<b>Missions in Practice</b>	Case Studies in Mission/Church dynamics	
11	Strategies and Contemporary Issues	Challenges and barriers to world evangelization Developing Strategies; Particular look at working within the African context	Selected Readings
	<b>Hearing from each other</b>	Personal Responses to the missions mandate	
12	Our Personal Response to Mission Task	Individual presentations; reflection and response	
		Individual presentations; reflection and response	<b>Long assignment due</b>
13	Revision		
14	Exam week	Exam if needed	

## VII. BIBLIOGRAPHY

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- Elliot, Elisabeth        *Through Gates of Splendor*
- Many other excellent missionary biographies

Introduction to the opening themes on the historical development of Missiology. Providing insight into the contemporary academic trends of Missiology in Orthodoxy as well as in Roman Catholicism and Protestantism. Definition of methodological principles of Missiology with special emphasis on the Holy Scripture and patristic Learning understanding and interpretation of the Church mission and applicability of this methodology to the outcomes contemporary problems of world and man. Course content. 1. History of occurrence and development of Missiology. Methodology of Missiology.Â Missiology in Orthodox theology today. The main principles of Church Mission in the world. The function of Church Mission in the world.Â Secularization of Christian Europe.