

Syllabus

Introduction to Missions

Basic Course Information

Course number: OR 321/521
Semester: Online
Credits: 2 credits

Instructor

Name: Dr. Matthew Newkirk
Email: matt.newkirk@cbijapan.org

Course Description

Introduction to Missions examines the church's worldwide, cross-cultural mandate to make Christ's glory known among the nations. The course examines the nature of mission, its biblical foundations, missiological theory and strategy, anthropology and contextualization, and practical considerations in cross-cultural missionary work.

Course Requirements

Attendance

Students are required to watch every class lecture. Class lectures will provide information for which you will be responsible in your paper and final examination.

Pre-Class Reading

Before each lecture, students must read the assigned Bible passages listed in the class schedule below. These readings are designed to prepare you to understand the lecture material better and have familiarity with the most important passages to be discussed that day. On the final exam you will be asked to indicate whether or not you have completed all reading assignments *before* each class. You will either receive a 0 or 100 on this component, so please read carefully!

Lecture Reflections

After viewing each lecture, students must write a 1-2 page reflection report. The report should briefly summarize the content of the lecture and 1-2 things the students learned from the lecture.

Book Review

- (1) Students must read *Christian Mission in the Modern World: Updated and Expanded* by John Stott and Christopher J. H. Wright (IVP: 2016).
- (2) Write a 4-5-page book review. Your review should include:
 - a. A summary of each chapter of the book
 - b. Your opinion of the strengths of the book
 - c. Your opinion of the weaknesses of the book
- (3) As a general rule, your summary of the book should be about 2/3 of the review, while the remaining 1/3 should cover the strengths and weakness.

Contextualization Paper

Each student will write a paper analyzing a culture of your choosing other than Japan using the model of basic values discussed in lecture 6. OR321 students should write 6–8 pages; OR521 students should write 8–10 pages. The goal of this paper is to seek ways to contextualize the gospel to a culture based on that culture’s underlying value system.

Paper Instructions

- (1) Form and Content
 - a. Form
 - i. Cover page with (1) your name, (2) class name, (3) paper title.
 - ii. Double-spaced body (6–8 pages for OR321; 8–10 pages for OR521); please include page numbers.
 1. If you quote a source, include a footnote identifying the relevant information (i.e., author, title, publishing information, page number).
 2. If you access data from a website, include the web address and date accessed.
 - iii. Bibliography
 - b. Content
 - i. Research and analyze your chosen culture using the model of basic values discussed in lecture 6 (i.e., tensions in time, judgment, crises, goals, self-worth, and vulnerability).
 - ii. After analyzing your chosen culture through these categories, summarize ways that the gospel may be contextualized to that culture.
 - iii. Suggestions for gospel-related items that often need contextualization include but are not limited to:
 1. The concept of God
 2. The concept of sin
 3. Accepting forgiveness
 4. The concept of universal truth

Final Examination

At the end of the class there will be a final exam based on the content of the lectures. The exam will be a combination of multiple choice and short answer questions.

Assignment Submissions

All assignments must be submitted within 6 months of class enrollment. Please submit all assignments in both PDF and Word format to the following email addresses:

matt.newkirk@cbjapan.org

kadai@shingakkou.net

Please be sure to include the course number (OT321 or OT521) in the subject line of your email.

Course Schedule

Lecture	Topic	Pre-class Reading
1	Definitions and Orientation Biblical Theology of Mission: The Creation Mandate	None
2	Biblical Theology of Mission: The Fall of Humanity and Call of Abram	Genesis 2-3; 6; 9; 11-12; 17 James 2 (esp. 20-22)
3	Biblical Theology of Mission: The Call of Israel	Exodus 1; 19 (esp. vv. 3-6) Leviticus 26:1-13 Deuteronomy 4 (esp. vv. 5-8); 26 (esp. vv. 16-19); 11 (esp. vv. 22-24); 17 (esp. vv. 14-20); 28:1-14) Judges 17:6; 18:1; 19:1; 21:25 1 Samuel 8; 13 2 Samuel 7 (esp. vv. 1-17) 1 Kings 8 (esp. vv. 41-43) Psalm 72; 89 (esp. vv. 3-4) Isaiah 56 (esp. vv. 6-7)
4	Biblical Theology of Mission: The Fall of Israel	Leviticus 26:14-46 Deuteronomy 28:15-68); 30:1-10 1 Kings 11 (esp. vv. 1-8) Ezekiel 36 Isaiah 42 (esp. vv. 1-9, 19-22); 49:1-7; 61 (esp. v. 9) Jeremiah 3 (esp. vv. 15-17); 4 (esp. vv. 1-2); 23 (esp. vv. 1-6); 33 (esp. vv. 7-9) Ezra 3:1-7 Nehemiah 13

		Zechariah 3:8; 6:13; 12:10; 13:7-9; 14:9 Malachi 1; 3 (esp. vv. 10-12)
5	Biblical Theology of Mission: Jesus and New Testament Mission	Matthew 1-4; 28 (esp. vv. 18-20) Luke 3; 24 (esp. vv. 46-49) John 1 Acts 1:8; 6:1-7; 12:20-24; 19:1-20 Romans 5 Galatians 3 (esp. vv. 6-9, 29) Colossians 1 1 Peter 2:1-12 Revelation 11:15-18; 21
6	Contextualization	Acts 1-10
7	Historical Overview of Missions	Acts 11-20
8	Survey of the Global Church	Acts 21-28
9	Missiological Theory and Strategy	None
10	Present Paradigms of Mission	None

Course Grading

Pre-class Reading	10%
Lecture Reflections	10%
Book Review	20%
Contextualization Report	25%
Final Exam*	35%

* The final exam for OR321 does not include the content of the seventh lecture, “Historical Overview of Missions.”