

CONTEMPORARY MISSION PROBLEMS
GC715 – 4 units – April 2008

Instructor: **Arnell Motz**, DMin, (PhD in process)
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Bio: Served 12 years in missions administration (as executive director) and 15 years in field ministries (Ethiopia and Bolivia); currently serving as Director of Seminary Impact BSSD.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course examines contemporary mission problems in the global perspective and searches for possible solutions by examining New Testament missionary principles, contemporary strategies and particular models being used by the Holy Spirit in the world today.

Current issues of paternalism, sustainability, dependence, roles of expatriates, creative access, etc. will be examined through a case study approach. The overall purpose of the course would be to develop strategic and creative thinking for global and local impact.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

1. To identify the NT missionary principles that should guide our global strategy
2. To examine the salient global problems impacting the future of missions
3. To develop the skills of creative and strategic thinking that can be applied to mission problems
4. To analyze case studies of contemporary solutions, not to duplicate the methods but to learn from the strategy of what God is doing in the world.

TEXTS:

<i>The Changing Face of World Missions</i>	Pocock, Rheenen, McConnell
<i>Changing the Mind of Missions</i>	Engel, Dyrness

Recommended Reading:

<i>Ministering Cross-Culturally</i>	Lingenfelter
<i>Carey, Christ and Cultural Transformation</i>	Mangalwadi
<i>Great Commission Companies</i>	Rundle & Steffen

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

1. Powerpoint presentation

A 10 minute presentation to the class of your summary of New Testament missionary principles that should guide our global strategy as we address mission problems. Not only give the context of the NT principle but why you think this principle is important to us today.

2. Reaction papers

Submit a 3-4 page paper reacting to each of the case study presentations, analyzing the methodology employed, problems you would anticipate with their methodology, and transferable concepts that could be taken into another situation.

3. Case study project

Choose one problem with a geographic location (issue could be something studied in the course or could be a new issue not discussed). Analyze the problem in terms of its history, factors contributing to the problem, principles that need to be considered, models that are being attempted or models that have possible transference, and then synthesize into a recommended strategy for that situation. Projects will be presented to the class and may employ whatever media is desired for communicating the concepts of the project. (*Maximum of 20 pages double spaced*)

4. Strategic planning manual

Design a basic strategic planning manual that could be used with emerging mission leaders to prepare them for problem solving and creative thinking.

All written work must be typed in the format of the APA manual. Excessive errors such as grammar, punctuation, format, spelling will received a 5-10% grade reduction. Course work is due on the date assigned at the beginning of the class period. Any papers will be graded down one full grade for each week or part of a week that it is late. There will be no extensions for work in this class except for extenuating circumstances, family emergencies of medical reasons.

COURSE RESOURCES:

Guest lecturers will be scheduled for case studies. The following will be used along with others as their available dates are determined.

Tony Weedor, study of Islam in Africa. Weedor is Liberian, raised a Muslim, served as an SIM missionary to Ethiopia and now leads a Christian ministry into his native country of Liberia (based in Denver CO).

Phil Arendt, study of dependence and developing emerging mission leaders. Arendt directs the overseas training of emerging leaders for Partners International (Spokane WA). Main projects include India, Ethiopia, Indonesia.

Martin Lonsdale/ Emmanuel Isch, VP of World Vision, study of sustainability in relief and development.

Francie Overstreet, Kidzana Ministries, study of transference and the training of church leaders cross-culturally. Kidzana is a children's training ministry working mainly in Africa and Eastern Europe.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY:

All written material submitted must be the original work of the student. Academic dishonesty constitutes a serious violation of scholarship standards at Bethel Seminary and an result in denial of credit and possible dismissal from the institution. Please become familiar with the particular academic violations outlined on page 88-89 of the 2007-2008 official catalog. (2007/2008 Student Handbook pg. 23).

DISABILITIES::

Any student who because of a disability may require some special arrangements to meet course requirements should contact the instructor or the Access Coordinator for the Bethel Office of Disability Services by the end of the second week of the quarter to discuss reasonable accommodations. (2007/2008 Student Handbook pg. 20)

DISCLAIMER:

During the course of the term the professor reserves the right to modify any portion of this syllabus as may appear necessary so as to adapt the learning expectations to the needs of the class.