

**MH 520: DYNAMIC EXPANSION OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD (4 units). Paul Pierson, Senior Professor of History of Mission and Latin American Studies, Online Facilitation by Dr. Elaine Vaden.**

---

**DESCRIPTION:**

The purpose of this course is to understand the missiological reinterpretation of the history of the church worldwide and the application of the insights which emerge to present strategies of mission. We will not examine primarily the theological and institutional development of the church, but rather the dynamic of its expansion. We will pay special attention to means of renewal and structures of mission.

**LEARNING OBJECTIVES:**

The student will learn to identify characteristics of new movements of mission which have arisen, normally on the periphery of the established church, and thus be more open to discovering and supporting similar (usually unexpected) movements which may arise in his/her own sphere of influence. In addition he/she may discover tools which help stimulate such movements.

**COURSE FORMAT:**

The class will be conducted on the Internet using a 10-week lesson program aligned with Fuller's academic calendar. Lectures, lecture outlines, associated readings and questions for discussion groups are provided. Each week students and the instructor will interact with the material through journaling, threaded discussions, and web-based research.

**REQUIRED READING:**

If you have previously read a required text, please substitute a book selected from the bibliography.

- Bosch, D. *Transforming Mission*. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books, 1991.
- George, T. *Faithful Witness: The Life of William Carey*. Birmingham, AL: New Hope, 1991.
- Mellis, Charles. *Committed Communities*. Pasadena, CA: William Carey Library, 1976.
- Neill, Stephen. *A History of Christian Missions*. New York, NY: Penguin Books, 1986.
- Walls, Andrew. *The Cross-Cultural Process in Christian History: Studies in Transformation and Appropriation of Faith*. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis, 2002.
- \_\_\_\_\_. *The Missionary Movement in Christian History*. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books, 1996.

**RECOMMENDED READING:**

- Cahill, Thomas. *How the Irish Saved Civilization*. New York, NY: Doubleday, 1996.

**ASSIGNMENTS:**

1. Completion of 1500 pages of reading including required texts and a selection from recommended readings
2. Weekly assignments: This will include participation in threaded discussions, the submission of journal entries, and research using the Internet.
3. Collaborative assignment: Over the course of the term you will be required to work with a group of people from the class to assess how each historical period examined evidences the nine theses presented by the lecturer. Groups will be assigned after the first week and will meet every second week.
4. Preparation of a 10-15 page term paper in which you chose some aspect of the historical development of the Christian movement to study in more detail.
5. Th.M. students are required to read all of Bosch, *Transforming Mission*.

**PREREQUISITES:** None

**RELATIONSHIP TO CURRICULUM:** Optional course to fulfill SIS Core Competency: MA in Global Leadership  
Foundational Studies

**FINAL EXAMINATION:** None.