

MI510: THINKING MISSIOLOGICALLY (4 units)

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COURSE DESCRIPTION:

As with every field of study, missiology has its particular focus, literature, and methods. To engage in missiological reflection requires appropriate tools and resources. This course introduces the student to these basic perspectives and tools. A special feature of the course is the use made of biographies of mission leaders that model effective missiological investigation, reflection, and action. The School of Intercultural Studies' framework for missiological study—*Word, Church, World*—will be employed. Because effective missiology is developed interactively, opportunity will be given for collaboration in learning.

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

- An understanding of what distinguishes *missiological thinking* from other modes of discourse.
- Knowledge of basic missiological literature, key thinkers, and the development of mission studies.
- Ability to evaluate and integrate missiological reflection using the Word-Church-World triad.

COURSE FORMAT:

The class will be conducted on the Internet using a 10-week lesson program aligned with Fuller's academic calendar. Each week students and the instructor will interact with the material examining main themes of missiology with small group presentations of representative missiologists through journaling, threaded discussions, and web-based research.

REQUIRED READING: Read 1,500 pages from the following:

- Gerald H. Anderson, et al., eds., *Mission Legacies: Biographical Studies of Leaders of the Modern Mission Movement*. Orbis Books, 1994.
- Wilbert R. Shenk, ed. *The Transfiguration of Mission*. Herald, 1993.
- Norman E. Thomas, ed., *Classic Texts in Mission and World Christianity*. Orbis Books, 1995.
- Jacob A. Loewen, *Culture and Human Values*. WCL, 1975.
- Wilbert R. Shenk, *Changing Frontiers of Mission* Orbis Books, 1999
- A reader (available within the class) consisting of selected autobiographies from the IBMR "Pilgrimage in Mission" series and essays and excerpts by representative missiologists.
- One book selected from the bibliography, "Basic Books in Missiology", in the syllabus.

RECOMMENDED READING:

- Charles R. Taber, *To Understand the World, to Save the World: The Interface Between Missiology and the Social Sciences*. Trinity Press International, 2000.

ASSIGNMENTS:

1. Weekly Threaded Discussions, Journaling, and Web research.
2. Three reading reports.
3. Students will be required to write a 2,000-word paper as an integrative reflection assignment.
4. The class will be divided into groups of 4-5 persons. Each group will select a missiologist from *Mission Legacies* or the "Pilgrimage in Mission" series (see "Case Studies: Missiologists") and develop a presentation to be made to the whole class. A 2,000-word written summary of the group presentation should be submitted on day the report is due.
5. Th.M. students: read and write review of one additional book from Basic Books in Missiology list (total of 4 reviews); write a 3,750-word term paper.

PREREQUISITES: MA-CCS students should have completed 24 units of missiology.

RELATIONSHIP TO CURRICULUM: The MI510 Online course cannot meet the MI510 integration or core requirements for the SIS MA programs except in very rare circumstances and only by approval of the SIS Academic Advising Office. MA in Global Leadership meets Ministry Focus Studies.

FINAL EXAM: None.