

Updated August 6, 2009

Foundations for Global Christianity
BCM 215

Fall Term 2009

Mondays 6:00 PM – 9:00 PM

Phone (before 10:00 PM please): 781-862-9499

Email: Paul.Borthwick@gordon.edu OR pborthwick@rcn.com

Websites: www.borthwicks.org or www.daintl.org

Facebook: yes, but don't rely on it

Room: Jenks 226

Instructor: Paul Borthwick

Office hours: by arrangement

COURSE SYLLABUS

DESCRIPTION: as Christians, we are part of the world's largest, most culturally diverse, global faith. Given that there are an estimated 2 billion people who call themselves "Christian" and that 70% of these live in the Majority World (Africa, Asia, and Latin America), a student's global understanding must consider the fact that we are part of a faith family that is predominantly non-white, non-Western, and non-wealthy.

The purpose of BCM 215 is to help students examine the biblical convictions and historical foundations that have fostered the international spread of Christianity, especially focusing on Christian expansion after the Reformation (~ 16th century until today). The class sessions, readings, projects and exams integrate the biblical and historical issues related to understanding and participating in a globalized Christian family.

Although not focused on one particular culture or nation, this course will examine how Christianity both adapts to and transcends cultures. By looking at the biblical convictions that both motivated and hampered the pioneer missionaries of the colonial era, we will see the errors of those who saw Christian faith and the Bible exclusively through their own cultural lenses, and we will be challenged to examine our own temptation to do the same.

OBJECTIVES: BCM 215 is designed to give students a basic understanding of the biblical and historical foundations on which global Christianity is built – including biblical teachings, historical movements, and key people that have contributed to the current Christian realities in the world.

All of this is towards that end that students can gain perspective on these issues and how they affect our thinking about issues like justice, globalization, poverty, and what it means to be a globally aware Christian. We will reflect on what makes for effective ministry across cultures, what is the state of the church-at-large today, and how we

respond personally to Jesus' mandates of the "Great Compassion" (Matthew 25:31-46) and the "Great Commission" (Matthew 28:18-20).

- TEXTS:** 1. Borthwick, Paul, *How to Be a World Class Christian* (Gabriel, 2003)
2. Borthwick, Paul, *Six Dangerous Questions to Transform Your View of the World* (InterVarsity Press, 1996)
3. McQuilkin, Robertson. *The Great Omission* (Gabriel, 2002).
4. Moreau, A. Scott, Gary R. Corwin, and Gary B. McGee, *Introducing World Mission: A Biblical, Historical, and Practical Survey* (Baker, 2004).
5. Tucker, Ruth A., *From Jerusalem to Irian Jaya* (Zondervan 1983)

Optional but recommended: Borthwick, Paul, *A Mind for Missions* (NavPress, 1987).

REQUIRED WEB SITE RESOURCES: www.joshuaproject.net and www.lausanne.org (See class participation notes)

GRADING & COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Final Exam:	20%
Mid-Term Exam:	20%
Group Research Paper:	20%
Group Research Presentation:	20%
Quizzes (best 3 of 4):	10%
Attendance/Participation:	10%
Extra Credit – possible (see professor) ¹	

EXAMS:

1. **The FINAL EXAM – 20% (in class, December 7th)** will be an objective exam incorporating the material of the entire class - including historical characters, biblical themes and texts, and geographic learning. There will be a brief essay portion in which students will be asked to identify three key figures in Christian history (pre-1950) whom they find particularly interesting and explain why (one of these three can be the historical figure studied for the group paper/presentation).

¹ For students who are interested in improving their grade, extra credit (including extra reading, key-figure research, etc.) can improve your grade by as much as a half letter grade. Extra credit possibilities in the past have included helping the professor make lectures into Power Point presentations, giving a special presentation in class on how to use the *Evangelical Dictionary of World Missions* CD-Rom, or attending all of the main events at "Global Opportunities Week" and writing a 1-2 page reflection paper. See Professor Borthwick if you want to pursue this.

2. **The MID-TERM EXAM – 20% (in class, October 19th)** will be an objective exam on the theological and historical data covered to this point. Questions will be related to students' understanding of biblical anthropology, Christology, and soteriology. Special attention will be given to the biblical texts related these issues.

PAPERS/ QUIZZES:

3. **Group Research Papers/Presentations – worth a total of 40% of your grade.**

Students will join together in groups of four to five at the beginning of the semester to decide on a character or movement who or which they want to study.

You are encouraged to choose characters or groups you know nothing about, especially those preceding the Protestant Reformation or those representing non-Western Christian expansion (Samuel Crowther, William Wade Harris, Pandita Ramabai, the “Back to Jerusalem Movement” in China, etc.)

Your cooperative study will result in a 20-25 page (assume at least 5 pages per group member, plus footnotes) *research paper that counts as 20% of your grade (Group Papers are due November 30th)*. An in-class presentation of **20 minutes** will constitute **the remaining 20% of your project grade** (specific group dates of presentations will be determined in early October).

Both the paper and the presentation should introduce us to your character(s) or movement, the key events of his/her/their life (lives), and his/her/their contribution to Global Christianity – both historically and for the training of future cross-cultural Christian workers. Papers will be graded on thoroughness of research and thoughtfulness in considering your character’s contribution. Presentations will be graded on evidence of research, total group participation, and creativity.

[**Note:** a listing of potential characters and or movements can be found at the conclusion of class schedule/ assignments. The CD-Rom in the Moreau book can also serve as a starting point.]

4. **QUIZZES – 10%:** There will be four quizzes, and the best three of four grades will count towards your grade. The quizzes will be geographical by region - designed to help the student become familiar with the countries of the world:

- **September 21:** Central & South America
- **October 5:** Africa
- **October 26:** Asia
- **November 30:** Europe

5. **ATTENDANCE AND CLASS PARTICIPATION – 10%** - will contribute to the student's grade based on his/her ability to interact with assigned readings, the class presentations, and the issues confronted through personal research and exam

preparation. Attendance is very significant because the class is only offered one night per week, so missing one class of MIS 215 equals missing one full week of classes.

UNREACHED PEOPLES: every student will be asked to visit the “Joshua Project” Web Site (www.joshuaproject.net) and choose three unreached people groups (UPG’s) to learn about and pray for through the semester.

- As part of the class-participation grade, students will be asked to lead class in prayer for **one** of these people groups at some point in the semester.
- On the night of your presentation of this unreached people group, you will be asked to submit a 1-page, double spaced summary of these facts.
- Finally, you will introduce facts about your three chosen peoples groups on the Final Exam.

CLASS SCHEDULE

Classes go from 6:00 PM until 9:00 PM, with a 15-minute break about 7:30 PM

August 31: Class & lecturer introduction

- Where have you been?
- What do you believe about people without Jesus?
- Syllabus
- The Missionary Heart of God

Prepare for September 14: Read Moreau, Part 1

- Read *How to Be a World-Class Christian*
- Visit the “Joshua Project” web site (www.joshuaproject.net) and choose three Unreached People Groups to start learning about.
- Optional – read *A Mind for Missions*

September 14: "The Biblical Basis for Global Christianity"

- The Missiology of God
- John 3:16 as a summary of God’s Global Plan
- Unreached People Group prayer

Prepare for September 21:

- Prepare for **Quiz** on Central/South America
- Read *Six Dangerous Questions*, Chapters 1-6
- Read ALL of McQuilkin’s *Great Omission*
- Read Universalism articles (distributed in class)

***Form Groups – Decide on person or character to study.
Make sure to have a “backup” choice (by October 5th).***

September 21: **Quiz #1:** Central & South America

- “The Biblical Basis for Global Christianity” 2

- Old Testament Foundations
- New Testament Foundations

Prepare for October 5: Catch up on readings

- Read ALL of McQuilkin's *Great Omission*
- Read Universalism handouts given out in class
- Read the Lausanne Covenant at www.lausanne.org (**print yourself a copy!**)

September 28: "Movie Night"

- You will be responsible for the content of the movies shown
 - *Peace Child*
 - *End of the Spear*
 - *Beyond the Gates of Splendor*

October 5: Biblical Issues that Shape World View

- Universalism versus the coming Judgment
- Heaven & Hell
- Pluralism/Syncretism & "Engaged Exclusivism"
- "The Lausanne Covenant"
 - *The Whole Church Taking the Whole Gospel to the Whole World*
- Unreached People Group prayer

BY TONIGHT: form study groups; decide on your person or movement to research

Prepare for October 12:

- Prepare for **Quiz #2** – Africa
- Read *Six Dangerous Questions*, Chapters 7-10

October 12: **QUIZ #2 – Africa**

- History Meets Theology: Why the Reformers Disregarded the Great Commission
- What is our Responsibility for the Great Commission?
- Biblical Issues that Shape World View
 - Biblical Anthropology & the "Kingdom of God"
- Unreached People Group prayer

Prepare for 10/19: **Prepare for Mid-Term Exam**

October 19: **MID-TERM Exam**

Prepare for 10/26: Prepare for **Quiz #3: Asia**

- Read the entirety of the Book of Acts
- Read Moreau, Chapter 5 and 6
- Read *From Jerusalem to Irian Jaya*, 1-137

October 26: Quiz #3: Asia

- Survey of the Book of Acts
- The Missiology of Peter and the Church at Pentecost
- The Missiology of Paul and his team

GROUP PRESENTATIONS #1**Prepare for November 2:**

- Read Moreau, Chapters 7 & 8
- Read *From Jerusalem to Irian Jaya*, 138-226.

November 2:

- The expansion of Christianity up to and through the Middle Ages
 - Christianity as State Religion
 - The Celts
 - The Holy Crusades
 - The Moravians
 - Mission to Native Americans
- Unreached People Group prayer

GROUP PRESENTATIONS #2**Prepare for November 9:**

- Read *From Jerusalem to Irian Jaya*, 227-327

November 9: The expansion of Christianity: The “Great” Century:

- Foundations: people, revivals, and movements
 - Europeans to Asia
 - North Americans begin in Asia
 - Colonialism
 - Missions to Africa, the Far East, and the Pacific Islands
- Unreached People Group prayer

GROUP PRESENTATIONS #3**Prepare for November 16:**

- Read Tucker, 328-490
- Catch up on all readings

November 16: “Four Men, Three Eras”

- Twenty-first Century Global Christianity
- New Paradigms of Sending
- Forces shaping Global Christianity Today
 - The Prosperity Gospel
 - Localized (Indigenous) Theology

- “From every nation to every nation”
- Increased commitment to Holistic Ministry
- Unreached People Group prayer

GROUP PRESENTATIONS #4

Prepare for 11/23, 11/30: Work together on Research Projects

November 23: Research Project Night

- No class – a gracious pre-Thanksgiving gift!

Prepare for November 30:

- Study for **Quiz #4**: Europe
- **RESEARCH PAPERS DUE** at the start(!) of our 12/1/08 class
- Catch up on all readings

November 30: QUIZ #4: Europe

- Review for Final Exam
- Where Does the USA Church Fit Into the Global Church?
- *A Great Commission, Great Compassion Lifestyle*
- Unreached People Group prayer

Prepare for 12/7: Prepare for **FINAL EXAM**

December 7: FINAL EXAM in Class

Possible Characters/Movements You & Your Group May Want To Study – People or Topics in BOLD ITALICS will be given extra credit.

Pre-William Carey & the Modern Missionary Movement

- Count Nicolas Von Zinzendorf and the Moravians
- ***Ignatius Loyola & The Jesuits***
- St. Francis of Assisi
- Mateo Ricci
- Alopen, pioneer to China
- The Twelve Apostles and where they went
- ***St. Patrick, Columba, and Columbanus of Ireland***
- ***Cyril & Methodius, apostles to the Slavs***
- ***Raymond Lull, pioneer to the Muslims***
- Bartolome de Las Casas, “Apostle of the Indies”
- ***Francis Xavier***
- John Eliot
- David Brainerd

- ***Ziegenbalg & Plutschau, pioneers to India***

18th Century to the Present

- William Carey, the "Father of Modern Missions."
- ***Samuel Crowther & his work in West Africa & what is now Nigeria***
- ***Lott Carey, one of the first African-American missionaries***
- ***Rufus Anderson, Henry Venn, and the "Three-Self Movement"***
- Adoniram and Ann (a.k.a. Nancy) Judson and their ministry in Burma
- Mary Slessor and her work in Calabar (Nigeria) with orphans
- E. Stanley Jones & his work in India
- Betty Greene and the start of Missions Aviation Fellowship
- Amy Carmichael and her work in India rescuing girl prostitutes
- Father Damien and his work with the lepers of Molokai
- Hudson Taylor and the China Inland Mission
- C.T. Studd and the Worldwide Evangelization Crusade
- David Livingstone and the interior of Africa
- A.J. Gordon & the Gordon School of the Bible & Missions
- Dwight L. Moody, Mt. Hermon, and the Student Volunteer Movement
- John & Betty Stam, martyrs in China
- ***Donald McGavran and the "Homogeneous Unit Principle"***
- ***The Azusa Street Revival & the Launch of Global Pentecostalism***
- ***The "Back to Jerusalem" Movement in China***
- Uncle Cam (Cameron) Townsend and the Wycliffe Bible Translators
- Jim Elliot, Elisabeth Elliot and the Auca Martyrs
- Dr. Ralph Winter and the U.S. Center for World Mission

Students with Disabilities:

See Web Site for Gordon College's commitment to making academic accommodations as needed