

Updated August 16, 2012

Foundations for Global Christianity
BCM 215

Fall Term 2012

Mondays 6:00 PM – 9:00 PM

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Facebook: yes, but don't rely on it for messages

Room: KOSC 109

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, historical foundations, and current developments that have fostered and are fostering the international spread of Christianity. Our biblical section will focus on the *Missio Dei* (overall Mission of God) as revealed in the Scriptures. Our examination of historical foundations and current developments will focus on Christian expansion after the Reformation (~ 16th century) until today. The class sessions, readings, projects, interviews, interactions and exams are aimed at integrating the biblical, historical, and current 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, the idea that Gambian scholar Lamin Sanneh calls the "Translatibility" of Christianity. By looking at the biblical convictions that both motivated and hampered the pioneer missionaries of the colonial era, we will confront 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. It is designed as preparatory and foundational for BCM 216, "Global Issues Facing the Global Church."

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* (InterVarsity Press, 2009)
2. Borthwick, Paul, *Six Dangerous Questions to Transform Your View of the World* (InterVarsity Press, 1996).
3. Mangalwadi, Vishal and Ruth, *The Legacy of William Carey: A Model for the Transformation of a Culture* (Crossway Books, 1999).
4. McQuilkin, Robertson. *The Great Omission* (Gabriel, 2002).
5. Ramachandra, Vinoth, *The Recovery of Mission: Beyond the Pluralist Paradigm* (Eerdmans, 1996).
6. Sanneh, Lamin, *Translating the Message: The Missionary Impact on Culture* (Orbis Press, 1989).
7. Tucker, Ruth A., *From Jerusalem to Irian Jaya* (Zondervan 1983)

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

GRADING & COURSE REQUIREMENTS

- **Final Exam:** 20%
- **Mid-Term Exam:** 10%
- **Reflection Paper #1:** 10%
- **Group Research Paper:** 15%
- **Group Research Presentation:** 15%
- **Quizzes (best 3 of 4):** 10%
- **Global Engagement Paper** 10%
- **Attendance/Participation:** 10%
- **Extra Credit – possible (see professor)¹**

EXAMS:

1. **The FINAL EXAM – 20% (in class, December 10th)** will be an objective exam incorporating the material of the entire class - including historical characters, biblical

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.

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).

2. **The MID-TERM EXAM – 10% (in class, October 15th)** 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. **Reflection Paper (10% - Paper due November 5th):** students will write a reflection paper from one of two options incorporating non-Western authors' perspectives on issues related to Global Christianity.

- **OPTION 1: GLOBAL THEOLOGIZING:** this is a 5-6 page written reflection on the assigned reading by McQuilkin and Ramachandra. Your paper should demonstrate understanding of the main ideas from both authors and then discuss the question, "How does each author address the theological idea of the uniqueness of Jesus (Jesus as Savior alone) and its impact of global missions?"
- **OPTION 2: CROSS-CULTURAL MINISTRY IMPACT:** this option will be a 5-6 page reflection on the assigned reading by Mangalwadi and Sanneh. Your paper should demonstrate understanding of the main ideas from both authors and then discuss the question, "What does each author identify as impact of cross-cultural missionaries on the cultures where they serve?"

4. **Group Research Papers/Presentations – worth a total of 30% of your grade.**

Students will join together in groups of five to six 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 25-30 page (assume at least 5 pages per group member, plus footnotes) *research paper that counts as 15% of your grade (Group Papers are due December 3rd)*. An *in-class presentation of 20 minutes* will constitute *the remaining 15% of your project grade*.

Preparation for this research paper and presentation will follow this approximate calendar:

- **September 24th**: in-class instruction on how to research and write an effective paper (outlining, researching, composing, editing)
- **September 24th**: groups and group projects chosen
- **October 8th**: outlines due from each group on how the paper will be structured and from each group member on the structure of each writer's section in the paper (to ensure that that everyone participates in the group project.
- **October 8th**: in-class instruction on how to present your project in class as a group (oral skills, use of technology, creativity, etc.)
- **October 15th**: outlines returned with editing and structural suggestions.
- **October 22nd**: in-class presentations begin.
- **December 3rd**: Group Papers due.

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.]

5. 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 17:** Central & South America
- **October 8:** Africa
- **October 22:** Asia
- **November 26:** Europe

6. GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT PAPER (10%: Paper due December 3rd). Over the course of the semester, students will be given opportunities to interact directly with representative samples of non-Western Christianity. This will include – though is not limited to:

- **September 11:** listen to/reflect on the ways that the anniversary of the attacks of 9/11/01 are being reported.
- **Throughout the semester:** international guests to the class (possibilities include visiting missionaries, Majority World missionaries serving in the Boston area and global Christian leaders studying at local seminaries)
- **Throughout the semester:** on-line involvement in the issues and interactions connected to the Lausanne 3 conference in Capetown, South Africa (October 2010) – www.lausanne.org.
- **October 2-4:** participation in the Global conference of Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary.

- **November 4-11:** participate in/organize others to participate in the International Day of Prayer for the persecuted church (www.idop.org)
- **Throughout the semester:** worship at a church service from another culture from one's own.
- **Throughout the semester:** involvement in Gordon's Global Awareness Week or other Global Conferences at churches in the Boston area.

Students will be asked to **participate at least twice** in one of the 'engagement' options and then synthesize these interactions into a 4-5 page paper due at the end of the semester in which they will articulate "*Lessons learned about the Global Church*" in which they will cite personal cross-cultural encounters and how their view of the world, the Church, or even God has changed over the semester.

7. 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 BCM 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

WEDNESDAY, September 5: SPECIAL DATE! (our only Wednesday Class)

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

Prepare for September 17:

- Email response to 'eternal destiny' question **BY SEPTEMBER 10**
- 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.

- GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT OPTION: Listen to/reflect on the ways that the 10th Anniversary of the attacks of 9-11-01 are being reported (see Paul Borthwick's "Six Perspectives on September 11" on Blackboard).
- Prepare for Central & South America Quiz September 17

September 10: "Movie Night" (Borthwick in Nigeria)

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

Prepare for September 17:

- Read *How to Be a World-Class Christian*
- Prepare for **Quiz** on Central/South America
- Read *Six Dangerous Questions*
- GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT OPTION: watch any of the 6 Borthwick videos related to global missions on Vimeo (5 at <http://vimeo.com/paulborthwick>; the other is at <http://player.vimeo.com/video/22307959?portrait=0&autoplay=1>)

September 17: "The Biblical Basis for Global Christianity"

- **Quiz #1:** Central & South America
- The Missiology of God
- John 3:16 as a summary of God's Global Plan
- Unreached People Group prayer

Prepare for September 24:

- Read ALL of McQuilkin's *Great Omission*
- Read Universalism articles (distributed in class)
- GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT OPTION: Lausanne 3 in Capetown – any of the presentations on "Truth" [October 18, 2010] (<http://www.lausanne.org/cape-town-2010/schedule.html>)

***Form Groups – Decide on person or character to study.
Make sure to have a "backup" choice (by September 24th).***

September 24: "The Biblical Basis for Global Christianity" 2

- Old Testament Foundations
- New Testament Foundations
- RESEARCH PAPER INSTRUCTIONS
- Research Project Groups and Topics submitted

Prepare for October 1: Catch up on readings

- Read ALL of Ramachandra's *Recovery of Mission*
- Read the Lausanne Covenant at www.lausanne.org (**print yourself a copy!**)

- Work on proposals for group & individual Research Paper Outlines due 10/8
- GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT OPTION: Lausanne 3 in Capetown – any of the presentations on “Reconciliation” [October 19, 2010]
(<http://www.lausanne.org/cape-town-2010/schedule.html>)

October 1: 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

Prepare for October 8:

- Prepare for **Quiz #2** – Africa
- Group and individual Research Paper Outlines due 10/08
- GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT OPTION: Gordon Conwell Mission week: 10/2-4
- GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT OPTION: Lausanne 3 in Capetown – any of the presentations on “World Faiths” [October 20, 2010]
(<http://www.lausanne.org/cape-town-2010/schedule.html>)

October 8: History Meets Theology: Why the Reformers Disregarded the Great Commission

- **Quiz #2** – Africa
- The Great Commissions
 - What is our Responsibility for the Great Commission?
- Biblical Issues that Shape World View
 - Biblical Anthropology & the "Kingdom of God"
- Unreached People Group prayer
- RESEARCH PROJECTS: in-class presentation on how to prepare for your Group oral presentation.

Prepare for October 15:

- Stay ahead of readings for Paper due in November
- **Prepare for Mid-Term Exam**

October 15: **MID-TERM Exam**

- Research Paper/Project outlines returned

Prepare for 10/22 and 10/29: Prepare for **Quiz #3: Asia**

- Read the entirety of the Book of Acts
- Read ALL of Mangalwadi’s *Legacy of William Carey*
- Read ALL of Sanneh’s *Translating the Message*
- Read *From Jerusalem to Irian Jaya*, 1-137

October 22: 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 October 29:**

- Read *From Jerusalem to Irian Jaya*, 138-226.
- Be working on Reflection Paper due November 5th.

October 29:

- 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 5:**

- Read *From Jerusalem to Irian Jaya*, 227-327
- Reflection Paper Due November 8 (see description above)
- GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT OPTION: meet with non-Western Christian leaders participating at the Global Conferences of Park Street Church in Boston or Grace Chapel in Lexington.

November 5: 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 14:**

- Read Tucker, 328-490
- Catch up on all readings
- GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT OPTION: participate in/organize others to participate in the International Day of Prayer (November 11) for the persecuted church (www.idop.org)

November 12: “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 11/19, 11/26: Work together on Research Projects

November 19: Research Project Night

- No class – a gracious pre-Thanksgiving gift!

Prepare for November 26:

- Study for **Quiz #4:** Europe
- **RESEARCH PAPERS DUE** at the start(!) of our 12/3/12 class
- Catch up on all readings

November 26: QUIZ #4: Europe

- Review for Final Exam
- Where Does the USA Church Fit Into the Global Church?
- Unreached People Group prayer

GROUP PRESENTATIONS 5 – if needed

Prepare for 12/3: Research Papers due

Global Engagement Paper due.

December 3: Prepare for **FINAL EXAM**

- The Way Forward
- *A Great Commission, Great Compassion Lifestyle*
- *Papers due!*

December 10: FINAL EXAM in Class

Possible Characters/Movements You & Your Group May Want To Study – I’m especially interested in People or Topics in BOLD ITALICS.

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
- Dr. John Stott
- Billy Graham
- Rev. Festo Kivengere (Uganda)

Students with Disabilities: Gordon College is committed to assisting students with documented disabilities (see Academic Catalog Appendix C, for documentation guidelines). A student with a disability who may need academic accommodations should follow this procedure:

1. Meet with a staff person from the Academic Support Center (Jenks 412 X4746) to:
 - a. make sure documentation of your disability is on file in the ASC,
 - b. discuss the accommodations for which you are eligible,
 - c. discuss the procedures for obtaining the accommodations, and
 - d. obtain a **Faculty Notification Form**.

2. Deliver a Faculty Notification Form to each course professor *within the first full week of the semester*; at that time make an appointment to discuss your needs with each professor.

Failure to register in time with your professor and the ASC may compromise our ability to provide the accommodations. Questions or disputes about accommodations should be immediately referred to the Academic Support Center. (See also Grievance Procedures in Student Handbook.)

Library Resources Statement from Dr. Myron Schirer-Suter, Director of Library Services

Students are responsible to obtain any library resources assigned for this course. Questions about library resources should be directed to librarians in the Jenks Library. Librarians are available to assist you from the library reference desk, by e-mail at library@gordon.edu, or by phone (978) 867-4878.