

Updated January 4, 2010

BCM 216 – Global Issues Facing the Global Church
Winter/Spring Term 2010

Tuesdays: 1:15 PM – 4:15 PM

Instructor: Paul Borthwick

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FYI: for copies of this syllabus or the Borthwick Travel Schedule, check out our web site at www.borthwicks.org. You can also contact me through the website.

DESCRIPTION: The global church needs to respond to a globalized world, and a student prepared to live responsibly in this world needs to understand what the global issues are facing the Church and how her or his Christian faith enables them to take action. Building on the realities of a church that is estimated as 70% non-Western, this course will help students understand ways that they – in partnership with their global Christian family – can cooperate and strategize to make a difference.

OBJECTIVE: This course is designed to give students an overview of a wide range of contemporary issues facing the worldwide Church of Jesus Christ; these include:

- Population growth, urbanization, and the stewardship of the environment
- The impact – both positively and negatively – of globalization, Americanization, and the economic growth of places like China and India
- HIV/AIDS, malaria, and other global epidemics
- The state of the global Church and the problem of superficiality (“converts” rather than “disciples”)
- The challenges of serving cross-culturally: contextualization, adaptation, cultural sensitivity, etc.
- The need for mutuality, humility and learning together through global partnerships
- The rich versus poor gap in the world and the responsibility every Western Christian must wrestle with
- Issues related to justice, ethnic genocides and the need for reconciliation, and Christians in roles of both diplomacy and peace-making.
- Issues related to human trafficking, immigration, and other topics directed at our core beliefs in humans created in the image of God.
- Mobilizing the USA Church for local and global (“Glocal”) outreach

- Discovering God's direction for our lives
- Developing a World-Christian lifestyle

The class is intended to give students a wide range of topics for general knowledge and then invite specific in-depth research and reporting on one specific issue, trend, or challenge. The goal of all this is to add a global dimension to their studies and preparation at Gordon so that they begin to synthesize these issues with their own plans by asking the question, ***“What should my response be to these matters?”***

PRIMARY TEXTS:

- Myers, Bryant. *Exploring World Mission: Context & Challenges* (World Vision/ MARC).
- Noll, Mark. *The New Shape of Global Christianity* (InterVarsity Press, 2009).
- Stearns, Richard. *The Hole in Our Gospel*. (Thomas Nelson, 2009).

REFLECTION PAPER TEXTS:

- Allen, Roland, *Missionary Methods: St. Paul's or Ours?* (Eerdmans, 1962)
- Donovan, Vincent. *Christianity Rediscovered* (Orbis)
- Hoke, Steve, and Bill Taylor. *Global Missions Handbook* (InterVarsity Press, 2009)..

GRADING & COURSE REQUIREMENTS (Students With Disabilities, please see a statement specifically related to Academic Support in the Course Catalog)

Final Exam:	15%
Mid-Term Exam:	15%
Collateral Reading Report	10%
Reflection Paper #1	10%
Reflection Paper #2	10%
Group Research Paper	15%
Group Research Presentation	15%
Attendance/Participation	10%

EXPLANATION OF REQUIREMENTS:

10% **Collateral Reading**: each student will be asked to do 500 pages of additional collateral reading related to the issue that you choose for your research project. Towards the end of the semester (**by April 27**), students will be asked to submit a reading list with a brief synopsis (one to three paragraphs) of all materials read or researched. If portions of the required readings are applicable, you may include these pages in your collateral reading report.

20% **Reflection Papers**: each student will be asked to submit two 2-3 page (typed, double-spaced) reflection papers:

- Paper #1 should be a review/reflection on EITHER the Allen (*Missionary Methods*) OR the Donovan (*Christianity Rediscovered*) book. Your reflection should articulate, “How this book affected my thinking about cross-cultural missionary work.” **Due: Tuesday, February 16th**
- Paper #2 should be on the book *Global Mission Handbook!* (Hoke & Taylor) and should reflect on the question, “How this book could help me (or my friends) get from Gordon into cross-cultural missions” – including strengths, weaknesses, & any topics you think were omitted.” **Due: Tuesday, April 13th**.

30% **Exams**. There will be a mid-term (**March 2**) and a final (**week of May 12th**) exams (each worth 15% of your grade). These will be objective exams containing short-answer questions, matching, and multiple-choice questions.

30% **Group Research Papers/Presentations**. Students will join together in groups of four to five at the beginning of the semester to decide on an issue that they want to study (**by 2/16/10**). This cooperative study will result in a *20-25 page (approximately 5 pages/group member) research paper that counts as 15% of your grade. An in-class presentation of 10-15 minutes will constitute the remaining 15% of your grade.* Both the paper and the presentation should introduce us to your topic and contemporary Christian responses to that topic. Papers will be graded on thoroughness of research and thoughtfulness in considering the issue. Presentations will be graded on evidence of research, total group participation, and creativity in presentation. ***All group papers are due Tuesday, May 4th***. [Note: a listing of potential for study can be found on this syllabus at the conclusion of class schedule/ assignments.]

10% **Attendance & Class Participation**

CLASS SCHEDULE/ASSIGNMENTS

(Topics & assignments may change throughout the semester at the discretion of the professor)

January 19:

- Introduction of course, professor, syllabus
- Quiz: What Do You Know About the World?

Read for January 26th

- ALL of Myers, especially “State of the World”
- *Atlantic Monthly* articles: “Jihad vs. McWorld” (Barber) and “The Next Christianity” (Jenkins)

January 26: MACRO Global Issues – Getting the BIG Picture

- Videos to give a global overview

- SPIRITUAL WARFARE: Encountering the spiritual world, including the spiritual issues facing the church like territorial spirits, spiritual warfare, demonism.

Read for February 2 & 9:

- Noll, first half

February 2: Global “Culture”

- “Globalization”
- Top Ten Things a Gordon College Student Should know about missions in the 21st century
- The Rise of Islamic Fundamentalism: “Why the Rest Hates the West”

Read for February 9:

- Article: “Is Islam a Peaceful Religion?” (*Christianity Today*, 1/7/02)

February 9: Issues Facing the Western Church

- The Whole Gospel: Justice, Righteousness & Politics
- Urbanization: trend & challenge
- God's Call: Passion, Gifts, & More
- Full-Time Service: "Career" Service or "Secular" Employment?
- Reaching the World that has Come To Us

Study Groups and Topics chosen by 2/16! Submit your group names and topic (plus a second choice) for the professor's approval

Read for February 16:

- Myers – all
- Noll, second half
- BOTH Donovan and Allen: write a reflection paper on one but ***read both!***

Due for February 16: Reflection Paper #1 (see instructions above) on either the Vincent Donovan or Roland Allen books.

February 23: Trinitarian Missions

- The Global AIDS Crisis
- Discussion of Noll
- Discussion of Myers
- Displaced People, Refugees, & Immigrants

For March 2:

- Catch up/ extra project reading
- Prepare for Mid-Term

- MID-TERM REVIEW WILL BE POSTED ON BLACKBOARD

March 2: MID-TERM Exam

Read for March 16: Stearns, *The Hole in Our Gospel*

March 9: No class. Spring Break. [Borthwick teaching in Sri Lanka]

March 17: Global Christianity, Local Application

- Discussion of Stearns
- Discussion of Donovan and Allen books
- Issues in World Evangelization
 - The Unreached: are they really lost?
 - The Three Great Challenges: Islam, Hinduism, & China
 - Needs: Physical & Spiritual

Read for March 23:

- Handouts given/websites assigned in class

March 23: Issues in World Evangelization:

- Human trafficking
- The "10/40" Window
- Postmodernism & Its Impact On Sending Nations
- Evangelizing in Secular Society

Class presentations 1

Read for March 30 & April 6:

- Catch up/ extra project reading

March 30: Issues in World Evangelization:

- Tentmaking
- Discovering God's Will for My Life
- Single or Married? Children or not?

Class presentations 2

April 6: Issues in World Evangelization:

- Missions: Are We Building on a Defective History?
- The problem of making "converts" rather than "disciples"

- The Church under persecution

Class presentations 3

Read for April 13:

- MED info given out in class
- Extra project reading
- **Due April 13: Reflection Paper #2 on *Global Mission Handbook***

April 13: Issues Facing cross-cultural workers

- The Money Challenge: Debts, Support-raising & More
- Choosing a Globally-relevant economic lifestyle
- Economic Empowerment of the Poor

Class Presentations 4

Read for April 20:

- Catch up/ extra project reading

April 21: Issues Facing Cross-Cultural Workers 2

- Cross-Cultural Adaptation: Addressing Issues of Contextualization
- Communication and Lifestyle Issues Facing the Western Church
- Women as Pastors and Leaders
- Servanthood or Control?
- Mobilizing Others

Read for April 27:

- Noll, the Jenkins article re: the Church in Africa
- Handouts given in class

April 27: ***Collateral Reports due***

Looking specifically at “the next Christendom”

- *The rise of the African Church: Africa as "representative" Christianity*
- *The fourth era of modern missions: indigenous missionaries.* The role of indigenous leaders in completing the Great Commission: Learning to Re-Think our Paradigms about how the world will be won to Christ.

Read for week of May 10: catch up/Finish Research Papers

May 5: RESEARCH PAPERS DUE

Prepare for week of May 10th: Final Exam

Week of May 10th (TBD): FINAL EXAM

ISSUES YOUR GROUP MIGHT WANT TO STUDY (Study topics & groups must be chosen no later than *Tuesday, February 16th, 2010* for the professors approval)

- The Church in the Peoples Republic of China
- Jenkins' *New Faces of Christianity or God's Continent?*
- Issues Facing the Church in India
- The Malaria Crisis – Especially in Contrast to HIV/AIDS
- Crises in the Middle East (with a specific emphasis on a project that might involve the class or the school in something related to aiding Palestinian Christians or fostering Israeli/Palestinian peace)
- Missions and Issues of the Environment
- Human trafficking, Sex Trade, & Sweatshops
- Global Youth Population & the Impact of Globalization
- The Persecuted Church (generally or in one specific country)
- Responses to Religious Fanaticism (perhaps leading to a project in something related to Christian responses in Sudan, Iraq or Afghanistan)
- New “Senders” – Issues Facing the Church in Brazil, Nigeria, Korea
- The Church in Response to Global Poverty
- The Church Responds to Terrorism
- A Missiological Evaluation of movements like a) Rick Warren's P.E.A.C.E Plan, b) International Justice Mission, c) “Not For Sale” or another.
- "What is the 'call' to cross-cultural missions?"
- Complex Humanitarian Emergencies & Christian Responses
- The Church in Response to Urbanization
- Children at Risk: 200 million Unreached Street Kids
- Tentmaking Ministry: Opportunities? Limitations?
- Responses to Oscar Muriu (Urbana 2006 message)
- What Realistic Results Can Be Expected From Short-Term Missions?
- The World that Has Come To Us: Reaching Out to International Students
- Ethnicity vs. Ethnocentrism – Affirming One/Condemning the Other
- Your choice: something related to your passions, dreams, or major?