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BCM 216 – Contemporary Developments in World Missions
Global Issues Facing the Global Church
Fall Term 2012

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:

- Jenkins, Philip. *The Next Christendom* (3rd edition) (Oxford University Press, 2011)
- Stearns, Richard. *The Hole in Our Gospel*. (Thomas Nelson, 2009).
- Stott, John. *Issues Facing Christians Today* (4th ed.) (Zondervan, 2006).

REFLECTION PAPER TEXTS:

- Allen, Roland, *Missionary Methods: St. Paul’s or Ours?* (Eerdmans, 1962)
- Donovan, Vincent. *Christianity Rediscovered* (Orbis, 2003)

GLOBAL REFLECTION TEXTS: students are required to read at least one resource concerning global issues facing the global church written by a non-Western leader such as Kwame Bediako (Ghana), Vinoth Ramachandra (Sri Lanka), Vishal Mangalwadi (India), Samuel Escobar (Peru), Rene Padilla (Argentina) or others. These books can be part of your project research and/or part of your auxiliary reading, but the book(s) chosen must be approved by the professor **by October 2, 2012**.

REFLECTION PAPER WEB SITE RESOURCE: <<http://www.lausanne.org/cape-town-2010>>

The Third Lausanne Congress was held in Cape Town, South Africa October 16-25, 2010. More than 4,000 leaders (including your professor) gathered and many sessions were devoted to global issues facing the worldwide church including HIV/AIDS, globalization, the prosperity Gospel, the holistic Gospel, human trafficking, inter-faith conflict, and many more.

GRADING & COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Final Exam:	15%
Mid-Term Exam:	15%
Collateral Reading Report	10%
Global Theologizing Reflection	10%
Group Research Paper	15%

Group Research Presentation	15%
Global Engagement Paper	10%
Attendance/Participation	10%

EXPLANATION OF REQUIREMENTS:

Collateral Reading (10% of grade): 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 December 4th**), 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.

Global Integration Papers (20% of grade): each student will be asked to submit two 4-5 page (typed, double-spaced) reflection papers:

- **Global Theologizing Reflection:**
 - This first paper should be a review/reflection/integration of Roland Allen's *Missionary Methods* and Vincent Donovan's *Christianity Rediscovered*.
 - Your reflection should articulate, "How these books have affected my thinking about contemporary cross-cultural mission work." **Due: Tuesday, October 2nd**
- **Global Engagement Paper:**
 - This second paper should be a 4-5 page reflection on the composite lessons learned from the semester.
 - Reflections should include lessons learned from guest speakers in class, from books written by non-Western Christian leaders, and by things learned in the process of researching your group topic.
 - Your reflection should articulate how the issues covered and things learned in this class have affected your thinking about where and how you might invest your life in the years ahead. **Due: Tuesday, November 27th.**

Exams (30% of grade): There will be a mid-term exam (**October 16th**) and a final (**week of December 17th**) exam, each worth 15% of your grade. These will be objective exams containing short-answer questions, matching, and multiple-choice questions.

Group Research Papers/Presentations (30% of grade). 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 (**10/2/12**). 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 15-20 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, December 11th . [Note: a listing of potential for study can be found on this syllabus at the conclusion of class schedule/ assignments.]

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

- **October 2nd**: in-class instruction on how to research and write an effective paper (outlining, researching, composing, editing)
- **October 2nd**: groups and group projects chosen
- **October 9th**: 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 9th**: in-class instruction on how to present your project in class as a group (oral skills, use of technology, creativity, etc.)
- **October 16th**: outlines returned with editing and structural suggestions.
- **October 23rd**: in-class presentations begin.
- **December 11th**: Group Papers due.

Attendance & Class Participation (10% of grade)

CLASS SCHEDULE/ASSIGNMENTS

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

September 4:

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

Read for September 18th:

- Stott, Parts 1 and 2 (pp. 1-213)
- *Atlantic Monthly* articles: "Jihad vs. McWorld" (Barber) and "The Next Christianity" (Jenkins)

September 11: MOVIES & WEBSITES (Borthwick in Nigeria)

Read for September 18 & 25:

- Jenkins, Chapters 1-5

September 18: 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 September 25:

- Jenkins, Chapters 1-5

September 25: Global “Culture”

- “Globalization” – advocates and opponents
- 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 October 2:

- Article: “Is Islam a Peaceful Religion?” (*Christianity Today*, 1/7/02)
- **Global Theologizing Paper due October 2nd (see above)**
- ***Study Groups and Topics chosen by 10/2.***

October 2: 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 10/2. Submit your group names and topic (plus a second choice) for the professor's approval

Read for October 9th

- Jenkins, Chapters 6-7
- Stott, Part 3

October 9th: Trinitarian Missions

- The Global AIDS Crisis
- Discussion of Jenkins, Stott thus far
- Displaced People, Refugees, & Immigrants

For October 16th:

- Catch up/ extra project reading
- Prepare for Mid-Term exam
- MID-TERM REVIEW WILL BE POSTED ON BLACKBOARD

October 16: Mid-Term Exam in class

Read for October 23: Stearns, *The Hole in Our Gospel*

October 23rd: 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

Group Presentations 1

Read for October 30th:

- Handouts given/websites assigned in class
- Read Stott, Part 4 and conclusion

October 30th: Issues in World Evangelization:

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

Group Presentations 2

Read for November 6 and 13:

- Finish Jenkins
- Catch up/ extra project reading

November 6th: Issues in World Evangelization:

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

Group Presentations 3

Read for November 6 and 13:

- Finish Jenkins
- Catch up/ extra project reading

November 13th: Issues in World Evangelization:

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

Group presentations 4

Read for November 27th

- MED info given out in class
- Extra project reading
- ***Global Engagement Paper due November 27(see above)***

November 20th: RESEARCH PAPER NIGHT (no class / Thanksgiving Week)

November 27th: Issues Facing cross-cultural workers

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

Read for December 4th:

- Catch up/ extra project reading
- ***Collateral Reading Reports due December 4.***

December 4th: 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

Prepare for December 11:

- Catch up/Finish Research Papers

December 11th: GROUP RESEARCH PAPERS 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.

For week of December 17: Final Exam (review will be posted on Blackboard)

ISSUES YOUR GROUP MIGHT WANT TO STUDY (Study topics & groups must be chosen no later than *Tuesday, October 2, 2012* 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)
- The Church in response to Environmental Issues
- 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 in response to the Prosperity Gospel
- 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)
- Responses to message(s) from the Capetown 2010 conference
- 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?

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.)