



**MISR 9304 Supervised Reading Colloquium  
World Religion and Transcultural Communication  
New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary  
Division of Pastoral Ministries  
Spring Semester 2017**

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**Mission Statement**

The mission of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary is to equip leaders to fulfill the Great Commission (Matthew 28: 16-20) and the Great Commandments (Matthew 22: 34-40) through the local church and its ministries.

**Core Value Focus**

The seminary has five core values: Doctrinal Integrity, Spiritual Vitality, Mission Focus, Characteristic Excellence, and Servant Leadership. The core value focus for this academic year is Characteristic Excellence, which states in part: “What we do, we do to the utmost of our abilities and resources as a testimony to the glory of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Characteristic Excellence is addressed by preparing students to excel in their ability to interpret Scripture, which is foundational to effective ministry”.

**Curriculum Competencies Addressed**

All graduates of NOBTS are expected to have at least a minimum level of competency in each of the following areas: Biblical Exposition, Christian Theological Heritage, Disciple Making, Interpersonal Skills, Servant Leadership, Spiritual and Character Formation, and Worship Leadership. The curriculum competencies addressed in this course are: Biblical Exposition and Disciple Making.

**Course Description**

This colloquium is designed to direct students majoring in Missions in the Doctor of Philosophy program in the foundational reading related to the principles and methods of missions.

**Student Learning Outcomes**

At the conclusion of the colloquium, the student should be able to:

1. Relate to a broad range of significant works related to the principles of missions and critique these works in terms of strengths and weaknesses.
2. Relate to a broad range of significant works related to the methods of missions and critique these works in terms of strengths and weaknesses.

3. Articulate a clear understanding of foundational issues related to addressing the principles of missions.

4. Articulate a clear understanding of foundational issues related to issues of the methods of missions.

### **Course Teaching Methodology**

This colloquium is a resource-driven learning experience in which students will be guided by a professor through basic foundational reading assignments. Those enrolled in the colloquium will arrange a time to meet as a group in monthly accountability sessions with the professor to discuss the assigned readings. Other accountability arrangements will be clarified by the professor at such meeting times.

### **Course Requirements**

1. Attend each session.

2. Prepare for the colloquium discussions by completing the assigned reading carefully.

3. Prepare to lead discussions concerned particular assigned books for the colloquium as assigned by the professor.

4. Prepare an assessment of each text read through the semester according to the following guidelines:

a. Read each book that is chosen in its entirety. A book review or executive summary will be prepared for each book.

b. Guidelines for a book review: Write a review of the book which should include the following elements: (1) Briefly summarize the contents of the book. Include the bibliographical information about the book and its length. (2) Evaluate the book from a biblical, theological, and missiological perspective as applicable. For example, a book on Buddhism would probably not contain passages from the Bible nor Christian theological concepts. (3) Discuss two or more concepts useful to understanding issues relating to one or more of the following: witness to those who follow other religions; cross-cultural missions and ministry; or missiology. Use headings for each section: Summary, Evaluation, Discussion. (4) The minimum length for each review should be seven to ten double-spaced typed pages. (5) A major purpose of writing the review will be for your own usage in the future such as in teaching.

c. Guidelines for writing an executive summary. Write an executive summary of the book which includes the following: Begin with bibliographical information (author, title (subtitle, if it has one), place of publication, publisher, and year of publication).

Present the major thesis or themes of the book in two to three paragraphs.

Highlight what was learned in the summary (use numbers to list).

Write the main idea or ideas of the book.

Discuss, including citations or source, several key principles found in the book.

Include at least two pages of application in cross-cultural ministry context such as witness to those who follow other religions; cross-cultural missions and ministry; or missiology.

The minimum length for each review should be seven to ten double-spaced typed pages. A major purpose of writing the review will be for your own usage in the future such as in teaching.

d. Prepare two copies of each review or executive summary. One will be turned in to the professor supervising your reading study seminar and one will be for your use. These reviews and executive summaries will be helpful in preparing for Qualifying and/or Oral Exams.

5. Prepare an annotated bibliography of a minimum of thirty books relating world religions and transcultural communication of the gospel. Include books on each of the major world religions in addition to Christianity such as Buddhism, Islam, Judaism, and one or more books including selected minor religions. Include at least one book which deals with cult groups. You may include branches of the Christian faith such as Anglicanism, Catholicism and the Orthodox Church. The selection of books on world religions should be at least ten to fifteen books. The rest of the annotated bibliography should deal with some aspect of transcultural communication and particularly of the gospel. Each page of the bibliography may contain three to five books. The annotated bibliography will be due on Thursday, March 2.

### **Grading**

The grade for the colloquium will be determined by the extent to which the student accomplishes the course objectives. This will largely be determined by accomplishing the course requirements. The professor may use a variety of accountability instruments such as oral presentations, written assessments, involvement in discussion, and other appropriate means to assess the participant's accomplishing of course objectives.

### **Technical Assistance**

For assistance regarding technology, consult ITC (504-816-8180) or the following websites:

1. [Selfserve@nobts.edu](mailto:Selfserve@nobts.edu) - Email for technical questions/support requests with the [Selfserve.nobts.edu](http://Selfserve.nobts.edu) site (Access to online registration, financial account, online transcript, etc.)
2. [BlackboardHelpDesk@nobts.edu](mailto:BlackboardHelpDesk@nobts.edu) - Email for technical questions/support requests with the NOBTS Blackboard Learning Management System [NOBTS.Blackboard.com](http://NOBTS.Blackboard.com).
3. [ITCSupport@nobts.edu](mailto:ITCSupport@nobts.edu) - Email for general technical questions/support requests.
4. [www.NOBTS.edu/itc/](http://www.NOBTS.edu/itc/) - General NOBTS technical help information is provided on this website.

### **Netiquette: Appropriate Online Behavior**

Each student is expected to demonstrate appropriate Christian behavior when working online on the Discussion Board. The student is expected to interact with other students in a fashion that will promote learning and respect for the opinions of others in the course. A spirit of Christian charity is expected at all times in the online environment.

### **Help for Writing Papers at “The Write Stuff”**

NOBTS maintains a Writing Center designed to improve English writing at the graduate level. Students can receive writing guides, tips, and valuable information to help in becoming a better writer.

### **Plagiarism on Written Assignments**

NOBTS has a no tolerance policy for plagiarism. Plagiarism in certain cases may result in expulsion from the seminary. See the NOBTS Student Handbook for definition, penalties, and policies associated with plagiarism.

### **Absences**

Students enrolled in the seminar are expected to attend each meeting of the seminar. Absence of over two hours of seminar meetings will result in a non-passing grade unless special permission is granted due to extraordinary circumstances. In such instances, permission must be granted prior to the seminar meeting of a particular week.

**Reading List**--The list of books may be adjusted at the discretion of the professor.

### **Reading List**

Allen, Roland. *Missionary Methods: St. Paul's or Ours?* Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1962.

Brock, Charles. *The Principles and Practices of Indigenous Church Planting*. Nashville, TN: Broadman, 1981.

Cheyne, John R. *Incarnational Agents: A Guide to Developmental Ministry*. Birmingham, AL: New Hope, 1996.

Garrison, David. *Church Planting Movements*. Midlothian, Va.: WIG Take Resources, 2004.

Hawthorne, Steve and Graham Kendrick. *Prayer-Walking: Praying on Site with Insight*. Lake Mary, FL: Creation House, 1993.

Hesslegrave, David J. *Planting Churches Cross-Culturally: A guide for Home and Foreign Missions*.

Heibert, Paul G. and Eloise Heibert Meneses. *Incarnational Ministry Planting Churches in Band, Tribal, Peasant, and Urban Societies*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, A Division of Baker House Books, 1995.

Lausanne Committee for World Evangelization. *Ministry in Islamic Context*. Monrovia, CA: MARC, 1996

Livingston, Greg. *Planting Churches in Muslim Cities: A Team Approach*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, a Division of Baker Book House Company, 1993.

McGavran, Donald. *The Bridges of God*. Rev. ed. New York, NY: Friendship, 1981

\_\_\_\_\_. *Church Growth and Group Conversion*. South Pasadena, CA: William Carey, 1973.

Padilla, C. Rene, ed. *The New Face of Evangelicalism: An International Symposium on the Lausanne Covenant*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity, 1976.

Rainer, Thorn S. *The Books of Church Growth: History, Theology, and Principles*. Nashville, TN: Broadman Press, 1993.

Richardson, Don. *Eternity in Their Hearts*. Rev. ed. Ventura, CA: Regal Books, A Division of Gospel Light, 1981.

Van Rhee, Gailyn. *Communicating Christ in Animistic Context*. Pasadena, CA: William Carey Library, 1991.

Yamamori, Tetsunao. *Penetrating Missions' Final Frontier: New Strategy for Unreached Peoples*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1993.

### **Course Reminders**

1. Academic misconduct including but not limited to plagiarism, cheating, or unacceptable conduct may result in failure of the course and disciplinary action by the seminary as outlined in the student handbook.
2. Failure of a computer, printer, or other electronic devices used to compose or print class assignments will not be accepted as a reason for late work.
3. Members of the course are expected to treat the professor and each other with respect in their conversation and conduct. If not, appropriate action may be taken based on seminary policies.
4. Use the latest edition of Kate Turabian's *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations* as the official style and form guide. End notes are acceptable.

## Selected Bibliography

- Brown, Daniel. *A New Introduction to Islam*. Malden, MA: Blackwell, 2004.
- Corduan, Winfried. *Neighboring Faiths: A Christian Introduction to World Religions*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP Academic, 2012.
- Elass, Mateen. *Understanding the Koran: A Quick Christian Guide to the Muslim Holy Book*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2004.
- Farhadian, Charles E. *Introducing World Religions: A Christian Engagement*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2015.
- Jenkins, Philip. *The New Faces of Christianity: Believing the Bible in the Global South*. London: Oxford University Press, 2006.
- Muck, Terry and Frances S. Adeney. *Christianity Encountering World Religions: The Practice of Mission in the Twenty-first Century*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2009.
- Muesse, Mark W. *The Hindu Traditions: A Concise Introduction*. Minneapolis, MN: Fortress Press, 2011.
- Murphy, Frederick J. *Early Judaism: The Exile to the Time of Jesus*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2006.
- Ono, Sokyo and William Woodward. *Shinto: The Kami Way*. North Clarendon, VT: Tuttle, 2004.
- Riddell, Peter G. and Peter Cotterell. *Islam in Context: Past, Present, and Future*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2003.
- Yandell, Keith and Harold Netland. *Buddhism: A Christian Exploration and Appraisal*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP Academic, 2009.