

IS 5129: WHAT IS THE MISSION OF THE CHURCH?
Course Syllabus: J-Term, January 18-22, 2010
John Leland Center for Theological Studies

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Course Description and Objectives

“What is the Mission of the Church?” is an integrative seminar designed to develop a global vision of the Church’s mission, with special emphasis on shaping future leaders to meet this task. Integrative seminars provide students an opportunity to assimilate and combine the knowledge to which they have been exposed in the foundational disciplines of Christian thought into a coherent and harmonized body of belief.

This course is a week-long intensive seminar on world mission sponsored by the **Overseas Ministries Study Center (OMSC), New Haven, Connecticut**. For 2010, the OMSC student seminars on world mission will be conducted under the general theme, “Ways and Means of Christian Mission.” Seminars take place at Mercy Center in Madison, Connecticut.

The seminar which we will be attending is entitled, “**The Gospel and Our Cultures: Postcolonial Anthropology for Mission in a Globalizing World.**” The seminar begins Monday, January 18 and ends Friday, January 22. Leading our seminar will be **Dr. Michael Rynkiewich**, Professor of Anthropology and Director of Postgraduate Studies at the E. Stanley Jones School of World Mission and Evangelism, Asbury Theological Seminary, Wilmore, Kentucky. The design Dr. Rynkiewich’s seminar is to bring anthropological insights and resources to bear on the conduct of Christian mission in today’s post-colonial and globalized world.

Your Leland faculty facilitator for this course is **Dr. Greg Smith**. Dr. Smith graduated in 2004 with the Ph.D. in intercultural studies from Asbury Theological Seminary, and currently serves with the Virginia Baptist Mission Board and the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship in Latino ministry. He is also the Director of Leland’s Latino Leadership Development Initiative, and is Administrative Coordinator of LUCHA Ministries, Inc., in Fredericksburg. Contact information is found at the top of the syllabus.

Seminar Schedule

Mon., Jan. 18	1:30 p.m.	Registration
	2:00 p.m.	“The Cultural Perspective and the Revitalization of Christian Mission”
Tues., Jan. 19	9:00 a.m.	Worship, led by Dr. Michael Rynkiewich
	9:30 a.m.	“The Uneasy Relationship between Anthropology and Christian Mission”
	2:00 p.m.	“The Colonial Experience: The Flag, the Ledger and the Bible”
Wed., Jan. 20	9:30 a.m.	“Neocolonialism: The Last Stage of Imperialism?”
	2:00 p.m.	“Postcolonial/Postmodern Mission”
Thu., Jan. 21	9:00 a.m.	Worship, led by OMSC resident
	9:30 a.m.	“Mission in an Urbanized World”
	2:00 p.m.	“Mission in a Globalized World”
Fri., Jan. 22	9:00 a.m.	“The Future of Mission”
	12:00 noon	Lunch and departure

Reading Resources

Comaroff, Jean L. and John L. *Of Revelation and Revolution: Christianity, Colonialism, and Consciousness in South Africa*. Vol. 1. Chicago, IL: University of Chicago Press, 1991.

Greenway, Roger S., and Timothy M. Monsma. *Cities: Missions' New Frontier*. 2nd ed. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Book House, 2000.

Hiebert, Paul. *Missiological Implications of Epistemological Shifts: Affirming Truth in a Modern/Postmodern World*. Harrisburg, PA: Trinity Press International, 1999.

Lewellen, Ted C., *The Anthropology of Globalization: Cultural Anthropology Enters the 21st Century*. Westport, CT: Bergin and Garvey, 2002.

Sine, Tom. *Mustard Seed Versus McWorld: Reinventing Life and Faith for the Future*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Book House, 1999.

Snyder, Howard, ed. *Global Good News: Mission in a New Context*. Nashville, TN: Abingdon Press, 2001.

Stanley, Brian, ed. *Missions, Nationalism, and the End of Empire*. Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 2003.

Tiplady, Richard, ed. *One World or Many? The Impact of Globalization on Mission*. Pasadena, CA: William Carey Library, 2003.

Requirements and Evaluation

1. Readings

In preparation for the seminar, the student will read **three (3) of the eight books** listed in the "Reading Resources" listed above. If at all possible, the student is urged to have read all three books before January 18. Even though a reading report is not required, and no percentage value is assigned directly to this requirement, the student will be expected to reflect on her/his readings at some point and in some manner in the student's Journal (see #4 below), and to be familiar with the material s/he has chosen to read in order to engage meaningfully in the OMSC seminar.

2. Attendance (10%)

The student must attend all seminar sessions.

3. Personal Folder (20%)

Due January 31, 2010

The student will prepare a personal folder from the activities of the week, including hand outs from speakers and any other materials researched on world mission during the seminar.

4. Journal (30%)

Due January 31, 2010

The student will write a personal journal of the week. The seriousness and depth of the journal will be evaluated by the professor. Entries in the journal do not need to be long, but meaningful. Entries should include reflections on such things as: readings (both those from the list above and any others that the student feels are relevant), seminar discussions, informal conversations with speakers and peers, personal experiences, and other things that serve to stimulate the student's vision for world mission. The student is encouraged to write his/her entries for each day in the evening before retiring for bed.

5. Written Paper (40%)

Due March 19, 2010

The student will write a 12-14 page, double-spaced paper (including title page and bibliography) on a particular theme related to the seminar (in consultation with the professor).