

Syllabus for  
**MISS 325—Introduction to Christian Missions**  
3.0 Credit Hours  
Summer 2009

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

Provides a general overview of missions. Examines missionary principles and practices from Biblical, historical, and cultural perspectives and helps the students to formulate a personal approach to missions. It further prepares students for other related mission studies.

Prerequisites: None

MISS 325 includes a study of the contemporary situation in world missions, call and preparation for missionary service, historical development and theological issues which influence and guide mission work, organization and administration of missions, questions of finance, the definition of objectives and means by which missionaries carry out their task, anthropological and cultural factors which influence this work, the process of church formation and development, relationships between missionaries and supporting churches, current issues, and future prospects for the missionary enterprise.

II. COURSE GOALS

Jesus commissioned the church to reach all nations with the witness of God's saving love. MISS 325 provides a general overview of that mission. It examines missionary principles and practices from Biblical perspectives. The course helps the student formulate his or her own approach to missions.

III. STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES FOR THIS COURSE

Upon successful completion of MISS 325, the student will be able to do the following:

- A. List and evaluate factors of the missionary vocation.
- B. Outline a theological basis for world mission.
- C. Identify key persons and events from the history of missions and discuss historical perspectives on world mission and indicate how these may influence the direction of the church today.
- D. Describe the progress of Christianity in the various cultural spheres of the world and potentials for continuing outreach mission.
- E. Discuss the strength and weaknesses of the patterns for the support and administration of missions.
- F. Outline a proposal for a missionary strategy that includes specific goals and methods related to the following:
  - 1. A new field.
  - 2. A place with newly established churches.
  - 3. An area with established national churches.
  - 4. a hostile mission field.

- G. List basic modalities for the fulfillment of the Christian missionary task and evaluate these in the light of methodological considerations.
- H. Describe components of the problem of cross-cultural communication and propose ways of suitable adaptation to a cultural context.
- I. Discuss the phases of development and the problems related to the establishment of autonomous churches.
- J. Evaluate different strategies of mission in terms of the student's own premises.
- K. State possibilities for the future of Christian missions in terms of prevalent needs and available resources.
- L. Delineate plans to strengthen the local church base involvement in missions.
- M. Discern one's own missionary call and subsequent career possibilities.

#### IV. TEXTBOOKS AND OTHER LEARNING RESOURCES

- A. Required Materials
  - 1. Textbooks
    - Allen, Roland. *Missionary Methods: St. Paul's or Ours?* Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans Pub. 1962.
    - Borthwick, Paul. *A Mind for Missions*. Colorado Springs: NavPress, 1987.
    - VanRheenen, Gailyn. *Missions*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishing House, 1996.
- B. Optional Materials
  - 1. Textbooks: None
  - 2. Other: None

#### V. POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

- A. University Policies and Procedures
  - 4. Attendance at each class or laboratory is mandatory at Oral Roberts University. Excessive absences can reduce a student's grade or deny credit for the course.
  - 4. Students taking a late exam because of an unauthorized absence are charged a late exam fee.
  - 4. Students and faculty at Oral Roberts University must adhere to all laws addressing the ethical use of others' materials, whether it is in the form of print, video, multimedia, or computer software. By submitting an assignment in any form, the student gives permission for the assignment to be checked for plagiarism, either by submitting the work for electronic verification or by other means.
  - 4. Final exams cannot be given before their scheduled times. Students need to check the final exam schedule before planning return flights or other events at the end of the semester.
  - 4. Students are to be in compliance with University, school and departmental policies regarding Whole Person Assessment requirements. Students should

consult the Whole Person Assessment handbooks for requirements regarding general education and the students' majors.

- a. The penalty for not submitting electronically or for incorrectly submitting an ePortfolio artifact is a zero for that assignment.
- b. By submitting an assignment, the student gives permission for the assignment to be assessed electronically.

B. Department Policies and Procedures

Note: Attendance policy is enforced. Excessive absences will affect your grade. See syllabus attendance policy.

1. Completion of a Course

- a. All assignments are due on the dates established in the course calendar, which is published in the syllabus or assigned in class. **Any assignments turned in after the scheduled due date will be penalized five percent (5%) of the original value per day including weekends, breaks, and holidays.**
- b. **No work** is accepted after the final date of regular classes.

2. Incompletes

- a. An incomplete is given only after the student establishes with the instructor and the department chair by written petition that his or her work is incomplete for good cause (i.e., lengthy illness, death in the family). **Incompletes are rarely granted.** Only those absences that are incurred within the time period of the extenuating circumstances prompting an incomplete will be excused. The student is still accountable for any other absences and will be penalized for them according to the attendance policy.
- b. A Petition for Incomplete Grade with all supporting documentation must be submitted for approval at least one week prior to the end of normal classes. The submitting of a petition does not automatically ensure the granting of an incomplete. The petition must be approved by the appropriate academic committee of the Undergraduate Theology Department.

3. Examinations and Other Assignments

- a. Early examinations **are not** allowed.
- b. Late examinations are administered only when extenuating circumstances are present (such as a death in the family the week before exams, sudden and major illness the week of exams that is documented by a physician). In fairness to all students, some persons should not have more time to prepare for an examination than others. **The granting of a late examination request is rare.**
- c. A Petition for Late Examination without penalty must be signed by the professor and the chair. Proper documentation must accompany the petition and must be submitted to the Undergraduate Theology Department. The student must schedule the makeup exam with the professor of the course. The exam must be taken no later than five (5) calendar days after the approval of the petition. **Grade penalties may be applied as indicated by the Academic Affairs Committee.**
- d. **All exams will be given as scheduled.** It is the student's responsibility when purchasing airline tickets, for example, to take this schedule into consideration. **Not being present for the final examination automatically results in failure of the course.**

- e. These requirements apply to all quizzes, tests, and examinations administered by the Undergraduate Theology Department.
- 4. Attendance
  - a. The Official Attendance Policy for the Undergraduate Theology Department is as follows for a three-semester hour class:
    - (1) If the class meets three times a week, the missing of 6 class sessions will result in a grade reduction of one letter grade. Missing 12 class sessions will automatically result in a grade of "F."
    - (2) If a class meets twice a week, the missing of 4 class sessions will result in a grade reduction of one letter grade. Missing 8 sessions will automatically result in a grade of "F."
    - (3) If the class meets once a week, then missing 2 class sessions will result in a grade reduction of one letter grade. Missing 4 class sessions will automatically result in a grade of "F."
  - b. **The absences allowed prior to grade reduction are designed to allow for emergencies and illnesses, and are not designed for indiscriminate use.** Many students incorrectly assume that they may use these allowable absences as unexcused "cuts" from class. Administrative excuses are granted only when a student is on official University business and has received approval in advance from the University administration.
  - c. Students are expected to be prompt for classes. **Two tardies will equal one absence.**

C. Course Policies and Procedures

- 1. Evaluation Procedures: Each should be double spaced.
  - a. Write a book critique and chapter-by-chapter summation of Allen's *Missionary Methods: St. Paul's or Ours?* The critique should be 8-10 pages in length.
  - b. Write a book critique and chapter-by-chapter summation of Borthwick's *A Mind for Missions*. The critique should be 8-10 pages in length.
  - c. As a take home final, complete an interaction with VanRheenen's *Missions* to include responding to the questions at the end of each chapter and a summation of each chapter.
- 2. Whole Person Assessment requirement: None
- 3. Evaluation Procedures
 

Course Final Grade: The final grade for the course is acquired as follows:

a. Book Review 1	30%
b. Book Review 2	30%
c. Take Home Final Exam	<u>40%</u>
TOTAL	100%

Grade Scale: 90+=A, 80+=B, 70+=C, 60+=D, 59-=F
- 4. Email each finished assignment by Friday at Midnight of the week due to [rsmith@oru.edu](mailto:rsmith@oru.edu). In addition, all assignments must also be submitted via Desire2Learn. Contact the SLLE department of information on how to submit vis Desire2Learn.

**Course Inventory for ORU's Student Learning Outcomes**

**MISS 325 -- Introduction to Christian Missions**  
**Summer 2009**

This course contributes to the ORU student learning outcomes as indicated below:

**Significant Contribution** – Addresses the outcome directly and includes targeted assessment.

**Moderate Contribution** – Addresses the outcome directly or indirectly and includes some assessment.

**Minimal Contribution** – Addresses the outcome indirectly and includes little or no assessment.

**No Contribution** – Does not address the outcome.

The Student Learning Glossary at <http://ir.oru.edu/doc/glossary.pdf> defines each outcome and each of the proficiencies/capacities.

<b>OUTCOMES &amp; Proficiencies/Capacities</b>		<b>Significant Contribution</b>	<b>Moderate Contribution</b>	<b>Minimal Contribution</b>	<b>No Contribution</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Outcome #1 – Spiritually Alive</b> Proficiencies/Capacities				
1A	Biblical knowledge		X		
1B	Sensitivity to the Holy Spirit		X		
1C	Evangelistic capability	X			
1D	Ethical behavior	X			
<b>2</b>	<b>Outcome #2 – Intellectually Alert</b> Proficiencies/Capacities				
2A	Critical thinking	X			
2B	Information literacy	X			
2C	Global & historical perspectives	X			
2D	Aesthetic appreciation				X
2E	Intellectual creativity		X		
<b>3</b>	<b>Outcome #3 – Physically Disciplined</b> Proficiencies/Capacities				
3A	Healthy lifestyle				X
3B	Physically disciplined lifestyle				X
<b>4</b>	<b>Outcome #4 – Socially Adept</b> Proficiencies/Capacities				
4A	Communication skills	X			
4B	Interpersonal skills	X			
4C	Appreciation of cultural & linguistic differences	X			
4D	Responsible citizenship			X	
4E	Leadership capacity	X			