

Syllabus for
LMSS 325—Introduction to Christian Missions
3.0 Credit Hours
Online Learning

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 them for other related mission studies.

Prerequisites: None

II. COURSE GOALS

Jesus commissioned the church to reach all nations with the witness of God's saving love. MISS/LMSS 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 the course, 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 Our's*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1962. ISBN: 978-0802810014

Sills, David. *The Missionary Call: Find Your Place in God's Plan for the World*. Chicago: Moody Publishers, 2008. ISBN: 978-0802450289

Van Rheen, Gailyn. *Missions: Biblical Foundations and Contemporary Strategies*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2014. ISBN: 979-0311025375

2. Other

Lamp, Jeffery S. *Undergraduate Theology Department Style Manual*. ORU Bookstore, 2015.

B. Optional Materials

1. None

V. POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

A. University Policies and Procedures

- 1. Participation in each online class through discussion forums, assignments, or any other course activity is mandatory at Oral Roberts University. This counts as your attendance in the course.
- 2. Students taking a late exam because of an unauthorized absence are charged a late exam fee.
- 3. 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, electronic, video, multimedia, or computer software. Plagiarism and other forms of cheating involve both lying and stealing and are violations of ORU's Honor Code: "I will not cheat or plagiarize; I will do my own academic work and will not inappropriately collaborate with other students on assignments." Plagiarism is usually defined as copying someone else's ideas, words, or sentence structure and submitting them as one's own. Other forms of academic dishonesty include (but are not limited to) the following:
 - a. Submitting another's work as one's own or colluding with someone else and submitting that work as though it were his or hers;

- b. Failing to meet group assignment or project requirements while claiming to have done so;
 - c. Failing to cite sources used in a paper;
 - d. Creating results for experiments, observations, interviews, or projects that were not done;
 - e. Receiving or giving unauthorized help on assignments.
- 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. Penalties for any of the above infractions may result in disciplinary action including failing the assignment or failing the course or expulsion from the University, as determined by department and University guidelines.
- 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.
 - 5. 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 Whole Person Assessment 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: Participation in each online class through discussion forums, assignments, or any other course activity is mandatory at Oral Roberts University. This counts as your attendance in the course.

- 1. Completion of a Course
 - a. Late work will not be accepted. Assignments are due on or before the deadline given.
 - b. Under rare circumstances, exceptions may be made in consultation with the faculty member for the course. However, except in extreme emergencies, students must contact faculty members before the assigned due date and request an exception to the policy.
- 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 – For Residential Students Only*
- a. The Official Attendance Policy for the Undergraduate Theology Department is:
 - 1. If class meets three times a week, 3 unexcused absences will result in 1 grade letter reduction; 6 unexcused absences will automatically result in an “F” for the course.
 - 2. If class meets two times a week, 2 unexcused absences will result in 1 grade letter reduction; 4 unexcused absences will automatically result in an “F” for the course.
 - 3. If class meets one time a week, 1 unexcused absence will result in 1 grade letter reduction; 2 unexcused absences will automatically result in an “F” for the course.
 - b. **The absences allowed prior to grade reduction are designed to allow for emergencies and illnesses, only. (Faculty may require documentation.)** Administrative excuses are granted only when a student is on official University business and has received approval in advance from the University administration.
 - c. The penalty for tardies is at the discretion of the instructor.

C. Course Policies and Procedures

1. Evaluation Procedures

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

Midterm Exam	100 points
Final Exam	100 points
Interview Transcript	25 points
Interview PowerPoint	100 points
Week One Journal	10 points
Week Four Journal	10 points
Week Seven Journal	10 points
<u>Discussions (6X10)</u>	<u>60 points</u>
Total	415 points

2. Other Policies and Procedures
 - a. **Two Examinations:** (a midterm and a final): There are two examinations during the semester.
 - b. **Interactive Reading Reports:** The student will complete a series of Interactive Reading Reports while reading the texts by Cardoza-Orlandi, Escobar, and Moreau. For each chapter the student will choose a topic with which to personally interact (i.e. positively, negatively, implications for ministry, etc.). The assignments are to be submitted into the appropriate folder on D2L by 11:59PM on assigned date.
 - c. **Missionary Biography:** Each student will complete a 10-12 page Missionary Biography research **paper** as well as give a **presentation** in class on the missionary. The paper should utilize no less than 10 academic sources and should reflect a thorough knowledge of the topic following the specific guidelines given by the professor. The presentation should include PowerPoint and handouts.
3. Whole Person Assessment Requirement: None

VI. COURSE READING CALENDAR

Week 1: Van Rheenan 1-5 -- The Biblical Narrative of Missions, Spiritual Awakenings for Missions, Theological Foundations of Missions, & The Church

Week 2: Van Rheenan 5-8 -- Motives for Missions, Types of Missionaries, The Missionary Cycle Communication, & Epochs of the World Christian Movement

Week 3: Van Rheenan 9-12 -- Becoming Incarnational, Entering a New Culture, Becoming Multicultural & The Nature of Cross-Cultural Communication

Week 4: None

Week 5: Sills 1-7 -- Knowing God's Will & Understanding the Missionary Call

Week 6: Sills 8-12; Allen 1-4 -- Fulfilling the Missionary Call & Paul the Missionary

Week 7: Allen 5-11 -- Paul's Mission, Suffering, Strategy, & Church Planting

Course Inventory for ORU's Student Learning Outcomes
LMSS 325 -- Introduction to Christian Missions
ORU Online Learning

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.

OUTCOMES & Proficiencies/Capacities		Significant Contribution	Moderate Contribution	Minimal Contribution	No Contribution
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1	Outcome #1 – Spiritually Alive Proficiencies/Capacities				
1A	Biblical knowledge		X		
1B	Sensitivity to the Holy Spirit		X		
1C	Evangelistic capability	X			
1D	Ethical behavior	X			

2	Outcome #2 – Intellectually Alert Proficiencies/Capacities				
2A	Critical thinking	X			
2B	Information literacy	X			
2C	Global & historical perspectives	X			
2D	Aesthetic appreciation				X
2E	Intellectual creativity		X		

3	Outcome #3 – Physically Disciplined Proficiencies/Capacities				
3A	Healthy lifestyle				X
3B	Physically disciplined lifestyle				X

4	Outcome #4 – Socially Adept 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			