



**ERSKINE**  
THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

*For Christ and His Church*

## **MS 711C: INTRODUCTION TO WORLD CHRISTIANITY**

Fall, 2011

Elective: 3 Hours

Charleston: Saturdays, 9:00 am – 5:00 pm

Dates: 9/3, 9/24, 10/22, 11/19 2011

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**Office Hours:** By telephone and/or by appointment

### **COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

This course considers God's love for the world as revealed in Jesus Christ. Students examine what it means to be world Christians—sharing God's concern for the world, being aware of Christians and Christianity in other regions, and helping to fulfill the Great Commission. *Elective. Three hours.*

### **COURSE PURPOSE:**

The purpose of this course is to help instill and enhance a vision for world Christianity and to give students the tools needed to reflect on their own roles within God's global purposes.

### **COURSE OBJECTIVES:**

The mission of Erskine Theological Seminary is to educate persons for service in the Christian Church. As a part of that mission, one goal is that graduates be prepared to **view their ministries in light of the Church's mission to worship, follow, bear witness to, and serve Jesus Christ**. This course concentrates on the global dimensions of the Church's mission. It is the teacher's intention that by the end of the term, students will:

1. **Understand** and **appreciate** the depth and breadth of God's concern for the entire world.
2. Be **motivated** to be aware of and involved in what God is doing around the world.
3. **Grasp** what it means to be a world Christian and to nurture other world Christians.

### **COURSE METHOD:**

The purpose and objectives of this course will be achieved through four learning components. The first is the **Content Component**, the student's own mastery of Biblical, historical, and cultural material which is necessary for an understanding of God's worldwide purposes. This will be accomplished through class lectures and secondary-source reading. This component addresses objectives 1 and 3 above. The second component is the **Prayer Component**. Each student will be encouraged to

develop regular habits of prayer for the world, and prayer for the world will be a part of each class session. This component addresses objective 1 above.

The third is **Classroom Participation**. Students will be expected to be prepared for discussion and to take an active part. This component addresses objectives 1, 2, and 3 above.

The fourth component is the **Reflective Component**. Each student will engage in outside reading and reflection and will complete four (4) significant reflective projects. The details of this component are given below, and it addresses objectives 1, 2, and 3 above.

### **REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS:**

Students are expected to secure their own copies of all required textbooks. As a convenience, the seminary has a bookstore portal of the website at

<http://www.erskineseminary.org/bookstore.html>. There you will find links to familiar vendors (CBD, Amazon, B&N, and Books-A-Million) and can check availability of texts, compare prices, and place orders. The ETS SBA will receive a modest percentage of the profits from students' and professors' purchases through this portal. The Erskine Campus Bookstore will carry a limited number of copies of every required text and orders for books can be placed through the Campus Bookstore.

Elmer, Duane. *Cross-Cultural Servanthood: Serving the World in Christlike Humility*. Downers Grove, Ill.: Intervarsity, 2006.

Moreau, Corwin, and McGee. *Introducing World Missions: A Biblical, Historical, and Practical Survey*. Grand Rapids, Mich.: Baker, 2004.

Johnstone, Patrick and Jason Mandryk. *Operation World: 21st Century Edition*. 6th Edition. Waynesboro, Ga.: Paternoster, 2001.

### **COURSE REQUIREMENTS:**

**Requirement One:** Student Journal/Reading Log (50 points)

Each student will read the assigned chapters in the Moreau textbook (see schedule at the end of this syllabus) and will complete the daily readings in *Operation World*. As the student reads, he or she will maintain a journal throughout the course of the semester in which he or she records significant insights, questions, or challenges relating to his or her personal exploration of God's call to be a "World Christian." The journal must include, but does not necessarily have to be limited to, the following:

- Insights and reactions to assigned readings as each assignment is read
- Interactions with the Case Studies, Sidebars, and Quotes sections presented in the Moreau text
- Indications that the student is utilizing *Operation World* on a consistent, regular basis
- Insights to personal growth and awareness of the student's role in carrying out the Great Commission

**The journal is due in class on November 19th.**

**Requirement Two:** Reading Responses (50 points each)

Each student will complete two reading responses of 5-7 pages each. The first of these will be on Duane Elmer's *Cross-Cultural Servanthood* and will be due on **September 24th**. The second will be on one of the books in the following list and will be due on **October 22nd**. Guidelines for the reading responses are given below. (Since all references in the responses will be to the book being reviewed, students may simply indicate the page numbers of their citations in parentheses. Footnotes are not necessary.)

Books (on reserve in the library) from which the student may choose for the second response:

Adeney, Bernard. *Strange Virtues: Ethics in a Multicultural World*, 1995.

Anderson, Allan. *African Reformation: African Initiated Christianity in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century*, 2001.

Belliveau, Jeannette. *An Amateur's Guide to the Planet*, 1996.

Escobar, Samuel. *The New Global Mission: The Gospel from Everywhere to Everyone*, 2003

Clendenin, Daniel. *Many Gods, Many Lords: Christianity Encounters World Religions*, 1996.

Marshall, Paul. *Their Blood Cries Out: The Untold Story of Persecution of Christians in the Modern World*, 1997.

Sider, Ronald. *Rich Christians in an Age of Hunger: Moving from Affluence to Generosity*, 2005.

Guidelines for preparation of reading responses:

Summarize the major points about Christian missions/world awareness that the author emphasizes.

Assess the author's major points: Are they Biblical? Are they helpful for Christian life? Do they challenge believers today? Can they motivate your church? Etc.

Explain how your faith and service are stretched or encouraged through this book.

Criteria for grading reading responses:

Accuracy in presenting summaries of the book's argument in no more than two pages

Understanding of spiritual and theological concepts

Serious engagement with the issues raised in the book in the bulk of the report

Depth and creativity in responding to the book

Attention to the personal lessons one can learn from the book

Appropriate use of the English language

**Requirement Three:** Student Presentation (50 points)

Each student will prepare a 10-15 minute presentation on the topic of God's concern for the world. In this presentation, the student will focus on a group of Christian believers outside of his or her own culture. As much as possible, the student will address the following:

-History of Christian belief among that group (When was Christianity introduced and by whom? What have been some of the group's major obstacles and successes? What impact are they having on other people in their area?)

-Help and assistance received by that group from believers of other cultures (Identify significant missionaries and agencies, and/or denominations that have invested in the group.)

-Current status and recognizable needs (How healthy is the spiritual life of the group? Are there specific needs felt by the group?)

-Suggestions for ministry to the group (What are some ways in which the student and his or her ministry may be expanded to help the group? What should be done by the universal Church to care for this group?)

**OVERALL GRADING SCALE:**

100-95 A 85-84 C+ 71-70 D-

94-93 A- 83-80 C

92-91 B+ 79-78 C- 69-0 F

90-88 B 77-76 D+

87-86 B- 75-72 D

**COURSE EXPECTATIONS and SEMINARY POLICIES:**

Click this link and read carefully as part of this syllabus contract:

[http://seminary.erskine.edu/content\\_policies/SeminaryPoliciesforETSSstudents.pdf](http://seminary.erskine.edu/content_policies/SeminaryPoliciesforETSSstudents.pdf)

**COURSE OUTLINE—LECTURE SCHEDULE and ASSIGNMENT DUE DATES:**

September 3<sup>rd</sup> – World Mission in the Scriptures: Old and New Testament

September 24<sup>th</sup> – World missions in History

Due: Reading response to Duane Elmer's, ***Cross Cultural Servanthood***

October 22<sup>nd</sup> – World Missions and the Contemporary World

Due: Reading response to second book chosen by student

November 19<sup>th</sup> – Student Presentations

Due: Student Journal