WM501: Introduction to World Christian Missions

Course Lecturer: William D. Taylor, PhD
Global Ambassador for the World Evangelical Alliance

Revised By: Richard A. Cotton, ThM

About This Course

This course was originally created through the Institute of Theological Studies in association with the Evangelical Seminary Deans’ Council. There are nearly 100 evangelical seminaries of various denominations represented within the council and many continue to use the ITS courses to supplement their curriculum. The lecturers were selected primarily by the Deans’ Council as highly recognized scholars in their particular fields of study.

Course Description

God has one unified, global purpose for all He does. This course introduces the exciting biblical, historical, cultural, and strategic dimensions of His plan. It addresses key issues: the basis of and necessity for world missions, and the status of and plan for world missions. Students are introduced to the basics they need to pursue missionary training or to help lead their local church in its global ministry.

Course Objectives

Upon completion of the course, you should be able to:

• Articulate a foundational biblical theology of world missions.
• Be aware of the scope of God’s worldwide church and the needs, dangers, tensions, and trends in world missions today.
• Evaluate contemporary strategies for completing the task of world missions.
• Develop a balanced missions program for the local church and lead that church in global outreach.
• Respond to worldwide needs by pursuing lifelong personal involvement as a “sender” or a “sent one.”
Course Lecturer

William D. Taylor, PhD

Education:
- University of Texas, PhD
- Dallas Theological Seminary, ThM
- North Texas State University, BA
- Diploma in Missions, Moody Bible Institute

Teaching Career:
- Professor, Central American Theological Seminary (1970-1986)
- Christian ministry and missions instructor at several schools, including Columbia International University, Dallas Theological Seminary, Trinity Evangelical Divinity School, Reformed Theological Seminary, and William Carey University
- Visiting professor or lecturer, All Nations Christian College in the United Kingdom and the Asia Cross-Cultural Training Institute in Singapore

Other Career Highlights:
- Global Ambassador, World Evangelical Alliance
- Executive Director, Missions Commission for the World Evangelical Fellowship—oversaw work in 115 nations with 150 million Christians
- Editor, Internationalizing Missionary Training, Kingdom Partnerships for Synergy in Missions, and Too Valuable to Lose
- Staff, InterVarsity Christian Fellowship
- Missionary, CAM International (1967-1985) – taught and served as a church planter and in pastoral ministry in Guatemala

Publications:
- Crisis and Hope in Latin America, a book he coauthored with renowned Latin theologian Emilio A. Núñez
- Variety of Spanish publications

Course Texts

Required:


Textbooks can be ordered through our online store at CUGN.org, through your local bookstore, or through your preferred eReader when available.
Course Requirements

1. **Time:** The student must complete the course requirements within a 6-month period unless the particular institution requires the completion of all work within the framework of the semester or quarter. During this time, the student is expected to devote a minimum of 120 hours to the completion of the course.

2. **Recorded Lectures:** The student is required to listen to all 24 audio lectures recorded by Dr. William D. Taylor.

3. **Study Questions:** As you listen, consider the study questions provided for each lecture in the Study Guide. You are NOT required to submit your answers to these questions, UNLESS your mentor wishes to see that you completed them, but if you write your thoughts as you go along, you will have a good start on your final paper.

4. **Reading:** Read a total of at least 500 pages from the *Perspectives* text. You must read a minimum of two articles from each of the twelve major sections. As you go along, keep a record of the articles you read.

   Read the *Exploring World Mission* text. Pray as you discover the State of the World, the Church in the World and the Challenge to Christian Mission.

   In addition to the above reading requirements, you must read an additional 250 pages of your choice on the subject of world missions. These pages may be selected from the attached bibliography or from other sources. You might want to read a missionary biography or delve into an area of interest, such as biblical theology of missions, missionary strategy or cross-cultural communication.

   At the conclusion of the course, you must submit a record of all your readings. Specify the articles you read in the *Perspectives* text and the total number of pages read therein; indicate whether you have read *Exploring World Mission*, and the additional 250 pages. You must make it clear what you have read but you do not need write reviews.

   Realize that you must draw from your readings when you write your papers for the course. So look ahead to all the assignments and jot down notes (and the source) as you go along. The better the notes you take while you read and listen to the lectures, the easier it will be to write your course papers.

5. **Brief Assignments:**

   Select and complete **three** of the following options:

   a. Trace the terms “nations,” “peoples,” “ends of the earth,” and “whole earth” in either the Psalms, or both Isaiah and Malachi using a concordance or a computer Bible (NIV or NASB). List the key phrases. Summarize what is said about these terms and draw some conclusions. (2-3 pages)

   b. A good 18-year-old friend comes to you and says: “I feel God is leading me to the mission field. Can you help me?” Outline your response in sentence form. Be sure to indicate if you think God calls or guides and include the role of the church, mission agencies and schools. You may draw from your readings and the lectures. (1-3 pages)
c. Interview an international student or immigrant from another culture. Ask them about their home country and their people in particular. Find out what they experienced when they came to another country and culture. Ask about Christian missionaries, churches and Bibles in their home culture. What do they think their country needs? Write a 1-2 page report.

d. Using the Internet, research an unreached people group (an ethnic group with little or no Christian witness). Find a people profile, if available, and collect any additional information you can find about the ethnolinguistic group. What language do they speak? Where do they live? How many people are there? Do they have the Scriptures? How many are Christians? etc. In addition, seek out some information about the country (or countries) the group calls home. Download, print out and read key pages about your people group and their homeland. Turn in these key pages with the websites clearly indicated. You do not need to compose original work for this assignment.

e. Paul’s Missionary Pattern. Read chapters 9-20 of Acts. What discernible patterns or strategy do you see that characterized the work of Paul? To what extent are these patterns supposed to be normative for missionary endeavor? (2-3 pages)

f. If you read a missionary biography for part of your additional readings, you may write a brief response to the book. Please focus your paper on how you were impacted by the book. Do NOT devote your paper to rehashing the book. What touched you? (2-3 pages)

Reminder: You only need to complete 3 of the 6 options listed above.

6. **Missions in the Local Church Paper**: Design a mission program for a local church. You may choose the format in which it is presented, but it should include the following:

a. A description of the church (urban/rural, independent/denominational, new/old, size, form of government, etc.). You may assume any reasonable church model, real or hypothetical.

b. A statement of philosophy regarding missions in the church (this can be an abbreviated version of your Final Paper [see below] but you must edit it down to about two pages giving a clear foundation for missions in the local church). This section should indicate the church’s major priorities, goals and emphases and the reasons for them. Be clear why the church is going to do what it is going to do.

c. Organizational provision for responsibility for the program (e.g. the role of the pastor, elders, deacons, board, committee).

d. Key components of the program. You need not spell these out in great detail, but give evidence of knowledge of options and/or of creative approaches. How will the church pursue its missions goals and priorities?

e. Basic program of missions conference.

f. Bibliography of sources consulted.

The length of the project paper will depend on the format chosen and other factors, but 8-10 double-spaced pages would be a reasonable length.

7. **Personal Philosophy of Missions Paper**: In the final and most important paper, you will draw from the Bible, your readings, the lectures and your personal ideas to synthesize a personal philosophy
of missions. Think through and clearly articulate your own views and provide solid reasons for them. You are expected to refer to books, articles and Scripture, documenting your sources and demonstrating that you have evaluated the material. You should integrate the following major subjects:

a. What is missions and why is it important? Give your definition of missions and the biblical, theological and philosophical bases for missions. You must draw from both the Old and New Testaments and discuss the fate of those who have never heard the gospel.

b. What is the missionary task and what is its scope? Is there a way to measure progress and will the task ever be completed? Why do you believe this?

c. Who is a missionary? Does God call or guide people to be missionaries? What is the role of women? tentmakers? short term missionaries? national missionaries? mobilizers? Why?

d. What is the state of the world and what difference does it make? Why?

e. How does crossing cultures come into play and why is it important? What do you believe about contextualization? Language learning? Cultural adaptation? Why?

f. What is the role of the local church in missions? its prayer? its pastor? etc. Why?

g. What is the role of missionary sending agencies? Are they biblical? Why do you believe this?

h. What priorities do you see for missions today? Should there be a focus on unreached peoples? the 10/40 Window? Major cities? etc. Why?

i. How will you personally be involved in world missions? Why?

You must organize your paper to clearly communicate what you believe about missions. It is expected that this final paper will require 12-20 double-spaced pages in order to fulfill this objective. Document your sources and include a bibliography.

8. **Spiritual Formation Project**

RATIONALE: Ministry preparation and the Christian life require more than academic exercises. Learners also need personal, spiritual formation, which involves theological reflection and critical thinking on their current practices and assumptions. This process occurs as learners engage in self-reflection and interaction in a community of learning. With this in mind, CUGN includes in all courses a capstone project addressing these issues and facilitating interaction beyond the formal learning environment (ATS schools, note Standards 3.2.1.3; 4.1.1; 10.3.3.3).

Write a **five-to-six page reflective essay** and interview a mentor, discussing the spiritual impact of this course on your life. Identify your mentor early in the course, and submit the essay to your grader when you take the final exam. This last project should not be a summary of course content, but an application of course principles. Complete the following:

**A. Personal Reflection and Evaluation:** Reflect on the course – To integrate your academic studies with your walk of faith, reflect on the content of the course and evaluate your life in light of what you learned.
i. Follow these steps in your reflection:

   **Step 1**: What one theme, principle, or concept in the course is the most significant to you personally? Why is it significant?

   **Step 2**: What portion(s) of the course brought this theme/principle/concept to light?

   **Step 3**: Think about your past. Why is it vital now for you to deal with and apply this theme/principle/concept?

   **Step 4**: How should this affect your thoughts and actions, and what specific steps should you take to concretely apply what you have learned?

ii. Write your answers to the above questions in full paragraph form. (Recommended length for this reflection: approximately three pages)

iii. Give a copy of this reflection to your mentor (see #2).

B. Community Reflection and Interaction: Interview a mentor – Since the Holy Spirit uses the input of others to guide and form His people, interview a mentor according to the following guidelines:

i. Who should you interview? (1-3 are required; 4-6 are recommended)

   1. Someone with whom you have a reasonably close relationship.
   2. Someone who is a mature Christian ministry leader (i.e. a pastor).
   3. Someone who is not your grader or a family member.
   4. Someone who values the spiritual formation process.
   5. Someone who is familiar with and values the subject of the course.
   6. Someone who has experience using the content of the course in ministry.

   **NOTE**: Identify your mentor early in the course, and give him/her the page entitled “Guidelines for Mentors.”

ii. Focus of the interview – Your interview should focus on the issues and questions you raise in your essay. For example:

   - What feedback can your mentor give in response to your essay?
   - In light of the course content, are the conclusions you made appropriate? Why or why not?
   - What additional advice, deeper insights or broader applications might he/she suggest from his/her own life and ministry?

   **NOTE**: Conduct this interview either in person (preferred) or over the phone. Do not use electronic communication (i.e. email, instant messenger, etc). Suggested length: 45 minutes.
C. Synthesis and Application: Draw your final conclusions – Having reflected on the curse and the discussion with your mentor, synthesize what you have learned in these three sections:

i. Section 1: Begin your essay with the personal reflection from #1 above. This should be exactly what you gave your mentor for the interview.

ii. Section 2: Comment on your interview, explaining what you discussed and the insights you gained from your mentor. Include the following:
   - What were the mentor’s comments regarding your essay?
   - What advice did he/she give?
   - How did his/her comments expand or correct your application of the course?
   - Include the person’s name, occupation, and the length of the interview.

iii. Section 3: Conclude with a synthesis of what you have learned. Answer the following:
   - If your mentor corrected any thoughts in your “Personal Reflection and Evaluation”, how do you feel about these corrections? Do you agree or disagree? Why?
   - Synthesizing your thoughts from section one and your mentor’s insight in section two, what final conclusions have you reached? How is this different from section one?
   - In light of the interview and further reflection, what additional, specific changes need to occur in your life and what concrete steps will you take to implement them?

NOTE TO STUDENTS: Your effort in this assignment will determine its benefit. If by the end of this course you have not yet reflected critically on your life in light of what you have studied, allow this assignment to guide you in that process. The instructor for this course will not score your essay based on the amount of spiritual fruit you describe; so do not exaggerate (or trivialize) what you have learned. The primary grading criteria is that you have thoughtfully considered the principles of the course and realistically sought to apply them to your life. If you have done this and met the minimal requirements (as noted above), you will earn the full points for this assignment.

Note on confidentiality: Perhaps the Holy Spirit is dealing with you in some very personal areas of your life. Because of this, your grader will keep your essay entirely confidential and either return or discard it.

Objective: to stimulate reflection and interaction on course principles in order to enhance personal spiritual formation.

**Course Grading**

Your grade for the course will be determined as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment Type</th>
<th>Percentage of Course Grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reading Assignments</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brief Assignments</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assignments</td>
<td>Percentage of Course Grade</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-----------------------------------------</td>
<td>----------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Missions in the Local Church Paper</td>
<td>25% of Course Grade</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Personal Philosophy of Missions Paper</td>
<td>40% of Course Grade</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spiritual Formation Project</td>
<td>15% of Course Grade</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Guidelines for Mentors

(Students, give this sheet to your mentor for the Spiritual Formation Project.)

Thank you for your involvement in this student’s CUGN coursework. We believe the Christian life is more than an academic exercise, so we encourage students to critically reflect on their life in light of what they learn and then apply those insights to the daily life of faith.

Therefore, students taking CUGN courses are required to complete a final assignment called the “Spiritual Formation Project.” This assignment involves two parts: an essay and an interview:

The ESSAY: After completing their coursework, students reflect on the content of the course, evaluate their lives, and discuss the one theme, principle or concept that is most significant to them and why. Students are to identify specific ways this theme/principle/concept should apply to their lives and what action steps they plan to take in order to make these changes a reality.

The INTERVIEW: After writing this reflection, students give a copy to their mentor and meet with him/her to discuss their thoughts and get feedback. The goal of this interview is to facilitate the student’s growth through interaction with a mature believer.

NOTES ON THE INTERVIEW:

• You do not need to be familiar with the course to participate in this interview. You will primarily respond to the thoughts of the student. (However, general knowledge of the subject matter of the course and/or experience applying it to ministry is valuable.)

• Prior to meeting with the student, read his/her “Personal Reflection and Evaluation” and prepare to discuss the following:

1. What feedback can you give the student in response to his/her essay?
2. Are the student’s conclusions from the course appropriate? Why or why not?
3. What additional advice, deeper insights or broader applications would you suggest from your own life and ministry?

• Meet with the student either in person (preferred) or over the phone. Do not use electronic communication (i.e. email, instant messenger, etc.).

• Suggested length of the interview: 45 minutes

Thanks again for participating in this project! You have a real opportunity to guide this student in the application process and to help him/her connect academics to life – a valuable process for all who wish to grow in Christ.

NOTE: If the student’s school makes any changes to this assignment, their requirements should replace those described here.
Course Bibliography

Recommended Books


**Missionary Biographies**


**Journals and Other Periodicals**

*Evangelical Missions Quarterly*, published quarterly by the Evangelical Missions Information Service, Inc., Wheaton, IL.

*Global Prayer Digest*, published monthly by the U.S. Center for World Mission, 1605 Elizabeth St, Pasadena, CA 91104.

*International Bulletin of Missionary Research*, published by the Overseas Ministries Study Center, PO Box 3000, Denville, NJ 07834.

*International Journal of Frontier Missions*, published quarterly by the U.S. Center for World Mission, 1605 Elizabeth St, Pasadena, CA 91104.

*Mission Frontiers*, published bi-monthly by the U.S. Center for World Mission, 1605 Elizabeth St, Pasadena, CA 91104.

*World Pulse*, published by the Evangelical Missions Information Service, Wheaton, IL.

**Practical Materials for Your Church**


**Internet Sites**

Pioneers mobilizes teams to glorify God among unreached peoples by initiating church-planting movements in partnership with local churches: www.pioneers.org

Joshua Project, lists unreached people groups: www.joshuaproject.net

Brigada Mission Links, a hub of missions related web sites and forums: www.brigada.org

Global Mapping International, includes links to research websites: www.gmi.org

Global Opportunities, for tentmaking information and openings: www.globalopps.org

Population Reference Bureau, publishers of the annual World Population Data Sheet: www.prb.org

Frontier Ventures, linking you to a wide range of missions resources including the Global Prayer Digest, Mission Frontiers and William Carey Library: www.frontierventures.org

Wycliffe Bible Translators, for updates on the progress of Bible Translation: www.wycliffe.org