

# **Missionary Encounters: The Theology and History of Christian Evangelization**

Fall 2002

**Theology450/547A-01**

**Tuesdays and Thursdays, 12:30-1:45pm**

**O'Shaughnessy 114**

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This course will study the missionary activity of the church. After a brief look at mission and evangelization in the New Testament and the early church, we will then explore several important moments of missionary contact in the Americas, Africa, and Asia in the modern (post-Columbian) period. The course will conclude with a look at contemporary missionary practice and theory.

## Course expectations

### **1. Participation**

As much as possible the course will take the form of a seminar, and seminars at the university level, especially with advanced students, demand preparation and participation from those present. Such preparation includes both thoughtful reading and reflection before the class period, and participation means willing and critical engagement in conversation during the class meeting itself. Seminars are collective learning experiences, so that regular attendance is a strong expectation. More than two unexcused absences in the semester will lower your grade. If you are absent, please inform me afterwards explaining the reason, and if you know you will be absent, please inform me beforehand.

### **2. Writing**

For *nearly every class* there will be required reading and also a written assignment, usually between one sentence and one page. There will also be a final exam. In addition, you will give an oral presentation on an article or book excerpt and write three 5-page papers, one of which will be the take-home mid-term exam.

### **3. The moral responsibility of a student and the university honor code.**

As you know, the university has had an honor code in place for a number of years. Recently this code underwent review and some revisions were made. You will be expected to abide by the new honor code. In particular, this means that you will not turn in someone else's work as your own, whether this "someone else" be a fellow student or some other source—either in a printed text, from the Internet, or elsewhere—not cited by you. If you have written something and not attributed it to another via footnote or endnote, then it should be your work. The university has subscribed to a service designed to determine whether plagiarism has occurred. I don't want to use it, so please do not tempt me!

Texts I have ordered the following required texts through the Notre Dame bookstore:

1. The Last Report on the Miracles at Little No Horse by Louise Erdrich
2. The Conquest of America by Tsvetan Todorov
3. Paths of Kateri's Kin by Christopher Vecsey
4. Manufacturing Confucianism by Lionel Jensen
5. The Black Livingstone by Pagan Kennedy
6. Believing in the Future by David Bosch
7. Packet of readings, at Copy Shop in LaFortune

Syllabus (subject to revision)

## **I. Mission and the church**

1. Tuesday, August 27: Introductions.  
The syllabus and expectations.

**For next time:** Read selection from the New Testament (and Erdrich)

2. Thursday, August 29: Mission in the New Testament, 1: Jesus, the Gospels, and Acts

**For next time:** Read selections from the New Testament (and Erdrich)

3. Tuesday, September 3: Mission in the New Testament, 2: St. Paul

**For next time:** Read Erdrich

4. Thursday, September 5: Discussion of Erdrich and issues in mission  
Oral report 1: Mudimbe, 44-64, "missionary discourse"

**For next time:** Origen's letter to Gregory Thaumaturgus (**CP 1-3**)

5. Tuesday, September 10: Erdrich, cont'd, and Mission in the Early church, 1: Patristic sources

**For next time:** read St. Patrick's Confession, Gregory's letters, and women mystics (**CP 3-11**)

6. Thursday, September 12: Mission in the Early church, 2: the evangelization of Europe  
Oral report 2: Markus, "Gregory and Great and a papal missionary strategy" in Cuming

**For next time:** Read letters of St. Boniface, selections from Talbot, ed. (**CP 12-31**)

7. Tuesday, September 17: Mission in the Medieval church, 1: Anglo-Saxons in Europe  
Oral report 3: Cyril and Methodius by Vlasto, in Cuming

**For next time:** Read Kedar, 42-74 (**CP 32-49**)

8. Thursday, September 19: Mission in the Medieval church, 2: facing Islam

**For next time:** Read Kedar, 136-169, 189-199 (**CP 50-73**)

9. Tuesday, September 24: Crusades and mission

***Paper assigned, due Tuesday, September 31***

**For next time:** Read Todorov, 3-50

10. Thursday, September 26: Missionaries and the Columbian encounter, 1: Todorov  
Oral report 4: Kaplan, 9-28: typology of “reception”

**For next time:** Read Todorov, 127-201, 245-254

11. Tuesday, October 1: Missionaries and the Columbian encounter, 2: Todorov

Oral report 5: Guaman Poma, selections

Oral report 6: Greenblatt, 1-26

**For next time:** read Las Casas, On Montesino and “The Only Way” (**CP 74-88**)

12. Thursday, October 3: Mission in the Americas, 3: Bartolomeo de las Casas

**For next time:** read Montoya, selections (**CP 89-124**)

13. Tuesday, October 8: Mission in the Americas, 4: the Jesuit reductions

Oral report 7: Griffin, on Propaganda Fide, in Cummins

**For next time:** read Roustang, selections (**CP 125-159**)

Movie: *The Mission*

14. Thursday, October 10: Mission in the Americas, 5: Jesuits in North America

**For next time:** read Vecsey, 1-73

15. Tuesday, October 15: Mission in the Americas, 6: Vecsey

**For next time:** read Vecsey, 77-108, 207-247

***Take-home midterm (paper 2) given. Due October 31.***

16. Thursday, October 17: Mission in the Americas, 7: Vecsey

**Fall Break**

17. Tuesday, October 29: Asia, 1: pre-modern missions in Asia

**For next time:** read de Nobili (*CP 160-171*)

18. Thursday, October 31: Asia, 2: India, Roberto de Nobili, SJ

*Mid terms due.*

Oral report 8: Boxer, on problem of Native clergy in Portuguese and Spanish empires

**For next time:** read Jensen, 1-75

19. Tuesday, November 5: Asia, 3: China: Jensen

**For next time:** read Jensen, 78-147

Movie: *Black Robe*

20. Thursday, November 7: Asia, 4: China: Jensen

Oral report 9: Jensen, epilogue, 265-285

Assign paper 3

**For next time:** read Walls 2002, ch. 5 (*CP 172-187*)

21. Tuesday, November 12: Africa, 1

Oral report 10: Rowe in Hansen and Twaddle 2002

**For next time:** read Kennedy, 1-102

22. Thursday, November 14: Africa, 2: Kennedy

Oral report 11: Ranger in Vail 1991

**For next time:** read Kennedy, 103-205

23. Tuesday, November 19: Africa, 3

Oral report 12: Africans and mission education

*Paper 3 due.*

**For next time:** read Walls 2002, ch. 2 (*CP 188-199*)

24. Thursday, November 21: Contemporary missiology, 1: the perspective of history

Note: November 22, noon to 2pm, African Working Group meeting on Holy Cross in Africa in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

**For next time:** read Ad Gentes

25. Tuesday, November 26: Contemporary missiology, 2: Vatican II and the end of colonialism  
Oral report 13: *Evangelii Nuntiandi*

**For next time: read Bosch (*entire*)**

### **Thanksgiving**

26. Tuesday, December 3: Contemporary missiology, 3: Bosch  
Oral report 14: Bonk, 45-76

**For next time: Dialogue and Proclamation (CP 200-213)**

Movie: *At Play in the Field of the Lord*

27. Thursday, December 5: Contemporary missiology, 4: Missions and dialogue  
Oral report 15: Liberation theology and mission (Moreno, in Ellacuria and Sobrino 1993)

**For next time: read Walls 1996, "Culture and Conversion in Christian History" (CP 214-220)**

28. Tuesday, December 10: Contemporary missiology, 5: Mission in the 21<sup>st</sup> century

FINAL EXAM: Monday, December 16, 10:30am-12:30pm.