

## **WM601 World Mission of the Church | Fall 2020**

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Credit Hours: 3

This course occurs completely online with no scheduled classroom time. This course follows a weekly schedule that runs for 15 Weeks from Tuesday, September 8, through Monday, December 21, 2020. A week in this course begins on Tuesday and ends on Monday. You will have required activities due on certain days each week.

### **Course Information**

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#### **Office Hours**

Your instructor is available for email correspondence. If you have a question about the course, you can contact your instructor via email.

#### **Technical Support**

Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary offers technical support during regular business hours. If you have a technical issue with your course, please email [tech@gordonconwell.edu](mailto:tech@gordonconwell.edu).

#### **Course Description**

Recognizing the responsibility of all Christians to complete Christ's commission, this course gives an overview of the strategic and historical progress of worldwide missions today. The ways in which a local congregation can fulfill its worldwide biblical mandate are also considered.

#### **Gordon-Conwell Mission**

This course satisfies the following institutional learning objectives

- Article 2: To maintain academic excellence in the highest tradition of Christian scholarship in the teaching of the biblical, historical and theological disciplines.
- Article 3: To train and encourage students, in cooperation with the church, to become skilled in ministry.
- Article 6: To develop in students a vision for God's redemptive work throughout the world and to formulate the strategies that will lead to effective missions, evangelism and discipleship.

#### **Course Learning Objectives**

Students who successfully complete the requirements of this course will be able to:

1. Formulate a biblical understanding of missions by summarizing key themes from the biblical account across both Testaments, explaining their relevance for contemporary mission, and applying them to their own Christian identity.

2. Demonstrate awareness of the historical progress of missions throughout the ages by summarizing the various paradigms in mission history and identifying and relating key events and personalities of that history.
3. Become familiar with the global Christian community and the entire scope of God's mission field.
4. Consider the approaches of contemporary mission studies, and the key issues and current trends in contemporary global missions.
5. Foster an understanding of the cross-cultural nature of Christian missions by analyzing the interactions between missions and their cultural and social contexts.
6. Deepen commitment to Christ's great commission and strengthen faith in the universality and truthfulness of the gospel and the vitality of missionary movement by integrating the above in a personal statement of mission.

## Weekly Lessons

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Over 15 weeks, you will cover the following topics and lessons:

- **Module A: Biblical Foundations**
  - Week 1: Introduction to World Mission
  - Week 2: Mission in the Old Testament
  - Week 3: Mission in the New Testament, Part 1
  - Week 4: Mission in the New Testament, Part 2
  - Week 5: Paul's Mission Theology
- **Module B: Historical Progress of World Mission**
  - Week 6: Mission in the Early Church
  - Week 7: The Missions of the Eastern Churches
  - Week 8: Roman Catholic Missions in the Middle Ages
  - Week 9: Protestant Missions since the Reformation
  - Week 10: The Missionary Movement in Modern Times
- **Module C: Contemporary Trends in the Mission of the Global Church**
  - Week 11: New Developments in Mission Theology
  - *Week 12: Thanksgiving week, no course requirements*
  - Week 13: Missionary Initiatives, Strategies, and Issues
  - Week 14: Rise of World Christianity and Its Impacts, Part 1
  - Week 15: Rise of World Christianity and Its Impacts, Part 2

## Weekly Work Flow

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This course runs for 15 weeks, with each week running from Tuesday to Monday. From Weeks 1-7 and 11-15 (with the exception of Thanksgiving week) you can expect to follow this weekly workflow as you complete each lesson:



From Weeks 8-10, you can expect to follow this weekly workflow as you complete each lesson:



## Required Materials

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### Reading

Borthwick, Paul, [\*Western Christians in Global Mission: What's the Role of the North American Churches\*](#), Downers Grove, IL: IVP, 2012 (ISBN 978-0-8308-3780-9)

Bosch, David J., [\*Transforming Mission: Paradigm Shifts in Theology of Mission\*](#), Maryknoll, N.Y.: Orbis Books, 2011 (ISBN 978-1-57075-948-2).

Goheen, Michael W. [\*Introducing Christian Mission Today: Scripture, History, and Issues\*](#), Downers Grove, IL: IVP Academic, 2014 (ISBN: 978-0-8308-4047-2)

Guthrie, Stan, *Missions in the Third Millennium: 21 Key Trends for the 21st Century*, Paternoster Press; 2000 (ISBN 1-84227-042-7).

Tennent, Timothy C., *Invitation to World Missions: A Trinitarian Missiology for the Twenty-First Century*, Grand Rapids, MI: Kregel Academic & Professional, 2010 (ISBN 978-0-8254-3883-7).

There will be two additional essays and one handout, which will be provided for you in the relevant lesson.

See also Dr. Yao's select bibliography of missiology texts, which may be helpful to you as you move through this course.

### Technology

#### Computer and Internet Connection

You will need regular access to a computer with high-speed internet and capable of downloading files and streaming multimedia presentations.

#### Software

You will need Microsoft Word or a comparable word processor installed on your computer.

## Required Activities

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To demonstrate achievement of course objectives, you will participate in various required activities. You will find detailed descriptions of these activities on your course site, but an overview of these requirements is given below:

### Watch Lectures

You will begin each lesson by watching assigned lectures.

### Read Required Texts

Once you have viewed the lectures, you will read the required texts as assigned. By the end of the course, you must have read all the required texts in their entirety.

### Write Weekly Lesson Reflections

After you have watched the lesson lecture and read the assigned readings, you will write a weekly lesson reflection. These reflections should demonstrate understanding of and critical engagement with lesson material.

### Complete a Biblical Foundations Book Report

By the end of Module A, you will have written a book report on an important text on the world mission of the Church.

### Create a History of Mission Timeline

By the end of Module B, you will have worked with a group of your peers to create a History of Mission Timeline following David Bosch's historical paradigms of mission.

### Develop a Mission Statement

By the end of Module C, you will have developed your own mission statement which reflects on why mission is important, the biblical foundations of mission, the major lessons we can learn from mission history, and the mission approach or relevant strategy for today's context.

## Grading

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Your assignments are categorized and weighted for grading as follows:

Course Assignment	% of grade
Weekly Reflections	35%
Book Report	10%
Timeline and Summary Report	20%
Mission Statement	35%

You must follow the criteria detailed in the Assignment Instructions posted on your course site. Grading will be based on your work's alignment with the performance criteria in the Assignment Instructions. You must also submit work by the "due by" dates listed in the Course Summary on the Syllabus tool of the course site. Any work submitted after these "due by" dates will be penalized the equivalent of one letter grade per week beyond the due date unless you make arrangements with your instructor ahead of time.

The grading scale will be as follows:

A 95, A- 90, B+ 87, B 83, B- 80, C+ 77, C 73, C- 70, D+ 67, D 63, D- 60, F below 60

## Course Policies

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### Instructor Feedback

Your instructor will reply to email within 1-2 business days. He or she will give feedback on assignments within one week of submission and post grades and any additional comments in the course gradebook within two weeks of submission.

### Writing Standards and Submitting Written Assignments

Papers must be double-spaced with 1" margins (side margins as well as top and bottom margins of each page), using Times New Roman or Arial 12-point font. Do not exceed page limits. Sources must be properly documented using notes and bibliography. Citations should be professionally formatted, meaning that it should adhere to either Turabian or APA style. Written assignments should be submitted as a Word or PDF file.

### ADA accommodations

Gordon-Conwell is committed to creating a learning environment that meets the needs of its diverse student body. If you have a special need or disability, please refer to the ADA Accommodations section of your home campus's Student Handbook for information about the accommodation process. Students who have a special need are asked to discuss the provisions of their accommodation with the appropriate office at their home campus as soon as possible.

### Violations of Academic Integrity

The seminary considers all breaches of personal and academic integrity to be serious offenses. As such, the seminary has zero tolerance for such behaviors. Cheating involves, but is not limited to, the use of unauthorized sources of information during an examination. Duplication of course requirements involves the submission of the same (or substantially same) work for credit in two or more courses without the knowledge and consent of the instructor. Plagiarism involves the use of another person's distinctive ideas or words, whether published or unpublished, and representing them as one's own instead of giving proper credit to the source (taken from the *Hamilton Student*

*Handbook 2018-2019* – please be sure you understand your campus’s most current Academic Integrity Policies).

## **Discussion Posts**

When quoting from or paraphrasing course readings, provide the author’s name and page(s) in parentheses. If quoting from other sources, provide appropriate documentation. Similarly, when referring to a specific lecture, identify it using the title of the segment.

## **Netiquette**

Gordon-Conwell does not tolerate disruptive or disrespectful behavior in the online communications in any course. Students should review the netiquette policy in the Student Handbook and this website: <http://www.albion.com/netiquette>.

## **Seminary Policies**

You must be familiar with current seminary policies, which are in place for academic activities. Please refer to the Student Handbook for your home campus to familiarize yourself with policies pertinent to participating in academic activities at the seminary. Policies pertaining to this course would include those on Academic Integrity, Late Work, and Accessibility, among others.