MI 730 Biblical Theology of Mission

Lalsangkima Pachuau

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Syllabus

**Course:** MI730 W1 (SP 2009)
**Title:** Biblical Theology of Mission
**Hours:** 3.00
**Published:** Yes, on 01/02/2009
**Prerequisites:** None

**Department:** Mission Theo/Hist/Pract
**Faculty:** Dr. Lalsangkima Pachuau

Email: kima.pachuau@asburyseminary.edu
Office: MC
SPO: 1322

**Meetings:**
During 02/09/2009 to 05/22/2009 on Tuesday and Thursday from 9:30a to 10:45a in M307.

**Maximum Registration:** 30

**Catalog Description:** A study of principal texts in the Old and New Testaments dealing with mission, evangelism, discipling and renewal, with attention to relevant scholarly debate regarding their significance. Core course for Th.M. and D.Miss., and Ph. D. Meets with MI 630 on the Kentucky Campus.

**Objectives:**
Biblical Theology of Mission

ASBURY THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
WILMORE, KY
SPRING, 2009

MI 630/730 Biblical Theology of Mission

Instructor: Lalsangkima Pachuau
Phone: (859) 858 2262
(Office Hours: By appointment)
Teaching Intern: Jae Woo

**Description:**
A study of principal texts in the Old and New Testaments dealing with mission, evangelism, discipling, and renewal, with attention to relevant scholarly debate regarding their significance. (catalog)

The study of principal texts is done both thematically and textually. Major biblical-theological themes of missiological importance are dealt with using scholarly approaches for their meaning and significance in the understanding and practice of Christian mission.

**Objectives:**
By the conclusion of the course, candidates are expected to be well-informed on biblical-theological issues surrounding Christian mission, and the meaning and significance of the entire biblical canon for the practice and understanding of Christian mission. They are expected to have learned and understood the various approaches and themes of biblical theology relating to the theory and practice of Christian mission and evangelism, and the main theology of mission of the different families of biblical texts especially the New Testament. They should be able to discern the strength and weakness of a theology of mission based on its biblical underpinnings, and be able conductbiblically-informed missiological studies and research. To these ends the course

- explores major biblical themes relating to mission
- introduces students to the problems and issues of as well as approaches to investigating the meaning of mission in the Bible
• analyzes the theology of mission of the different families of the books of the Bible.

**Required Texts:**
(The following books are required for all. In addition, each individual will be assigned other texts for the Seminars.)

Bible: NRSV or NIV


- **ADDITIONAL REQUIRED TEXT FOR MI 730 CANDIDATES:**


**STRONGLY RECOMMENDED for Further Readings and References:**


**Requirements:**

The class meets twice a week (Tuesday and Thursday from 9:30am to 10:45am). The Tuesday sessions are lecture classes, and most Thursday sessions are seminars.

- **Class Participation:** 10% of the course aggregate.
  - Unless previously arranged, regular attendance of all classes (lectures and seminars) and reading of all the required texts (5%).
• Active participation in the seminar discussions (5%).

**Papers:** (All Papers are to be double-spaced using fonts not smaller than 12pt. with at least 1” on the left and right margins)
1. **Four brief summary papers** (not more than 600 words each) summarizing and reflecting readings and lectures of previous weeks (see the due dates in the schedule). *(4X5%) 20%*
2. **One seminar paper**
   - MI730: Book-based thematic paper to be presented in the class. This is a thematic paper based on a critical, analytical and interactive review of a previously selected book. The assigned book is to serve as the main source, but candidates are expected to research the theme and use additional sources to make meaningful interaction with, and critiques of the book on the theme. The paper is due one week from the scheduled presentation. *15%
   - MI630: A researched seminar paper on “the Great Commission” *15%

1. **Research paper** of candidate’s choice (approximately 12 pages for MI630 and 15 pages for MI730). As a research paper, candidates are expected to thoroughly research all the major publications on the chosen theme. **Due date: May 14, 2009 at 9.30 am 30%**

**Seminar Presentation and Leadership of Discussions:** 10% + 10%

Each student will make a presentation of his/her seminar paper (10%) and lead/moderate another seminar session (10%). Presentation is to be done on the scheduled date and within the stipulated time. Presentation includes raising issues for further discussions and responding to questions.

Moderation/Leadership of Session (10%): The Moderator is expected to briefly summarize the presentation, collect questions from the presenter and the floor as well as raise fresh ones for class discussion and moderate the discussion.

**Evaluation:**
Grading will be based on the major course components, as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Class participation</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Periodic summary papers</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Book-based thematic seminar paper</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Presentation of Paper</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Moderation of Seminar Session</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research Paper</td>
<td>30%</td>
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**TOTAL:** 100

**Course Grading:**
The unit of credit is a semester hour, which is defined as one hour of classroom work per week for one semester, or its equivalent. The 4.00 point system is used to compute grade point standing. The grading system is:

- **A** 4.00 Exceptional work: surpassing, markedly outstanding achievement of course objectives.
- **B** 3.00 Good work: strong, significant achievement of course objectives.
- **C** 2.00 Acceptable work: basic, essential achievement of course objectives.
- **D** 1.00 Marginal work: inadequate, minimal achievement of course objectives.
- **F** 0 Unacceptable work: failure to achieve course objectives.

**Incomplete Work:**
The official end of each term is 4:00 p.m. on the last day of the examination schedule. This hour is the deadline for handing in all course work. Each instructor may set an earlier deadline for submission of any or all course work. The student must petition the faculty person involved and the student’s advisor for permission to receive an “I” at the end of the semester.

A grade of “I” denotes that the work of a course has not been completed due to an unavoidable emergency, which does not include delinquency or attending to church work or other employment. If the work of a course is incomplete at the end of a term without an emergency, a letter grade will be given based on the grades of work done, with incomplete work counted as “F.”

Incomplete grades shall be removed one calendar month prior to the close of the following semester unless an earlier date is designated by the Office of the Chief Academic Officer on the individual petition. If the work is not completed by the time designated, the “I” shall be changed to an “F” unless a passing grade can be given based on work already completed or unless special permission is granted by the Chief Academic Officer.

Professors are required to give either a grade or an “I,” if approved, to each student registered for credit in a course. Students with Incompletes in two or more classes will not be allowed to enroll in a new semester or term without permission from their Dean.
Educational Assumptions

The Christian faith rests on the personal self-revelation of God in Jesus Christ. Therefore, the philosophy of education at Asbury begins with the Christian faith, which centers in God, as revealed in the person of the Lord Jesus Christ and as witnessed in the Holy Scriptures by the Holy Spirit.

Asbury Seminary, founded upon and committed to a vital evangelical Christian faith, finds its roots in the Wesleyan-Arminian theological tradition, which is summarized in the Articles of Incorporation and in the Statement of Faith. The trustees, officers of administration and faculty members are committed to a style of education in which this faith will permeate all the work and instruction of the Seminary. The theological, ethical and social commitments of the Seminary provide the foundation for its instruction and life. The institution purposes to assist students to grow intellectually, emotionally, physically and spiritually in their lifetime quest of becoming and doing all that God intends.

In general, a theological seminary is an institution of higher learning composed of scholarly teachers, leaders and students dedicated to truth. In the search for truth, the faculty at Asbury Seminary affirms the following guidelines: Scripture, reason, experience and tradition. Learning and growth take place in an atmosphere of love, caring, faith and obedience to God. In this sense, the seminary is the Church at work in the education of its clergy and leaders. The theological seminary serves the same Lord as other parts of the Church, and it makes the same general commitments as any other part of the Body of Christ. The theological seminary, however, seeks to make its central contributions in keeping with its character as an educational institution.

While Asbury Seminary stands within the Wesleyan tradition and holds to a clearly defined statement of faith, the faculty is committed to academic freedom. Central to all academic work at the Seminary are two commitments: the first to Jesus Christ as sovereign Lord and the second to the pursuit of truth as a corporate and personal vocation. Faculty members and students are encouraged to carry on research, lecturing and publishing that reflect a growing knowledge of God and a widening awareness of truth. The faculty members are committed to the objective study and discussion of all theological opinions, and the Seminary regards liberty of conscience as an important dimension of theological and personal integrity.

SCHEDULE AND READING ASSIGNMENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week 1</th>
<th>II Cor. 4:1-12.</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Session 1</td>
<td>Introductory lecture</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Introduction to the Course</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Distributions of Seminar topics</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Bible and Mission</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>* A historical overview</td>
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<td>* Mission and Evangelism: A Theological Approach</td>
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<tr>
<th>Session 2</th>
<th>Lecture</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Missional Hermeneutics</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>1. Reading the Bible missiologically: The shift from biblical proof-texting to biblical theology of mission.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>2. Approaches: Deductive and Inductive Readings</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td>Hunsberger, “Missional Hermeneutics” (Electronic copy)</td>
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<tr>
<th>Week 2</th>
<th>Exodus 19:1-6, (Deut. 7); Acts 17: 22-31.</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Session 1</td>
<td>Lecture</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>The Missionary Nature of the Bible (Is the Biblical faith missionary?):</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Universal Salvation of God and Particularity of faith</td>
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<tr>
<td>Problem of Election (OT) and Particularity of Jesus (NT)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Centripetal mission and the OT theology of mission</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Seminar or continuation of lecture</strong></td>
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**READING:**
- Newbigin, 66-90.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Week 3</th>
<th>John 5: 19-24; Phil. 2:5-11.</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Session 1</td>
<td>Lecture</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Missio Dei and Christian Mission– the Biblical testimony, Theological Implications</strong></td>
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Week 4
Session 1 Lecture
Kingdom of God and Christian Mission
Session 2 Seminar
Presentation and Discussion on
Snyder, Models of the Kingdom
John Bright, The Kingdom of God

READING: Wright, The Mission of God, 105-188.
Newbigin, 30-65

Week 5
Session 1 Lecture
Evangelism, Salvation and Christian Mission
Due: Summary/Reflection of Week 1-4
Session 2 Seminar
Presentation and Discussion on
Green, Salvation
Stone, Evangelism after Christendom
OR Okholm, ed. Four Views on Salvation

READING: Bosch, 393-400, 432-447
Newbigin, 91-120.

Week 6
Session 1 Lecture
Evangelism, Conversion and Proselytism
Session 2 Seminar
Presentation and Discussion on
Gaventa, From Darkness to Light
Peace, Conversion in the New Testament
OR Jones, The Evangelistic Love of God & Neighbor

READING: Walls, “Converts or Proselytes?” (Electronic copy).
Bosch, Transforming, 400-420.
Newbigin, 121-141

Week 7
Session 1 Lecture: Gospel and Culture
2. The Priestly and Prophetic calls
3. Acts 15 and Galatians 1-3
Session 2 Seminar
Presentation and Discussion on
Legrand, The Bible on Culture
Flemming, Contextualization in the New Testament
OR Carson, *Christ and Culture Revisited.*

**READING:**  
Newbigin, 141-159  

**Week 8**  
Spring Reading Week: **No Class**  
(Start working on your research paper)

**Week 9**  
**Genesis 12: 1-3**

**Session 1**  
Lecture  
Main OT themes and models of Mission: Blessing, Exodus, and Identity  
Due: Summary/Reflection of Week 5-7

**Session 2**  
Seminar  
Presentation and Discussion on  
Okoye, *Israel and the Nations*  
Martin-Achard, *A Light to the Nations*  
OR Kaiser, *Mission in the Old Testament*

**READING:**  

**Week 10**  
**Romans 15**

**Session 1**  
Lecture  
Paul’s theology of mission

**Session 2**  
Seminar  
Presentation and Discussion on  
Barnett, *Paul, Missionary of Jesus*  
O’Brien, *Gospel and Mission in the Writings of Paul*.  
OR Little, *Mission in the Way of Paul*

**READING:**  
Wright, 522-530  

**Week 11**  
**Matt. 28: 16-20**

**Session 1**  
Lecture  
Synoptic and the [Great Com]Mission  
Mission in Matthew [and Mark]

**Session 2**  
Seminar  
Presentation and Discussion on  
Lagrand, *Earliest Christian Mission to ....*  
Harris, *Mission in the Gospels*

**READING:**  
Wright, 501-521  
Bosch, *Transforming*, 56-83.  
MI 730 (additional): Köstenberger and O’Brien, 73-110.

**Week 12**  
**Luke 24: 44-49; Acts 1:8.**

**Session 1**  
Lecture  
Due: Summary/Reflection on Week 9-11

**Session 2**  
Seminar  
Presentation and Discussion led by MI 630 on “the Great Commission.”
Other Options: Baukham, *Bible and Mission OR Beeby, Canon and Mission*

**READING:**  
Bosch, *Transforming*, 84-122.  
Gaventa, “You will be my Witnesses….” (Electronic copy)  
Week 13
John 3: 16-17; 20:21-23.
Session 1 Lecture
Johanine theology of mission

Session 2 Seminar
Presentation and Discussion on
Koestenberger, *The Missions of Jesus and the Disciples ... Fourth Gospel*.
Susan Smith, *Women in Mission*

READING: Joe Kalarangatt (Electronic copy)
Koestenberger, “The Place of Mission in NT Theology.” (Electronic copy)

Week 14
Session 1 Lecture
Mission and People of OtherFaiths
Due: Summary/Reflection of Week 12-14

Session 2 Seminar
Presentation and Discussion on
Glaser, Ida. *The Bible and Other Faiths*.
Arias, Mortimer, *The Bible and People of OtherFaiths*

READING:
Newbigin, 160-189.
MI 730 (additional): Koestenberger and O’Brien, 227-250.

Week 15: Research Paper due

Bibliography: Biblical Theology of Mission


Part I: “Biblical Perspectives.”


Sheffield, Dan, ed. *A Theology of Mission for Free Methodist World Missions*. [Dept. of World Missions, Free Methodist Church of North America, 2003.]


A Biblical Theology of Missions book. Read 4 reviews from the world's largest community for readers. This exhaustive theology of missions focuses on theo...Â Excellent, as the title says, biblical theology of missions, but it's more than this. The book is quite complete, biblical and practical: There are a study of mission from Genesis to Revelation, the link between the culture mandate and the great commission (he says that they are different, even in their substance, I disagree), biblical mission's strategy (general), analysis of the offices related to missions (elders, evangelist), discussion on the local church, universal church and missionary Excellent, as the title says, biblical theology of missions, but it's more than this. Biblical theology must drive both strategy and mission practice. JW: How should an unrelenting focus on biblical theology alter common missionary practices today? SC: First, I'd just like to say that we are grateful that you contributed a fascinating chapter in this section on Biblical Theology for Oral Cultures in World Mission. I'll let you discuss the implications of your work yourself, perhaps in another post. For now, I'll briefly highlight the remaining chapters. So, this chapter updates an important ongoing theological conversation about the first apostle to the gentiles for those who follow in his footsteps. JW: This is an extraordinarily well-rounded book. What do you hope will result from the publication of World Mission?