

Blue Ridge Institute of Theological Education

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Introduction to Missiology Syllabus

To the choirmaster: with stringed instruments. A Psalm. A Song. *May God be gracious to us and bless us and make his face to shine upon us, Selah. that your way may be known on earth, your saving power among all nations. Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you! Let the nations be glad and sing for joy, for you judge the peoples with equity and guide the nations upon earth. Selah. Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you! The earth has yielded its increase; God, our God, shall bless us. God shall bless us; let all the ends of the earth fear him! (Ps 67)*

“If sinners be damned, at least let them leap to Hell over our dead bodies. And if they perish, let them perish with our arms wrapped about their knees, imploring them to stay. If Hell must be filled, let it be filled in the teeth of our exertions, and let not one go unwarned and unprayed for.”
— Charles Spurgeon (1834-1892)

Course Description: The material aims to cover a spectrum of biblical, theological, missiological, historical factors and variables contributing to the quest for the local and denominational church to obtain a biblical philosophy of Global Missions. Both an advocacy of biblical missiology and a critique of the state of Evangelical Missions will be incorporated. Other matters influencing and shaping a personal call to missions and the ecclesiastical affirmation and qualification of missionaries will be included in the scope of the course. There are four published texts apart from the Scriptures that will be assigned, a missions project (research and interview of a missionary/missionary couple), and a final research paper will be required.

Course Texts:

Peter Lillback, Henk Stoker and Paul Wells, eds. *A Covenantal Vision for Mission*, P&R Publishing, 2020.

John G. Paton- *The Autobiography of the Pioneer Missionary to the New Hebrides (Vanuatu)*, Banner of Truth Trust, 12th ed., 1965.

John Piper and David Mathis, eds. *Finish the Mission: Bringing the Gospel to the Unreached and Unengaged*, Crossway Publishing, 2012.

Kevin Swanson, *Taking the World for Jesus: The Remarkable Story of the Greatest Commission*, Generations, 2017.

Course Duration: Beginning 1 FEB 2021- Interview and Paper thesis/outlines due to my email box (james.r.fryer1@gmail.com) by 15 MAR, Reading Complete 2 APR, 2021, Class lectures in Roanoke, VA (2-3 APR, 2021), Final project and paper due 31 MAY, 2021.

Contents of Course-

- I. Overview and Definitions of Biblical Missiology
- II. Theology of Missions (Flow of Biblical thinking, Sovereignty of God in missions, Eternal Covenant through to the Great Commission)
- III. Understanding the Formation of the Modern Anthropological Landscape (World Religion, Folk Religion and Globalization)
- IV. Historical Survey (snapshots of the history of Missions)
 - a. Early Church and Spread of the Gospel (resources)
 - b. Factors of historical theology in early missional context
 - c. Missions influence and critique in Middle Ages/Pre-Reformation
 - d. Reformation and Puritan era/Post-Reformation missions
 - a. Reformation Missions/Church planting, (ex. Europe, Dutch Reformed Trade Ship influence, French Huguenots, etc.)
 - b. New England Praying Indian communities, John Elliot, David Brainerd, Testimony of Cherokee conversions.
 - e. Beginning of Modern Missions era (Fuller, Carey, Marrow Men influences), Moravian Missions story/Early American Missions influences (Baptist, Presbyterian, Methodist)
 - f. Modern American missions/ Global South (era of Global south missions development and grass roots agencies)
- V. Sending Models, Perspectives on missionary training and qualifications
- VI. Strategy and Philosophy and vision of local church led missions (Prayer, Evangelism, Church Planting, Discipleship)
 - a. Priority of Prayer in missions
 - b. Evangelism/Church Planting
 - c. Bible Translation
 - d. Considering Contextualization issues

- VII. Forms of Theological Education (Church Leadership Training Models)
 - a. Addressing theological drift
 - b. Theological Education as “Strengthening the Church”
- VIII. Critique of Modern Missions movement (dangers and outworking of non-theologically trained missionaries and ecumenism in missions)
 - a. Survey and Critique of Transformational Development Models
 - b. Modern Critiques of (DMM)- Disciple Making Movements
- IX. UPG/UUPG and creative access missionary work
- X. Culmination of Missions, (When Christ reigns and worship covers the earth)

Research Resources available on the BRITE Website:

On the BRITE website (www.brite-va.org) you will find the **Academic Resources Webpage** (<https://www.brite-va.org/academic-resources/>). There you will find an ever-expanding treasure trove of resources to aid you in our studies, research, and writing during your time at BRITE. While not every class may demand the same level of research and writing rigor, you’re likely to find something on that webpage each semester that will benefit you. Check back often to that webpage. The items there are curated by the BRITE faculty in order to be of assistance to you: guidelines as to how you should format your formal academic papers, examples of well-written course papers to guide your own work, Open Access (free) journal article databases to aid you in your academic writing and research, and even a growing catalogue of instructional YouTube videos which will be of assistance to you. **We also have access to a variety of theological journals online via Galaxie Journals which may be of interest to you in your writing and research. Please ask the professor for information on how to log on to this e-journal portal.**