DE 5630 | MISSIONARY ENCOUNTER WITH WORLD RELIGIONS

3 sem. hrs.

I. Course Description

An introduction to the theology of religions. A biblical theology of religions is developed, against the background of extensive study of current models of approach. Using major religious systems as examples, five characteristics of all religions are sketched. Some practical suggestions for evangelistic approach are proposed.

II. Course Objectives

A. Appreciate the need for skill in encountering world religions.

B. Understand major concepts in religious encounter, including:

   1. The concept of elenetics.
   2. The qualities of a biblical missionary encounter.
   3. Various definitions of “religion.”
   4. The background of contemporary models of encounter.
   5. Contemporary models of encounter.
   6. A basic biblical theology of religions
   7. The five magnetic points of religions.

C. Evaluate contemporary models of religious encounter.

D. Develop a biblical theology of religions.

E. Associate significant persons with their models of religious encounter.

F. Analyze religions according to their five magnetic points.

III. Course Materials


   Included with the purchase of the lectures and the Interactive Learning Guide will be the following items:


E. The following required materials are included with the CD-Rom from the Institute of Theological Studies:


**IV. Course Requirements**

A. Course Lessons in the Interactive Learning Guide (45% of grade):

   The student is expected to submit satisfactory responses to the assignments in this Interactive Learning Guide. These can be submitted in sections or all at once.

B. Final Examination (25% of grade):

   One examination will be given, covering all the content of the lectures. No books or notes, other than a Bible, may be used during the taking of the examination.

C. Missionary Encounter Paper (25% of grade):

   The student should write a ten-page (approximately) paper in preparation for a missionary encounter anticipated in ministry. If the student has chosen an international field of service, the student should evaluate a religion particular to that field. If the student will remain in his/her "native" environment, or is undecided about a field of service, then the student should evaluate some religious element of the native culture or of a field in which s/he has interest.
The paper should consist of two parts: 1) A summary of the student’s biblical theology of religions, and 2) An evaluation of how that biblical theology relates to the anticipated religious encounter. The second part should include both an analysis of that religion and specific ministry plans for a missionary encounter. The length of the sections is at the student’s discretion, as long as the elements are appropriately covered.

Both parts will draw upon material from Dr. Conn, but should demonstrate integration of Dr. Conn’s material into the rest of the student’s theological understanding. More importantly, the paper should be very concrete regarding application of the biblical theology to the missionary encounter situation.

D. TriNet Discussion Questions (5% of grade):

The student is required to participate in the discussion areas of TriNet. Thoughtful responses should be given to at least one question in each discussion area, and responses to the comments of other students are encouraged.

All assignments should be submitted directly to your Course Tutor using the icon within your TriNet course labeled with your course tutor’s name. Exams should be mailed by your proctor to the address below. Course work may be submitted by mail if necessary.

Distance Education
Trinity Evangelical Divinity School
2065 Half Day Road
Deerfield, IL 60015

If you have questions related to your assignments, please contact your Course Tutor in TriNet. All other questions should be directed to the Distance Education office (email or 847-317-6554).

V. Use of the Interactive Learning Guide (ILG)

Each lesson has a corresponding assignment sheet. Unless otherwise indicated, the first assignment on each sheet is a reading assignment. This assignment (designated “1”) is to be completed before listening to the lecture. The other questions may be done after the lecture.