



The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary

Syllabus 33150 CT Area Studies in Missions

Professor J. Keith McKinley

Course Description

An analysis of the cultural-religious environments, biblical principles and practices, and contemporary strategies and methodologies of missions. Emphasis will be given to the challenges of service and the opportunities for Southern Baptist missions.

Course Objectives

During this course of study, the successful student will demonstrate their ability to:

1. Describe the unique characteristics of missions in the area to include the culture, major religious expressions, and obstacles and opportunities to missions there.
2. Articulate vital principles and sound practices for the biblically faithful missiological practice.
3. Assess and evaluate prominent approaches to missions through a missiological lens.
4. Evaluate missionary efforts and construct thoughtful positions on contemporary missiological issues.

Requirements

To complete this course successfully, the student must:

1. Read all assigned books and articles.
2. Apply observation and interview skills to learn from unbelievers, indigenous believers, and missionaries.
3. Complete all assignments to the appropriate standards and on time.

Required Reading

Hiebert, Paul G. *The Gospel in Human Contexts: Anthropological Explorations for Contemporary Missions*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2009.

Assignments:

1. **Book Overview and Reflection.** Students will complete an O&R for each assigned textbook. O&Rs are intended to be summary statements that you can use to capture what you have learned from the assigned text. These are handy to remind yourself what you thought of a book and why. See the assignment in Canvas for more details.
2. **Field Study Paper.** Students will research and write a high-quality paper describing the condition of lostness in the nation or area visited, the state of the church and gospel witness, and provide an assessment of missionary efforts. A substantial amount of the material used for this paper can be derived from field observations and interviews. Analysis should be informed by the assigned readings and cite those sources appropriately. Field sources may need to include the note "Name withheld for security

purposes.” This 10-page, high-quality paper, following *The Southern Seminary Manual of Style*, will demonstrate significant research, comprehension, thoughtful analysis, and evaluation.

3. **Reflection Paper.** Prepare a 3-5 page reflection paper that describes what you experienced and what you learned during your time on the mission field.

Grading:

Final grades are calculated per the following weighting scheme:

1. O&R 20%
2. Field Study Paper 60%
3. Reflection Paper 20%

Grading scale:

A	96-100	B	86-88	C	76-78	D	66-68
A-	93-95	B-	83-85	C-	73-75	D-	63-65
B+	89-92	C+	79-82	D+	69-72	F	0-62

Disclaimer:

This syllabus is intended to accurately reflect the learning objectives, instructional format, readings, learning activities, evaluation criteria, policies on late assignments and absences, grading scale, course schedule, reference list, and other information necessary for students to appraise the course. During the term, the professor reserves the right to modify any portion of this syllabus as may appear necessary because of events and circumstances during the semester.

Expectations of Students

Email: Students are expected to check their SBTS email, as well as announcements and messages in Canvas, at least twice a week throughout the semester. This is necessary to stay up-to-date on pertinent class communication and updates.

Acceptable Document Formats: Upload documents as Word documents (.doc or .docx) only; no PDF files.

Class Policies

Late Work: Late work will not be accepted except in special circumstances approved by the professor. If such circumstances arise, please discuss them with the professor as soon as possible to determine if special arrangements can be made.

Respect for Divergent Viewpoints: Students and faculty are to show appropriate respect for one another even when expressing divergent viewpoints through class assignments and discussion boards. Such respect does not require agreement with or acceptance of divergent viewpoints.

Use of Artificial Intelligence: As stated in the Honor Code, all writing in this class must be done exclusively by the student. Anything the student did not write and any idea or text that did not originate with the student must include proper attribution. This also means that generating or using AI text is prohibited in this class. This includes but is not limited to using generative AI functions in Grammarly, ChatGPT, Grok, Claude, Gemini, and many others. If you have any questions, please address them to the professor or your OTA.

Plagiarism of Another's Work: Students who pass off ideas or words of another person as their own without crediting the source are guilty of intellectual property theft or literary theft, better known as plagiarism.

Previously Submitted Work: Using previously submitted work, work completed for another class, even though it is the student's own work, is a form of plagiarism.

Students found committing acts of academic misconduct, such as plagiarism, will be reported to the Dean of Students, resulting in disciplinary action up to and including failing the course and academic dismissal.

Special Needs: As an institution, we strive to work with students and any challenges they face to the full degree possible. If there are any physical or mental challenges that might need special accommodation, please contact the instructor prior to or on the first day of class.