
Course: IC – 320 D(N) History of Missions
Credit: 3 Semester Hours
Semester: Fall 2025; Session 1 (8/18-10/10)
Time: Monday/Wednesday 9:30-10:50; CABRE100; Online through Canvas/Teams
Instructor: Dr. Joshua Paxton, Joshua.paxton@calvary.edu, (816)322-5152 ext. 1353
(816)679-9387(cell) Office: CABRE 108

I. DESCRIPTION

A survey study of the history of Christian missions from the time of Pentecost to the present.

This course is offered in two formats: in-person and online. Students registered for in-person attend the classes in person, online students attend the classes via the online classroom. For both in-person and online students, assignments, and interaction outside of the class period are done in the learning management system.

II. OBJECTIVES

A. General competencies to be achieved:

1. Gain an understanding of the historical nature of missions. (PLO 2) (A 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6)
2. Acknowledge that God is the One who accomplishes the advancement of missions in time and space through the committed service of obedient men and women of Christ's church in every historical era. (PLO 1, 2) (A 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6)
3. Become aware of the diversity and complexity of human life and man's spiritual needs. (PLO 1, 2, 3, 4) (A 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6)
4. Appreciate and understand the perspectives of world missions to communicate the gospel of Jesus Christ effectively in our own age. (PLO 1, 2, 3, 4, 5) (A 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6)

B. Specific competencies to be achieved:

1. Demonstrate an understanding of the periods of missionary history. (PLO 2) (A 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6)
2. Describe significant events and identify noteworthy missionaries in world history. (PLO 2, 3) (A 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6)
3. Articulate a grasp of historical missionary movements with a view to understanding and explaining current and future missionary enterprises. (PLO 2, 3, 4) (A 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6)

Our Mission: "...to prepare Christians to live and serve in the church and in the world according to the Biblical worldview."

III. REQUIREMENTS

1. The student will read the assigned section of *From Jerusalem to Irian Jaya* for each class period according to the tentative schedule. These readings are to be reported on the Interaction Form to be turned in for that class period.
2. Read 350 pages on the persecuted church, several options are listed here. Write a two page personal reflection on the reading. Include a bibliography with the texts that you read. Also fill out a Reading Interaction Form for this reading. (non-research Turabian format)

I am n – the Voice of the Martyrs

Foxes Book of Martyrs – John Foxe

Jesus Freaks Volumes I or II – DC Talk and Voice of the Martyrs

3. Reading Interaction Form

For each class period do the assigned reading and fill out the reading interaction form located at the back of the syllabus. This form will serve as a guide for our discussion time.

RIF 1-18 – Chapters 1-18 in Tucker's book

RIF 19 – Reading on the Persecuted Church

RIF 20 – The article "The World the Missionaries Made"

4. Local Missions History

Choose a country of interest and write a 10 page research paper on the history of missions' efforts to the country. Who has gone there? Who first opened the door? What have been the results? Cover everything from prior to the introduction of Christ to the modern era. What setbacks have missionaries experienced? What methods have worked and not worked? What does the future hold for missions in this country? Have some strategies proved better than others? (Research paper Turabian format)

5. Lessons from History

Your Final for this class will be a 10 page paper summarizing what you have learned in this course. Rather than memorizing dates and names and movements, this course focuses on what we can learn from the missionaries of the past. They are a cloud of witnesses for us, we can learn from their successes and their failures. You are to write this paper covering those elements of our class discussion that you can apply to your own future ministry. What will you avoid, having learned of others failures? What will you attempt because of their successes? How is missions today different and yet the same from what it was in the past? (Research paper Turabian format)

These papers will be presented during our class time according to the schedule.

6. Participation

Participation in class discussions is a vital part of the learning process. During each class period a discussion question will be given that the student is expected to go to Canvas, find the appropriate discussion forum for that class period and answer the question. Students will be unable to see their classmates posts until the answer themselves. This assignment is graded.

IV. METHODS

A. In-class methods: listening to lectures, participating in class discussions, writing, and taking tests.

B. Out-of-class methods: reading, writing, research, and studying for tests.

1. Grading:

	Points
1. Jerusalem to Iran Jaya.....	100
2. Persecuted church.....	100
3. Reading Interaction Forms.....	400 (20 each)
4. Local Missions History.....	100
5. Lessons from History.....	100
6. Participation.....	200

Total 1000

2. "See Grading Scale in college catalog"

C. The Bible is a required textbook in every course at Calvary University. To facilitate academic level study, students are required to use for assignments and research an English translation or version of the Bible based on formal equivalence (*meaning that the translation is generally word-for-word from the original languages*), including any of the following: New American Standard (NASB, English Standard Version (ESV), New King James (NKJV), or King James (KJV). Other translations and versions based on dynamic equivalence (*paraphrases, and thought-for-thought translations like NLT and NIV*) may be used as supplemental sources. Please ask the professor if you have questions about a particular translation or version.

D. All class papers must follow the Turabian style according to *A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*, 8th edition. Unless otherwise indicated book reports and study questions may be in non-research format, interviews and other research papers should be in research paper format. A copy of the Turabian Style Guide is available on the Clark Academic Center page of Calvary's website.

E. Late Assignments: Assignments will be penalized according to the professor's late policy as explained in Canvas.

F. Plagiarism: Plagiarism is defined as copying any content without identifying the source. This also includes taking another person's or AI entity's ideas or constructs and presenting them as your own. Plagiarism of any kind will not be tolerated. Most assignments at Calvary require the student to produce original

work. Therefore, unless specifically permitted by the instructor, the use of AI-generated content is prohibited (even if cited) as it does not represent original work created by the student and is an unreliable aggregate of ideas from other sources. AI, however, may be utilized in cases where the instructor has explicitly permitted its use to accomplish specific tasks. It is only in these cases that AI-generated (or modified) content may be submitted by the student. If there are any questions as to the permissibility of AI use for an assignment, please ask your instructor for clarification.

G. Disabilities: Students with disabilities have the responsibility of informing the Accommodations Support Coordinator (aso@calvary.edu) of any disabling condition that may require support

H. The Clark Academic Center (learning@calvary.edu), located in the library building, is dedicated to providing free academic assistance for all CU students. Student tutors aid with all facets of the writing process, tutor in various subject areas, prepare students for exams and facilitate tests. Please take advantage of this service.

I. Attendance Policy – Calvary has no official attendance policy, the attendance policy of the professor will be explained in class and in Canvas.

V. REQUIRED MATERIALS

The Bible (Instructor will use ESV)

Tucker, Ruth A. 2004. *From Jerusalem to Irian Jaya: A Biographical History of Christian Missions*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan. ISBN-13: 978-0310239376. Amazon \$20.44, Kindle \$17.49.

VI. TENTATIVE CLASS SCHEDULE

A schedule will be posted in Canvas prior to the start of class

Reading Interaction Form (copy or attach additional sheets as necessary)

Name _____ Date _____

Assigned Reading _____

Reading Completed YES _____ NO _____ Pages _____

What were your major learnings from this material? (List up to 5)

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

What questions would you like to raise for class discussion?

1.

2.

What are some of the missiological implications of this material?

1.

2.

3.

What issues or concerns for further study and reflection arise from this reading?