

Course: IC346 D(N) Contemporary Issues in Intercultural Studies
Credit: 3 Credit Hours
Semester: Fall 2026, Session 2 (10/19-12/11)
Time/Rm: Tuesday/Thursday 8:00-9:20 / CABRE 103
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I. DESCRIPTION

A survey study of selected contemporary issues impacting intercultural studies. The study will evaluate these issues in the light of revealed biblical truth.

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. Understand selected contemporary issues affecting missions. (PLO 2, 3) (A 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6)
2. Evaluate these issues with a biblical worldview. (PLO 2, 3, 4) (A 3, 4, 5)
3. Study how various groups respond to these contemporary issues. (PLO 2, 3, 4) (A 1, 2, 3, 4, 5)

B. Specific competencies to be achieved:

1. Do in-depth research on selected contemporary issues in missions. (PLO 2) (A 1, 3, 4, 5)
2. Actively participate in in-class discussions of these issues in missions. (PLO 1, 2, 3, 4, 5) (A 2)
3. Through written assignments and exams, demonstrate a biblical understanding of and response to the selected contemporary issues affecting missions. (PLO 2, 3, 4) (A 3, 4, 5, 6)

III. REQUIREMENTS

1. **Textbook:** The course textbook, *The Changing Face of World Missions*, will be read to answer the study questions and be prepared for discussion. See schedule for dates of chapters to be read.
2. **Forum Posts:** The class time will be spent largely on discussing the various issues covered in the course. Some of these issues will be covered through watching videos of missionaries, pastors, and others discussing the topic via the website: <https://missiontable.org/videos/> The student will find discussion posts uploaded to Canvas for each week with a video to watch and respond to. Most videos are around 30-45 minutes long. More instructions are given in Canvas.
3. **Issue Paper:** Pick a chapter in the textbook and write a 5-page biblical/theological interaction with the issues covered in the chapter.
 - a. Describe the issue and examine it considering a biblical theology approach (i.e. avoid using just proof texts).
 - b. Present the issue making it clear and easy to understand.
 - c. Describe the major biblical and theological issues that might make this challenging or difficult for a pastor or overseas worker.
 - d. Turabian Research Paper format.
4. **Case Study:** Pick a chapter out of the textbook and in a 5-page paper answer the problem posed in the case study.
 - a. Include the questions you would ask and to whom you would ask them to get clarity on the issue. Also formulate your response.
 - b. Turabian Research Paper format.
5. **Study Questions:** You will find several study questions in the back of the syllabus, answer these in preparation of the class period in which that topic will be discussed. They are to be submitted through Canvas as a word document.
6. **Exam:**
 - a. Two exams will focus specifically on content covered in the main course textbook *The Changing Face of World Missions*
 - b. There will be a midterm covering chapters 1-6.
 - c. There will be a final covering chapter 7-12.
 - d. For both exams, the study questions constitute your study guide for the exam.

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:

	<u>Points</u>
a. Reading.....	100
b. Forum Posts.....	200
c. Study Questions.....	240
d. Issue Paper.....	100
e. Case Study.....	100
f. Exams.....	200
g. Participation.....	<u>60</u>
	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 and AI:** 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

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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.

Any assignment that includes plagiarism will receive a zero (0) grade. Students should note that papers will be submitted in Canvas via "Turn-It-In". This program automatically gives the student's work a plagiarism score, students should strive for a score less than 20.

- 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. MATERIALS

A. Required textbook:

1. Michael Pocock, Gailyn Van Rheenen, and Douglas McConnell. *The Changing Face of World Missions: Engaging Contemporary Issues and Trends*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2005. ISBN-13: 978-0801026614 (\$26.99)

VI. TENTATIVE CLASS SCHEDULE

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

VII. Study Questions

Chapter 1 - Globalization

1. Define Globalization
2. How is globalization different from Westernization?
3. When did globalization really begin?
4. What distinguishes modern globalization from pre-modern?
5. The emergence of what technological advance drastically accelerated globalization?
6. What are the four aspects of globalization that this chapter examines?
7. What does migration contribute to globalization?
8. How does the speed of travel and increased mobility contribute to globalization?
9. How does travel add to the widening gap between the haves and have nots?
10. How can the internet be used as a tool for reaching the lost?
11. What impact does the free-market economic system have on culture?
12. Why do western missionaries sometimes have to fight people's perception of their western culture?
13. How can globalization be seen as biblically positive?
14. How can globalization be seen as biblically negative?
15. What potential exists inherent within globalization for reaching the unreached?
16. How does globalization contribute to western consumerism and what can we as believers do to counteract its negative effects?
17. What are your thoughts on Max Stackhouse's understanding of the spiritual element inherent with globalization.
18. How should believers respond to human migration?
19. How can missionaries reach out to people as individuals in an age that increasingly wants to lump us into standard groups and stereotypes?
20. How would you respond to the case study?

Chapter 2 – Changing Demographics

1. The statistics in the book are a little dated, what is the human population now?
2. What is demographics?
3. What was the manifesto of the Lausanne II Conference? How is it significant?
4. The book covers three examples of demographic change, migration, HIV/AIDS, the plight of children at risk. What other examples are there, including ones that might be more current?
5. If 14.3 migrants are needed in the United States to achieve population ratios, what impact does this have on immigration reform?
6. Describe the concept of "brain drain" and how it impacts the developing world.
7. Where has AIDS had the greatest impact? According to the text, how many cases?
8. What are some of the consequences of this kind of epidemic on a society?
9. What are the broad risk categories faced by children around the world?
10. What is the largest contributor to the increase in children at risk?
11. With the combination of an increasing labor force worldwide and a lack of jobs what is likely to be the result?
12. Research and find out how many children are currently involved in human trafficking?
13. What happens if the interaction between migrant groups and the dominant group is positive? Negative?

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14. The book gives two responses to religious pluralism, describe these and name a possible third that the book doesn't talk about.
15. How have believers responded to the HIV/AIDS pandemic and what has had the greatest long lasting impact?
16. How have Christians responded to the plight of children?
17. How should believers respond to migration? Illegal immigration?
18. What does the textbook recommend as one of the responses of believers that is explicit in Scripture?
19. What is the greatest long-term response that believers can have toward any of these issues as stated by Donald McGavan.
20. How would you respond to the case study?

Chapter 3 – Religionquake.

1. What are your thoughts on the story at the beginning of the chapter?
2. How has increasing freedoms contributed to multiple spiritualities?
3. Explain Secularization Theory. Did it really happen?
4. How has the separation of religious beliefs from public life contributed to multiple spiritualities?
5. How has the expansion of Christianity impacted many other major world religions?
6. Define Syncretism.
7. What is the difference between spirituality and religion?
8. What challenges does Islam represent to the spread of the Gospel?
9. How is the rise of evangelicalism affecting the Church?
10. What is meant by a New Religious Movement?
11. How is Globalization contributing to this issue?
12. How is Islam responding to Globalization?
13. How is evangelicalism adapting to the changing religious climate compared with the seeker sensitive movement of the 90's?
14. What do the authors state is the most important religious issue of our time?
15. How is the above any different from the culture surrounding the early church?
16. How is Christianity unique among the World's religions?
17. How do we communicate the Gospel in a way that avoids Syncretism?
18. Read the first two sentences under the heading "Contextualizing the Gospel..." on page 102. How does this perfectly describe the Western church?
19. What is needed to break out of the current syncretistic mold?
20. How would you respond to the case study?

Chapter 4 – The Changing Basis of Knowledge.

1. What is Modernity?
2. What are some ways that different people and cultures use to know what they know?
3. What is Postmodernism?
4. How are missionaries to respond to postmodern thought processes?
5. How has Europe, once the center of Christianity, become a missions field?
6. How do post moderns deal with the law of non-contradiction?
7. What are the marks of postmodernists?
8. What are the deficits that post moderns perceive in modernity?
9. Describe the four categories of postmodernists.

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10. How do we as Christians need to come to terms with the fact that we are creatures of our own culture?
11. How might postmodernism affect missions?
12. How can believers communicate that God meets postmodernists yearning for transcendence?
13. How does a Christian worldview meet the postmodern need for significance?
14. How does the Church meet the postmodern need for community?
15. How might question 13 under chapter 3 be a significant answer to the postmodern quest for real community?
16. How can believers overcome the subjective nature of postmodernism?
17. How does contextualization of the gospel message help us reach postmoderns?
18. What does a chronological Bible study do for the postmodern worldview?
19. Respond to the quote by Andy Peck on page 127. Is this a good change or one that we need to fight?
20. How would you respond to the case study?

Chapter 5 –The Disappearing Center

1. What does this chapter mean by the “disappearing center.”
2. What are the three major shifts in the geographic location of Christianity?
3. What does Andrew Walls call the most striking feature of Christianity in the third millennium?
4. By what percentage of all Christians have majority world Christians grown from 1900 to 2000?
5. How has the church grown in Africa?
6. Summarize the global impact of African Christianity.
7. How has the church grown in Asia?
8. Summarize the global impact of Asian Christianity.
9. How has the church grown in Latin America.
10. Summarize the global impact of Latin American Christianity.
11. What does the rise of Global Christianity teach us about the missionaries of the past?
12. How might modern missionaries learn from the sacrifices of missionaries of the past?
13. Describe some ways in which majority world Christians contribute to Global Christianity.
14. What do the authors mean when they say majority world Christians may save Western Christianity?
15. Why is Syncretism a big problem for majority world Christians?
16. What can we in the West learn from the rise of the majority world church?
17. With their experience in suffering, how are majority world Christians uniquely poised to reach the world?
18. How does this great diversity in the faith demonstrate the fact that the Church is an organism and not an organization?
19. As the global Church expands, how are Western Christians uniquely poised to help majority world missionaries?
20. How does the growth of the majority world church necessitate the need to reevaluate western financial support of national missionaries?

Chapter 6 – Changing Motivations for Missions

1. What used to be the motivations for missionary service?
2. Are those motivations necessarily wrong?
3. What has become the common motivation for missions?
4. How does putting the focus on God rather than on man impact our witnessing?
5. What kind of impure motivations did Christians often exhibit?
6. How has *Christendom* affected the motivations of the church over history?
7. How has religion often been used as a tool to control the masses?
8. How did Descartes pave the way for a Christianity that was man focused rather than God focused.
9. How did Protestant theology with its focus on the individual negatively impact individual Christians relationship to the church?
10. In what ways did Colonial Missionaries preach a Western Gospel rather than a Christian Gospel?
11. How has the development of Postmodernism affected the missions motivation of saving people from Hell?
12. How does a motivation for missions relate to an individuals worldview?
13. Is there still a place for the reality of hell as a legitimate motivation for missions? Why or why not?
14. Why is God's glory, even within the context of hell and the lostness of humanity still the greatest motivator for missions?
15. What four practical guidelines did the text give for transitioning from a modern age emphasis on hell and lostness to a postmodern emphasis on God's glory?
16. Is every Christian a missionary?
17. What is the good in calling every Christian a missionary? What is the danger?
18. Explain how churches can live out the quote, "Churches must accept the challenge to become spiritual communities that relate more intimately with God in this generation."
19. What do you feel are the chief motivators among your generation?
20. How do we challenge the current generation to be more engaged in missions?

Chapter 7 – Increasing Awareness of Spiritual Power

1. What is the main issue in this chapter?
2. What is spiritual warfare?
3. Why did some people recognize a lack of spiritual power as part of the reason for barriers to finishing world evangelization?
4. How has the western church failed to prepare missionaries for the reality of spiritual warfare?
5. What does it mean to have a spiritual warfare orientation to missions?
6. What are the dangers associated with Spiritual Mapping and Identificational Repentance?
7. Should the spiritual warfare movement be utterly dismissed?
8. Has the spiritual warfare approach to missions been demonstrated as effective?
9. How involved with missions do those with a spiritual warfare bent seem to be?
10. How have Western Christians fallen short in handling the spiritual side of Christianity?
11. How is the majority world perhaps going too far in their dealing with the spiritual side of Christianity?

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12. What has been the role of modernity and postmodernity in the discussion of spiritual warfare?
13. How do we find balance and control in a spiritual warfare approach?
14. Explain the pilgrimage motif.
15. Explain the glory of God motif.
16. Explain the Kingdom motif.
17. How have spiritual warfare advocates helped/hurt the mission?
- 18-20. What are the ten conclusions the authors give regarding this discussion of the role of spiritual warfare?

Chapter 8 – Innovation in Mission Operations: Creative-Access Platforms

1. What is the main problem facing missionaries in this chapter?
2. What are creative-access platforms?
3. Which has priority, the platform or the goal of evangelism and discipleship?
4. Does this chapter give one platform that works in every situation?
5. What are the three main platforms that are outlined at the bottom of page 213?
6. What is a nonresidential missionary?
7. What is global opportunities? Go to their website and find one tentmaking opportunity.
8. What is Tentmaking?
9. Name some organizations involved in tentmaking.
10. What is Kingdom Business?
11. Who is the biblical example of kingdom business?
12. Is tentmaking ethical?
13. What are some ethical questions involved in tentmaking.
14. What is your opinion of the statement; "Though Christians normally make every effort to obey the laws of the government, when those laws prohibit them from obeying the Great Commission of Christ to share the gospel with those who have not heard, they may decide to act illegally."
15. Are creative access platforms a good approach in areas that are experience rapid church growth due to church planting movements (cpm)?
16. Do creative access platforms work?
17. How do platforms provide for accessibility?
18. How do platforms provide for legitimacy and integrity?
19. How do platforms provide for identity?
20. List the types of platforms given in the book.

Chapter 9 – Working Together

1. From our time at Avant and Crossworld, how do these two agencies exemplify a cooperative spirit in missions?
2. What major change has happened that is covered in this chapter?
3. What trend lead to the need for increased cooperation among agencies?
4. From the text how did the term social network originate within urban areas?
5. Does the common shared space of a city necessitate shared relationships?
6. How do people replace the loss of traditional social relationships?
7. What does prominence mean in a social network?
8. What are the benefits of teams?
9. What are the phases in a collaboration continuum?

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10. How can missionaries and agencies benefit from networks?
11. What is a local network initiative?
12. What is a specialized network initiative?
13. What is a global network initiative?
14. What is meant by the term mission team?
15. How has a movement toward teams been both formal and informal?
16. What are specialized agencies and how do they contribute to the missionary cause?
17. How can a missionary on the field begin to collaborate with others?
18. How can agencies work together more to ensure that we are accomplishing the goal and not fighting each other?
19. What are some suggestions for engaging in teamwork on the field?
20. How would you respond to the case study?

Chapter 10 – The Changing Uses of Money

1. What problems exist in a financial model of supporting national workers in foreign fields?
2. What are McQuilkin's four standards for the use of money?
3. In what ways is affluence illustrated to be a problem for western missionaries?
4. Why is missions done in the western way exceedingly costly?
5. What is the primary reason for why western missions involves so much money?
6. How might a missionary be hindered in sharing the gospel when they live in affluence in a poor mission field?
7. What scripture principles help us in our understanding of how missionaries should use funds?
8. List Nevius' five guiding principles for planting missionary churches? Are they still relevant for today?
9. Does supporting nationals with western dollars allow for the creation of sustainable churches?
10. What is the African social security system?
11. How does the western mindset toward finances differ from the majority world?
12. How does the way westerners approach wealth affect the way we are perceived by other cultures?
13. How can western and majority world missions form partnerships without creating dependency?
14. Describe the personal support model.
15. Describe the indigenous model.
16. Describe the partnership model.
17. Describe the indigenous/partnership model.
18. What guidelines does this chapter suggest for how money should be used in missions?
19. Should local churches in the US be focused more on sending and supporting American missionaries or on supporting indigenous ministers?
20. How would you respond to the case study?

Chapter 11 – The Impact of New Technologies

1. What are the seven areas that will be discussed in this chapter?
2. What is enhanced connectivity and how does it contribute to missionary efforts?

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3. What is escalation of the pace of life and how does it contribute to missionary efforts?
4. What is high touch-high tech and how does it contribute to missionary efforts?
5. What is e-learning and how does it contribute to missionary efforts?
6. What is the digital divide how does it detract from missionary efforts?
7. What is digital deflation and how does it affect missionary efforts?
8. What is involved in security issues?
9. What are some positives and negatives of missionaries using social media sites?
10. How has the rise of technology given rise to new approaches in church planting?
11. How have media efforts contributed to missions?
12. What is a virtual missions team?
13. What are some positives and negatives of virtual missions teams?
14. How does the concept of servanthood impact our approach to using technology on the missions field?
15. How can we be good stewards of technology?
16. What guidelines do the authors suggest for the wise use of technology?
17. How can introducing new technologies have negative consequences on those you are trying to reach?
18. How does our western approach to technology and affluence create the illusion of poverty where it really doesn't exist?
19. How would you respond to the case study?

Chapter 12 – Contextualization

1. What is contextualization?
2. How do liberals and evangelicals use the term contextualization differently?
3. What are the seven characteristics of good contextualization given in the text?
4. Describe the practice of accommodation and its dangers.
5. Describe adaptation.
6. What does the term indigenization refer to?
7. What is the concept of transformation and how is it related to the idea of possession?
8. What is meant by the term enculturation?
9. Describe what is meant by cultural imperialism.
10. Where is the balance between sharing the gospel message and correcting societal ills?
11. What is syncretism and why is it the greatest danger in contextualization?
12. What safeguards are given against syncretism?
13. Name some ways in which contextualization is already practiced that we take for granted.
14. Describe Hiebert's critical contextualization model.
15. Describe the doctrinal dimension of culture.
16. Describe the ritual dimension of culture.
17. Describe the ethical/legal dimension of culture.
18. Describe the experiential dimension of culture.
19. Describe the mythic/narrative dimension of culture.
20. Describe the social/organizational dimension of culture.