

MSSN 561
CHRISTIAN WITNESS &
WORLD RELIGIONS
Fall 2017

Gorden R. Doss, PhD





**MSSN 561
CHRISTIAN WITNESS & WORLD RELIGIONS
FALL 2017**

MA In Pastoral Ministry

GENERAL CLASS INFORMATION

Course acronym: MSSN561
Course name: Christian Witness & World Religions
Semester & year: Fall 2017, October 15
Location: Burman University, Alberta, Canada
Class time/day: 4:00 pm-7:00 pm; Sunday
8:00 am-12:00 am; 1:00 pm-5:00 pm Monday-Thursday
Credits offered: 3 Credits
Course Webpage: <http://learninghub.andrews.edu>

INSTRUCTOR CONTACT

Instructor: Gordon R. Doss, Professor of World Missions, DMin, PhD
Telephone: 269-471-3392
Email: doss@andrews.edu
Office location: Seminary Hall, S212

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Study of the history, writings, beliefs and practices in world religions such as Islam, Hinduism and Buddhism and the development of effective strategies for Christian witness

SYLLABUS REVISION STATEMENT

The instructor reserves the right to revise the syllabus for the benefit of the learning process with appropriate notification to the students.

MAPM PROGRAM OUTCOMES

1. Delivers effective biblically based sermons
2. Demonstrates proper biblical interpretation skills.
3. Understands the historical/theological development of the Adventist Church
4. Capable of training church members for evangelism
5. Demonstrates an understanding of how to empower church members for leadership.
6. Capable of reaching specific social groups.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

1. To think theologically about the task of mission among the world religions.
 2. To understand and feel the scale and scope of the unfinished task of mission among the world religions.
 3. To understand the basic attitudes needed for mission among the world religions.
 4. To grasp how profoundly different mission among the Christian world religions is from mission among Christians.
 5. To have an introductory knowledge of Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism, and animism.
 6. To experience an increased level of comfort and ease when relating to adherents of the world religions.
 7. To see a vision for mission among the world religions in one's ministry location.
 8. To develop a multifocal mission vision that includes the world religions everywhere.
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COURSE MATERIALS

Required Reading

Doss, Gordon R.

Animism, the Occult, and Mission

<http://digitalcommons.andrews.edu/jams/vol11/iss2/9/>

The Challenges of Adventist Discipleship

<http://digitalcommons.andrews.edu/jams/vol12/iss2/13/>

Faithful Contextualization: Where Biblical Faithfulness Can Meet Cultural Appropriateness.

<http://digitalcommons.andrews.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1031&context=worldpubs>

Maximizing the Missional Value of Short-Term Mission

<http://digitalcommons.andrews.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1002&context=worldpubs>

Viewpoint: Reforming Christians or Converting Non-Christians?

<http://digitalcommons.andrews.edu/jams/vol6/iss2/10/>

Elmer, Duane. 2006. *Cross Cultural Servanthood*. Downers' Grove, IL: IVP.

Halverson, Dean C. 1997. *The Compact Guide to World Religions*. Minneapolis, MN: Bethany House Publishers.

COURSE ASSIGNMENTS

A. Pre-Intensive Assignments—Deadline, October 1

1. Write a 300-500 word summary and response for each of Halverson's chapters on Animism, Buddhism, Hinduism, Islam, New Age, and Secularism (6 chapters). Submit interactions with all 6 chapters in a single Word file.
2. Write a 300-

Grading and Time Distribution

Assignment	% of Grade	Time Estimate	Pages
Class attendance		40	
Halverson	15	15	95
Doss	10	10	39
Elmer	25	20	198
Journals	10	10	
Mosque/temple visit	10	10	
YouTube Videos	10	10	
Local research and report	10		

His Stateside service includes ministerial internship in Kansas Conference and a pastorate in Florida Conference. In Malawi he spent most of his years as principal of Lakeview Seminary, a junior seminary that trains pastors for Malawi.

Areas that are of particular interest to him are cultural anthropology, Christian spirituality and family ministry. For hobbies he does carpentry, auto mechanics, and mountain climbing.

Appendix Example Criteria for Assessment Guidelines

THE B GRADE

We start with the B grade for a very specific reason. It is because a B grade is a sign that you have competently fulfilled all of the requirements stipulated for an assessment or competency evaluation. It is an excellent grade and demonstrates a high level of knowledge, insight, critique competence and professional written presentation standards essential for an individual wishing to pursue a career as a professional pastor.

THE A GRADE

An A grade is only given when a student not only fulfills the criteria stipulated above for a B grade, but in doing so demonstrates an advanced academic aptitude for content knowledge, critique, synthesis and independent insight, while exhibiting highly developed communication skills and professional publication standards that would allow them to pursue a highly competitive academic career.

THE C GRADE

The C grade differs only from a B grade in that the traits outlined in the B grade above are not consistently applied. However, with diligence and applying feedback from your lecturer, the academic process can provide a perfect opportunity for a student to improve their consistency, and hence, their grade.

THE D GRADE

The D grade exhibits a limited level of knowledge, insight and critique and poor written presentation standards. This may be because of a lack of time management on the part of the student, they may have difficulty grasping the concepts being taught, English may be their second language, or they may be experiencing a personal issue that is affecting their concentration and motivation levels. Again, with diligence, applying feedback from your lecturer, and seeking services offered by the University like the writing lab or the counseling centre, the academic process can provide an opportunity for a student to significantly improve their performance.

FAIL

The Fail grade is given when very limited or no demonstrable competency has been observed.

EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

- f You cannot be graded on the type of paper you could have turned in if you had read more
- f You cannot be graded or given credit in this class on extra-curricular activities you may be involved in.
- f It is unreasonable to expect a better grade because you are a nice person or are friends with the lecturer.
- f It is unreasonable to demand a good grade because you believe you have been called by God, and thus, should automatically be given good grades despite poor performance.

Your assessments have been specifically designed to measure and provide evidence of your competency with relation to the subject matter. This is to meet University accreditation standards. Thus, you will only be graded on the content of the assessments you submit. If it is not in your assessments, your lecturer will not have adequate evidence of your competency and will have to grade you accordingly.

PLAGIARISM

Replicating writing, cutting and pasting or moderately paraphrasing text from publications, internet sources, books, friends papers or publications, family members papers or publications, ghost writers papers or publications with the intent of passing it off as your own work, is strictly prohibited and unacceptable. Students found to be plagiarizing the work of others will receive an immediate Failing grade. Your actions will be reported to the University and your sponsor (if sponsored). You may even face expulsion from the University. Your lecturer will randomly sample

sentences, phrases and paragraphs from your paper and compare them with papers from past students and with content from the internet. Your lecturer is also familiar with a lot of the journals and sources you will be using for your assessment and will also be able to identify any potential plagiarism.

LANGUAGE AND GRAMMAR

There is an expectation that a person who holds a Master's qualification will have advanced written language skills, particularly in the language in which their Masters was taught. Thus, no special consideration will be given to students who speak English as a second language or native speaker of English.