BN9064W  Mission and Culture in the New Testament

Offered:  2017: Semester 2  (Also available online – see BN9764W)
[Unit offered alternatively as DM9064W and online as DM9764W]

This unit explores the mission of God and the diversity of the church’s missionary nature as reflected in the writings of the New Testament. Contemporary interpretative methods will be employed to investigate texts illustrative of the manner in which the earliest Christian communities expressed their relationship with and responsibility to the world in which they lived. The study will pay special attention to the cultural, religious, social, and economic contexts of the texts in the New Testament, as well as how the earliest Christians bore witness to Christ cross-culturally in the Roman Empire.

Upon successful completion of this unit, it is expected that students will be able to:

2. Identify and discuss the mission of the church within first-century Jewish and Greco-Roman societies.
3. Outline and critically evaluate the understandings of mission reflected in the four gospels, Acts, Paul’s letters, and other writings of the New Testament, including 1 Peter and Revelation.
4. Identify and discuss issues that early Christ-followers faced as communities of Jews and Gentiles, including the religious, cultural, social, economic, and political implications of these ethnically mixed communities in being on mission with God.
5. Critique recent missional hermeneutics proposed by contemporary New Testament scholars and missiologists.
6. Analyse the premises and principles for mission outlined in the New Testament and the challenge of these for the church today.

Prerequisites:  Nil

Class Time:  Three hours per week

Assessment:  One tutorial paper (1,000 words) (20%)
One essay on the biblical text (The student will study a given set of New Testament passages that have missiological implications.) (2,500 words) (40%)
One thematic essay (2,500 words) (40%)

Faculty:  Siu Fung Wu

Recommended Reading:
* = set texts recommended for purchase