

DM9051W Mission in the Australian Context

Offered: 2018: Intensive – August/October/November

This unit examines the relationship of gospel and culture, mission theory and practice by exploring dimensions of Christian mission in Australian contexts. Models of contextual theology, in which theology is in dialogue with cultural voices and worldview perspectives, will be explored. Topics will be selected from the following: Australian identity and worldview, a sense of place and time, Indigenous/non-Indigenous relationships, popular sustaining myths, multiculturalism, socio-economic and religious trends, approaches to evangelism and church planting, understandings of conversion and community, engagement with the working classes and underprivileged, the arts and film, Australian spirituality, postmodernity, the Australian church in its cultural context, and the extent to which there are Australian theologies.

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

1. Outline and analyse selected aspects of Australian culture;
2. Identify and describe points of relevance of the gospel for selected Australian contexts;
3. Analyse and critique a variety of approaches to contextual theology with respect to the Australian context;
4. Propose approaches to mission which intentionally engage with aspects of the Australian context as an expression of an articulated contextual theology.

Prerequisites: 30 points of Foundational units

Class Time: 6 x sessions of 6 hours each

Assessment:

Online forum: Six critical responses to case studies/readings and peer interaction (1,200 words total – 200 words per response)	(20%)
One critical book review (1,500 words)	(30%)
Essay (3,500 words)	(50%)

Faculty: Ian Dicks, Darren Cronshaw

Recommended Reading:

* = set texts recommended for purchase

Bevans, Stephen B. *Models of contextual theology*. Rev. ed. Maryknoll: Orbis, 2002.

*Bouma, Gary. *Australian soul: Religion and spirituality in the twenty-first century*. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press, 2006.

Buxton, Graham. *Dancing in the dark: The Privilege of participating in the ministry of Christ*. Carlisle: Paternoster Press, 2001.

Cronshaw, Darren. *Credible witness: Companions, prophets, hosts and other Australian mission models*. Springvale, Vic.: Urban Neighbours of Hope, 2006.

Goosen, Gideon. *Australian theologies: Themes and methodologies into the third millennium*. Strathfield, NSW: St Pauls, 2000.

*Habel, Norman C. *Reconciliation: Searching for Australia's soul*. Sydney: HarperCollins, 1999.

Holmes, David, Kate Hughes and Roberta Julian. *Australian sociology: A changing society*. Frenchs Forest, NSW: Pearson Education, 2003.

*Holt, Simon Carey. *God next door: Spirituality and mission in the neighbourhood*. Brunswick East, Vic: Acorn Press Ltd., 2007

Hynd, Doug, James Barr and Gordon Preece, eds. *Theology in a third voice*. Adelaide: ATF Press, 2006.

Jacson, H. R. *Australians and the Christian God: An historical study*, Preston, Vic: Mosaic Press, 2013.

Jione Havea. *Indigenous Australia and the unfinished business of theology: Cross-cultural engagement*. South Yarra: Palgrave Macmillan, 2014.

Langmead, Ross, ed. *Reimagining God and mission: Perspectives from Australia*. Hindmarsh, SA: ATF Press, 2007.

Mackay, Hugh. *Advance Australia—where?: How we've changed, why we've changed, and what will happen next?* Sydney: Hachette Australia, 2007.

McCredden, Lyn. *Luminous moments: The contemporary sacred*. Hindmarsh, SA: ATF Press, 2010.

Sutton, Peter. *The politics of suffering: Indigenous Australian and the end of the Liberal consensus*. Carlton, Vic: Melbourne University Publishing, 2011.