

DRAFT SYLLABUS (08/11/2016)**MISSION IN CONTEXT****A JOINT JANUARY TERM COURSE, JANUARY 14-21, 2017 (EM3393)****Seminario Evangelico de Matanzas (SET) and Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary (LPTS)****Purpose of the Course**

The relationship over the years – even when our governments have been most estranged – between the churches and the seminaries in Cuba and the United States has been a great treasure for Christians in both countries and a source of real learning and renewal. It is important to build and continue these relationships with a new generation of church leaders in both countries and to have them shaped by the gifts and realities of the Christian communities in both countries. Toward that end, Louisville Seminary, and Seminario Evangelico de Matanzas will offer in January 2017 an intensive J-term course on Mission in Context for Cuba and the U.S.A. so that our students to study and learn with and from one another.

The objectives of this course are to:

- 1) Explore together our different contexts for mission locally, globally, and historically (perhaps using individual contextual stories and comparing documents for changes in the global context and in the understanding of mission in the past 25 years from the Vatican and the World Council of Churches. [SLO5]
- 2) Examine together the violent evangelism that began our mission history in this hemisphere and analyze the theological issues that allowed it to happen. To what extent does this persist, in content and-or in method? [SLO 5, 7]
- 3) Explore the dramatic changes in the context in which we do mission today in Cuba and the U.S.A. and how those changing contexts impact one another and the life and mission of the church today. (SLO 5)
- 4) Experience and analyze concrete mission and evangelism projects in the Matanzas, Cuba area for missiological insights, particularly as the Cuban and U.S. churches do mission together. Projects will be focused on justice and development, evangelism; interfaith ministry. [QEPSLO 3]
- 5) Construct together steps toward the transformation of our mission practices that each side can apply to local mission and evangelism efforts AND to joint mission partnership activities. [QEPSLO 2]

Course Sessions and Content

The sessions of the course on *The Transformation of Mission* will be in two parts (for students from Louisville Seminary). The first part will be on a Thursday Evening to Saturday noon session (Nov. 10-12) in Louisville to become acquainted with the history and current reality of Cuba, Cuba-U.S. relations, and Cuban churches. Dr. Carlos Emilio Ham, President of Seminario Evangelico de Teologia, will be lecturing at Louisville Seminary at this time and will join Professor Kirkpatrick in leading this introductory session.

At this fall session, students will be asked to view one of two movies, either “The Black Robe” or “The Mission,” prior to coming together so that we may discuss these films during our session. See below for readings on the history and current reality of the church in Cuba which students will also be expected to complete before coming to the November session. During the session students will be asked to work in three groups to begin to prepare presentations on mission ventures in the areas of evangelism, development, and ministry with people of other faiths in the North American context to share with our Cuban colleagues in January.

Students from SET and LPTS will study together in Matanzas in January around the following themes:

- Overview of the reality and context of the life and ministry of churches in both the U.S.A. and Cuba
- Review of the “violent evangelism” that brought Christianity to the New World and what we can learn from that reality
- In depth study of the missiology emerging from the Ecumenical Movement (using resources such as *Together Toward Life: Mission and Evangelism in Changing Landscapes* from the World Council of Churches, the work of C. Rene Padilla on *Integral Mission*, and the recent *Apostolic Exhortation* of Pope Francis.)
- Applying missiological insights to three dimensions of Christian mission engagement in Cuba and in the United States
 - Justice and development
 - Evangelism
 - Ministry and dialogue with people of other (and no) faiths

This will include visits together to projects of the church in Cuba such as:

- Central Presbyterian Church, Matanzas, an urban congregation with ministries with the poor and elderly, water project; and evangelism, “houses of prayer.”
- Kairos Center at the Baptist Church, Matanzas, which has a prison chaplaincy and art ministry, water project
- Visit to the Fortress (and now Slave Route Museum) in Matanzas that served as a dungeon in the trans-Atlantic slave trade
- Afro-Cuban Center for Afro-Cuban religions, primarily Santeria

In addition to the coursework, an emphasis will be placed on building community and sharing of understandings of ministry from students of many different contexts. Among other things, students

from Cuba and the United States will prepare worship services to introduce one another to creative forms of worship in our different contexts. Students will also be asked in advance to find ways to introduce one another to the challenges and opportunities for ministry in their respective contexts.

This is a three credit hour course (graded on a pass/fail basis) that fulfills the Evangelism and Mission requirement for the M.Div. degree at Louisville Seminary. Given limitations on housing and transport and our desire to have roughly equal numbers of Cuban and U.S. students, the maximum number of students from Louisville Seminary for the course will be fifteen.

Bibliography

Required Readings (by all LPTS students) for the weekend session in November in Louisville:

- Corse, Theron, Preface and Chapter 7 (“Recasting the Bond”), pp. ix – xi and 127 – 147, in *Protestants, Revolution, and the Cuba-U.S. Bond*. Gainesville: University Press of Florida, 2007. ISBN 978-0-8130-3158-3 (on CAMS)
- “Religion in Cuba, Christianity in Cuba, and Protestantism in Cuba” at Wikipedia.com
- “New Hopes and Realities in Cuban-American Relations: A Nuevo Momento” from the 222nd General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (USA). <https://www.pc-biz.org/#/committee/575/business>
- “A Short History of the Presbyterian-Reformed Church in Cuba,” and the 2015 Presbyterian Cuba Connection Newsletter by the Rev. Dean Lewis.

Required Readings (for all students) for the January session in Matanzas: (All of these texts are available in both Spanish and English). LPTS students will download these readings electronically, and students from SET will be provided with a flash drive with these readings in Spanish.)

- World Council of Churches, *Together Toward Life: Mission and Evangelism in Changing Landscapes*, <http://www.oikoumene.org/en/resources/documents/wcc-commissions/mission-and-evangelism/together-towards-life-mission-and-evangelism-in-changing-landscapes>
- Pope Francis, *The Apostolic Exhortation*, “Synthesis of the Apostolic Exhortation, The Joy of the Gospel” (will be placed on CAMS)
- Rene Padilla, What is “Integral Mission” (on CAMS)
- Documents and Articles on Evangelism, Justice and Development, and Relations with People of Other Faiths.
 - PCUSA, “Turn to the Living God: Evangelism in Jesus Christ’s Way,” (in English or Spanish) https://www.pcusa.org/site_media/media/uploads/resolutions/turn-to-the-living-god.pdf or http://oga.pcusa.org/media/uploads/oga/pdf/turn-to-the-living-god_sp.pdf
 - “Sermon of Antonio de Montesinos” shared by Bartolome de las Casas

http://www.digitalhistory.uh.edu/active_learning/explorations/spain/spain_montesinos.cfm

<http://www.franciscanos.net/500anos/El%20sermon%20de%20Montesinos.htm>

- Clara Luz Ajo Lazaro, "Jesus and Mary Dance with the Orishas," in Kwok Pui-lan, editor, *Hope Abundant: Third World and indigenous Women's Theology*. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books, 2010., pp. 203-216. (on CAMS),
- David Bosch, *Transforming Mission: Twentieth Anniversary Edition*. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books, 2010. Chapter One, "Reflections on the New Testament as a Missionary Document," and Chapter Two, "Matthew: "Mission as Disciple Making", (pp. 15-84) on CAMS).

Course Faculty

Primary professors for the course will be Daniel Montoya Rosales and Clara Luz Ajo from SET and Clifton Kirkpatrick and Jo Ella Holman from LPTS. In addition, other faculty from SET and staff colleagues from both Louisville Seminary will share with students in areas of their particular competence. We anticipate that faculty will lead students in the study of mission and evangelism through both classroom lectures and experiential learning opportunities.