

## Department of Theology

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### GRADUATE COURSE DESCRIPTION

Term: **Fall 2009**  
Instructor: Thomas Hughson, S.J.  
Course #: THEO 8525  
Course Title: Theological Method  
Course Subtitle: Ecclesiology and Mission in Context

#### Content:

Starting from an ecclesiological consensus that the church is missionary by nature (Trinity) not only by commissioned activity (Mt. 28:18-20), seminar participants will discuss readings on questions such as the following. What exactly does it mean to say, as Catholic, Orthodox, and Protestant sources have stated, that the church is missionary by nature? Discussion will start from a contemporary renaissance (Bosch, Bauckham, Vatican II, J-P II, Hughson, Bevans & Gros) that revisits the New Testament origin of the church in the missions of Christ (Paschal Mystery) and the Holy Spirit (Pentecost) (Vatican II, Paul VI, J-P II, Hughson).

Study then will shift to recent presentation of the historical record on post-biblical evangelization East and West, noting conversion of the 'barbarian' West, Eastern ideas on mission, and critical re-examination of modern Catholic and Protestant missions from the West (Bosch, Bevans, Keller).

What are the main historical models of mission (Bosch) and why might there be a specifically postmodern crisis in mission occurring 'after Christendom' (Bosch, Bauckham, Smith)? What does the theological critique of colonialism contribute to understanding the nature and future of mission?

The last phase of the seminar will focus on constructive proposals for mission after Christendom that is attentive to cultural context, takes account of secularity, faces postmodernity including globalization, and dissociates mission from types of imperialism (Bosch, Bauckham, Bevans, Smith).

#### Format:

Seminar with discussion; occasional lectures

#### Assignments and/or Examinations:

- Research paper, 25 pages; seminar report

#### Language Pre-requisites:

- Latin helpful not a prerequisite; French & German helpful not required

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### Required Texts:

- Richard Bauckham, Bible and Mission: Christian Witness in a Postmodern World
- Stephen B. Bevans, Constants in Context: A Theology of Mission for Today
- Stephen B. Bevans and Jeffrey Gros, FSC, Evangelization and Religious Freedom
- David J. Bosch, Transforming Mission: Paradigm Shifts in Theology of Mission
- Richard A. Fletcher, The Barbarian Conversion: From Paganism to Christianity
- Thomas Hughson, S.J., "Interpreting Vatican II: 'A New Pentecost'," Theological Studies 69, 1 (2008) 3-37
- Catherine Keller, Michael Nausner, and Mayra Rivera, editors, Postcolonial Theologies
- David Smith, Mission After Christendom Plus online access to Vatican II's *Ad gentes*, Paul VI's *Evangelii Nuntiandi*, and J-P II's *Redemptoris Missio*.