

CARIBBEAN SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY

Educating and training ministerial leadership



MIS232 Modern Cults

Mission Statement

CST is committed to connect, serve, and train for Pentecostal ministry, leadership, and missions throughout the world.

Professor

Course Description

The doctrines of the most common modern cults will be reviewed. The teachings of Christian Science, Spiritism, Mormonism, and Jehovah's Witnesses among others, are contrasted to orthodox theology. Scriptural refutation is offered, including the biblical plan of salvation and suggested soul winning techniques for evangelizing cult members.

Textbook

The required textbook for this course is:
Zacharias, Ravi, ed. 2003. *The Kingdom of the Cults*, Rev, Updated, and Expanded ed.
Minneapolis: Bethany House Publishers.

The New International Version of the Bible

Occasional handouts may be presented

Course Objectives

See the "TENTATIVE CLASS SCHEDULE AND OBJECTIVES" below

Course Methodology

Classroom lectures, group discussion, outside reading, term paper, and audio-visual presentations constitute some of the various methods that will be utilized in order to attain the course objectives. The student's reading and class discussion will facilitate the achievement of these objectives.

Course Requirements

1. A complete and careful reading of the assigned textbook is required. The student shall submit a written statement (see form at end of syllabus) that he or she has read the assigned readings from the textbook and handouts. Also, a written 4-5 page evaluation, including parenthetical references with page number(s) when quoting from the body of the textbook, is **due Nov 20**. The "Assigned Reading Form" is **due (date)**.
2. **Praying for Our World**. Student will lead the class in prayer for a nation covered in the textbook *Operation World* by Patrick Johnstone. Your prayer time will be for 5 minutes: 2 mins. to present a clear need and 3 mins. to lead in prayer. Use *Operation World* to discover the nation of the day for the day you have been assigned. Prepare one page with the information necessary to help you lead the class in prayer. Your sheet should list: 1) Your name, 2) date of class prayer, 3) name of country, 4) where to find this nation on the map, 5) name and significant characteristics of a people group you would like to focus on in your prayer, 6) 2 or 3 clearly stated prayer needs (give details on a prevailing spiritual or physical problem in the prayer country that you would like the class to pray about).

Feel free to bring a picture, artifact, or interesting fact you learned about your country from sources other than *Operation World!* PowerPoint presentations or other media are encouraged.

On your assigned day, you will lead the class for 5 minutes. When you come to the front to lead the class in prayer, use the following order: **First 2 minutes**—state your name, major, and where you are from; **2) Explain the items on your sheet** (creativity is fine!); **Last 3 minutes**—lead either the whole class or part of the class in a sincere verbal prayer for the needs; **2) get the class to pray aloud with you**; **3) when finished, turn in your sheet.**

Remember, the most important need for each prayer country is the salvation of its people!

3. Active participation in class discussions of the various cults is required.
4. Regarding the final exam, the “Post-Test” exam, given at the end of the semester, will count as 5% of the final grade.
5. A research project pertaining to one of the cults studied in this course is required. **Selection of subject for research paper is due (date)**. This must be typewritten and include the following: Subject to be researched, problem or issue to be solved, and thesis statement (possible solution). Please see the “**Tentative Class Schedule**” for due dates of the various parts of the “research paper scheme” (subject, Table of Contents, Works Cited). The paper will be eight to ten pages in length and is to be written in proper format (according to the Student Handbook--MLA). It shall include a cover page, a Table of Contents, body of text, and Works Cited pages--a minimum of seven sources (one from the internet and one from a periodical, you may include more). **The research paper is due (date)**.

Possible subjects for research paper

The research paper will be written on the subject of **how to evangelize** any one of the following cults or religions in the United States of America today: Mormons, Jehovah’s Witnesses, Christian Science, Unification Church, New Age Movement (e.g., Hare Krishna, T.M., Rajneeshism), Islam, Wicca.

6. Please note that all written assignments shall comply with the follow information: a) Double spaced; b) Paper--8½ x 11, white; c) Font size-- 12; d) Font style—Ariel or Times New Roman.

Evaluation Procedures

Mid-Term examination	20%	Textbook evaluation	10%
Final examination	20%	Classroom participation	5%
Assigned Reading Report	10%		
Research Project Scheme	15%		
Final Research Project	20%		
		Total	100%

The following grading scale will be utilized to determine the final letter grade:

97-100 A+	87-89 B+	77-79 C+	67-69 D+	0-59 F
93-96 A	83-86 B	73-76 C	63-66 D	
90-92 A-	80-82 B-	70-72 C-	60-62 D-	

TENTATIVE CLASS SCHEDULE AND OBJECTIVES

date Presentation of Course Syllabus

date Introduction to Modern Cults

UNIT ONE: Introduction, Mormons, Jehovah’s Witnesses, and Christian Science

date Introduction to cults, language barriers, and evangelism
Notes, Txtbk pp 17-33; 469-493

After reading these chapters, the student should be able to

- Analyze the historical rise of cults (pseudo-Christianity)
- Develop a workable methodology on how to evangelize cults
- Discover the “other” Jesus of cults (pseudo-Christianity)
- Explain a biblical approach on how to evangelize cults
- Describe the psychological barriers encountered when witnessing

date Subject selection due

date Mormonism: Background, videos, Txtbk pp 193-259; 457-467, Notes

After reading these chapters, the student should be able to

- Describe the history of Mormonism
- Explain the doctrinal differences between the Mormon and Christian Jesus
- Evaluate the doctrines of Mormonism
- Plan how to evangelize a Mormon

date Jehovah’s Witnesses: History, videos, Txtbk pp 49-147; 35-47; Notes

After reading these chapters, the student should be able to

- Describe the history of Jehovah’s Witnesses
- Identify the doctrinal differences between the Jehovah’s Witnesses and Christianity
- Integrate an apologetic defense on the biblical understanding of Trinity
- Evaluate how JWs have misapplied/misinterpreted biblical theology

date Table of Contents due

date Christian Science: History, videos, Txtbk pp 149-191; Notes

After reading this chapter, the student should be able to

- Summarize the background of Christian Science
- Analyze the theological structure of Christian Science
- Evaluate their approach to healing

date Works Cited due

date Unit One Mid-Term Exam

UNIT TWO: Unification Church, Eastern Religions, Islam, Occult, and WFM

date The Unification Church: History, doctrines, Txtbk pp 371-387; Notes

After reading this chapter, the student should be able to

- Contrast their history with that of Christianity
- Identify distinguishing features that are different from other cults
- Show the differences between Unification and Christian theology

date Eastern Religions: History, videos, doctrines, Txtbk pp 389-433, Notes

After reading this chapter, the student should be able to

- Discuss the history of the New Age Movement (NAM) in the U.S.A.
- Discover the impact of NAM on the U.S.A. society
- Summarize the teachings of NAM-Rajneeshism, ISKCON, and TM
- Design a course of how to evangelize this group

date Islam in America: history, guest lecturer, video, Txtbk pp 435-455; Notes

After reading this chapter, the student should be able to

- Explain the basic teachings of Islam
- Identify the impact of Islam on the U.S.A. culture
- Design a course of action on how to present the gospel to a Muslim
- Convince other Christians as to why Christians should evangelize Muslims

date Research paper due

date The Occult: Parts 1 and 2—Background of Yoruba and Wicca Religions, Notes

After reading this material, the student should be able to

- Describe the background to Yoruba and Wicca Religions
- Examine the various doctrines and practices of these religions
- Analyze their impact of today's culture
- Decide if their activity is a threat to the Christian Church

date Christianity in Crisis: Part 1—Word of Faith Movement (WFM)
Txtbk pp 495-516, <http://www.bible-reading.com/crisis.html>, Notes

After reading this material, the student should be able to

- Quote who said what that differs from Orthodox Christianity
- Identify significant theological teachings
- Evaluate the impact of WFM in Christian Churches today

date Assigned Reading Form due with signature

date Final Exam preparation

date Unit Two (Final Exam),

Bibliography

All about Cults. <<http://www.allaboutcults.org>.>

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- Michaelsen, Johanna. 1982. *The Beautiful Side of Evil*. Eugene, OR: Harvest House Publishers.
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- Religious Tolerance. <<http://www.religioustolerance.org/lds.htm>>.
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MODERN CULTS (MIS232) ASSIGNED READING FORM
(to be turned in on date)

Name: _____ Assigned Reading Yes or No

date	Txtbk pp 17-33; 469-493	_____
date	Txtbk pp 193-259; 457-467,	_____
date	Txtbk pp 49-147; 35-47;	_____
date	Txtbk pp 149-191;	_____
date	Txtbk pp 371-387;	_____
date	Txtbk pp 389-433,	_____
date	Txtbk pp 435-455;	_____
date	<i>Christianity in Crisis: Part 1—Word of Faith Movement (WFM)</i> http://www.bible-reading.com/crisis.html), Txtbk pp 495-516,	_____

I have read all of the above assigned reading from the textbook.

student signature