



Seventh-day Adventist
Theological Seminary
Andrews University

MSSN 546
**MISSION IN CULTURAL AND
RELIGIOUS CONTEXT**
Fall 2024

Wagner Kuhn, PhD

This course explores missiological principles with an emphasis on the cultural and religious context, and the development of cultural sensitivity and cross-cultural communication skills for Christian witness.

CLASS & CONTACT INFORMATION

Class location: Pacific Union, Southeastern California Conference 11330 Pierce Street
Riverside, CA 92505 **This is an in-person class.**

Class meeting dates: Fall 2024 (September 15-19)

Class meeting times: Sunday, 5:00pm–9:00pm

Monday–Thursday 8:00am–12:30pm; 1:30pm–6:00pm

Course Website: <http://learninghub.andrews.edu>

Instructor Tel.: (269) 471-6505

Instructor Email: kuhn@andrews.edu

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Pre-intensive requirements:

1. **Critical Book Review: Due Sunday, September 15.**
2. One book review of Duane Elmer's (*Cross-Cultural Servanthood: Serving the World in Christlike Humility- CCS*) will be submitted; The review is to be 1500-1750 words. It is important to note that this is NOT a book report. The majority of content in the review is for critique and analysis of the books; you can summarize the main points of the book, but must engage in analysis and critique of the main ideas. **Due Sunday, September 15.**
3. **Journal/Annotated Reading of the Book: *Passport to Mission (PPM)*: Due Sunday, September 15.**
Each student will read the book *Passport to Mission* and write a report in form of a journal entry (reviewing/interacting) for the six parts (sections) of the book (total of 6 parts – 28 chapters). The report is due as per set schedule. The report/journal entry is to be 1500-1750 words, and will respond to and interact with the subject of the parts of the book being revised.
One journal / report will be prepared and submitted. The journal entry/report should include (but not limited to) the following elements:
 - A candid, energetic engagement and interaction with the material in each part of the book.
 - Points that stood out or that were new (“Aha!” moments)

- Points of agreement or disagreement, and/or points needing clarification
 - Statements of syntheses and conclusion that tie together with concepts dealt with in the classroom and/or studied in other required readings
 - Applications of concepts to personal life and ministry
 - General remarks about the material, affirming or suggesting possible changes/additions
4. Report: *PPM*: Parts 1-6 (chapters 1-28; pages 1-238). **Due Sunday, September 15.**

Requirements during intensives:

1. Web Resource List: **Due Wednesday, September 18.**
Each student will prepare a two (2) pages list of web mission resources. Try to list as many websites containing important resources dealing with cross-cultural missions, church and mission, mission strategies and resources, etc. **Due Wednesday, September 18.**

Post-intensive requirements:

1. Intercultural Visit Report: **Due Monday, October 28.**
Each student will pair-up with one other student for a cross-cultural visit. Maximum cultural difference should be sought in choosing partners for the visits. Each will contribute food, entertainment, and cultural orientation. The food should be ordinary, everyday food from your home culture. Single students who cannot readily entertain colleagues alone can make an arrangement with one or two others. However, the visit is not intended to be a large potluck because that would diminish the depth of learning. A one page (300-400 word) report about the visit will be submitted. The paper will be single-spaced with the following heading and no cover page. **Due Monday, October 28.**
2. Critical Book Review: *Introduction to Adventist Mission (IAM)*: **Due Monday, November 25.**
One book review of Gordon Doss' *Introduction to Adventist Mission (IAM)*; the review is to be 2000 words. It is important to note that this is NOT a book report. The majority of content in the review is for critique and analysis of the books; you can summarize the main points of the book, but must engage in analysis and critique of the main ideas. **Due Monday, November 25.**
3. Final Exam
The final exam will be on **Thursday, September 19.**

COURSE MATERIALS

Required Textbooks and Readings:

- Gordon R. Doss. 2018. *Introduction to Adventist Mission*. Berrien Springs, MI: Institute of World Mission/Department of World Mission, Andrews University/General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists.
- Cheryl Doss, editor. 2017. *Passport to Mission*. Fourth revised edition. Silver Spring, MD: Institute of World Mission, General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists.
- Elmer, Duane. 2006. *Cross-Cultural Servanthood: Serving the World in Christlike Humility*. Downers Grove, Ill.: IVP Books.

- *Standards of Excellence in Short Term Mission*, <https://missionexcellence.global/wp-content/uploads/SOE-Booklet-2021-Final.pdf>; <https://missionexcellence.global/7-standards/>
- Other specific articles posted on Moodle and/or as assigned by instructor.

REVISION STATEMENT

The instructor reserves the right to revise the syllabus for the benefit of the learning process with appropriate notification to the students.

COURSE OVERVIEW

Course topics and assignments have been selected to contribute to learning and evaluating these Course Learning Outcomes (CLOs) as follows:

MA in Pastoral Ministry (MAPM) English & Spanish Program Outcomes

1. Delivers effective biblically based sermons.
2. Demonstrates proper biblical interpretation skills.
3. Understands the historical–theological development of the Adventist Church.
4. Capable of training church members for evangelism.
5. Demonstrates an understanding of how to empower church members for leadership.
6. Capable of reaching specific social groups.

Student Learning Outcomes (SLO) The student will:

1. Understand and explain major demographic dimensions of the unfinished task of world mission
2. Summarize assigned chapters and specified class lectures
3. Analyze reading and lecture content and state reasons for agreement or disagreement
4. Demonstrate ability to apply concepts and principles to ministry situations
5. Value cultural differences and show sensitivity to those of other cultures
6. Explain basic mission principles

Day	Date	Class Schedule – Topics	Readings / Tasks	Assignments Due
1	Sunday September 15	Overview of course & assignments; Introduction to the study of mission; The contemporary context of world mission	CCS chapter 1: pages 11-20 PPM chapters 1-5; pages 10-45; IAM chapter 1	Critical Book Review: Elmer--Cross-Cultural Servanthood (CCS). Due Sunday, September 15.
2	Sunday September 15	Status of Christianity in the world Challenges and opportunities for SDA mission	CCS chapters 2-3: pages 21-34; PPM chapters 6-8; pages 48-69; IAM chapter 2	Journal Report: Passport to Mission (PPM) Due Sunday, September 15.
2	Monday September 16	Adventist Missiological Education The Mission of God (<i>Missio Dei</i>) concept in the Bible and in missions; Biblical basis for mission	CCS chapter 4: pages 37-56 PPM 9-13; pages 72-110;	

			<i>JAMS</i> : Vol. 7, No 1:28-47; <i>IAM</i> chapter 3	
2	Monday September 16	The Bible as God's grand mission narrative – mission history. Lessons from the history of Christian / Adventist mission – case study	<i>CCS</i> chapters 5-6: pages 57-88; <i>IAM</i> chapter 4	
2	Monday September 16	SDA Church mission history Current trends in SDA mission	<i>IAM</i> chapters 5-6; <i>CCS</i> chapter 7, pages 89-106;	
3	Monday September 16	Mission studies and social sciences Culture, values, and mission	<i>PPM</i> chapters 14-19; pages 112-158; <i>IAM</i> chapter 7	
3	Tuesday September 17	Culture and worldview Culture shock and transition in mission	<i>PPM</i> chapters 20-24; pages 160-194; <i>IAM</i> chapters 8	
3	Tuesday September 17	The world, culture, and mission Four Culture Game	<i>PPM</i> chapters 25-28; pages 196-238; <i>CCS</i> chapter 8: pages 107-124	
3	Tuesday September 17	Culture, Worldview and our view and understanding of Scriptures Critical contextualization Practical contextualization	<i>CCS</i> chapter 9: pages 125-143; <i>IAM</i> chapter 9 & 10	
4	Tuesday September 17	Mission practice: case studies The excluded middle Studying the Bible for mission	<i>IAM</i> chapter 11	Web resource list Due Wednesday, September 18.
4	Wednesda y September 18	The incarnation as mission model Cross-cultural communication Building bridges of understanding	<i>CCS</i> chapter 10: pages 144-152; <i>IAM</i> chapter 12	
4	Wednesda y September 18	Cross-cultural witnessing Roles and relationships in mission The local church as mission basis	<i>CCS</i> chapter 11: pages 155-168; <i>IAM</i> chapter 13	
4	Wednesda y September 18	Building a multi-cultural team Conflict management in cross-cultural mission	<i>CCS</i> chapter 12: pages 169-179; <i>IAM</i> chapters 14	
4	Wednesda y September 18	Strategic perspectives in mission – Mission career; Long term service Missionary Vocation	<i>CCS</i> chapter 13-14: pages 180-198; <i>IAM</i> chapter 15	
5	Thursday September 19	Short-term mission (STM) STM training; STM challenges, pitfalls, benefits	<i>IAM</i> chapter 16	
5	Thursday September 19	Long term Partnerships Strategic perspectives in mission – Tentmaking as mission	<i>IAM</i> chapter 17	
5	Thursday September 19	Tentmaking: business as mission Strategic perspectives in mission – Holistic ministries (Ex.: ADRA)	<i>IAM</i> chapter 18	
5	Thursday September 19	Final Exam		Thursday September 19.

	October 28	Intercultural Visit Report		Due Monday, October 28
	November 25	Critical Book Review: <i>Introduction to Adventist Mission (IAM)</i>		Due Monday, November 25
				Late final-assignment submission receives no more than a B by midnight on this day (XXXXXX).
				Late final-assignment submission receives no more than a C by midnight on this day (XXXXXX).
				<i>172 days from the first day of class.</i> Students who have not completed all intensive requirements by XXXXXX will receive a F . This grade will negatively affect the overall GPA of the student, will stain the student's academic record, and may impede the pursue of post-graduate education.

Major Topics covered:

Theology	History	Culture	Strategy
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction to the discipline of missiology • Grand narrative • Models: Jesus, Paul • Missio Dei • Kingdom of God • SDA theology of mission 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paradigms of mission • Modern missionary movement • Exemplar missionaries • Case studies • Stages of SDA mission 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction to culture • Theology of culture • Topics in culture <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Form and meaning ○ Set theory ○ People groups • Worldview and worldview transformation • Contextualization • Intercultural communication • Intercultural competence • Intercultural conflict resolution • Ethnocentrism, racism, tribalism 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Context and demographics • Introduction to strategy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Church growth • Two structures • Urban • Migration, refugees, immigrants • Long term service • Short term service • Education • Health • Mass media • Music and arts

ATTENDANCE

Class Absences

“Whenever the number of absences exceeds 20% (10% for graduate classes) of the total course appointments, the teacher may give a failing grade. Merely being absent from campus does not exempt

the student from this policy. Absences recorded because of late registration, suspension, and early/late vacation leaves are not excused. The class work missed may be made up only if the teacher allows. Three tardies are equal to one absence. Registered students are considered class members until they file a Change of Registration form in the Office of Academic records.” (*Current AU Bulletin.*)

Class Attendance

“Regular attendance at all classes, laboratories and other academic appointments is required for each student. Faculty members are expected to keep regular attendance records. Whenever the number of absences exceeds 10% of the total course appointments, the teacher may give a failing grade. Merely being absent from campus does not exempt the student from this policy. Absences recorded because of late registration, suspension, and early/late vacation leaves are not excused. The class work missed may be made up only if the teacher allows. Three tardies are equal to one absence.” *Current AU Bulletin.*)

Excused Absence

“Excuses for absences due to illness are granted by the teacher. Proof of illness is required. Residence hall students are required to see a nurse on the first day of any illness which interferes with class attendance. Non-residence hall students should show written verification of illness obtained from their own physician. Excuses for absences not due to illness are issued directly to the dean’s office. Excused absences do not remove the student’s responsibility to complete all requirements of a course. Class work is made up by permission of the teacher.” (*Current AU Bulletin.*)

TIME EXPECTATIONS FOR THE COURSE

Schedule for class meetings: September 15-19, 2024			
			Running total
Sunday	5-9 p.m.	3 hours	4
Monday	8:00-12:30 p.m.	4.5 hours	13
	1:30-6:00 p.m.	4.5 hours	
		9	
Tuesday	8:00-12:30 p.m.	4.5 hours	22
	1:30-6:00 p.m.	4.5 hours	
		9	
Wednesday	8:00-12:30 p.m.	4.5 hours	31
	1:30-6:00 p.m.	4.5 hours	
		9	
Thursday	8:00-12:30 p.m.	4.5 hours	40
	1:30-6:00 p.m.	4.5 hours	
		9	
Pre-session and Post-session	Lectures to be viewed on-line	5 hours	45
		5	

Credit-Hour Definitions

A professional 3-credit course taken at the SDA Theological Seminary requires a total of 135 hours for course lectures, reading requirements and written assignments.

Estimated Time for this Class—MAPM---3 credit (135 hours)		
Class Lectures face to face	40	45 hours total
Pre/Post Online	5	
Independent Completion of Assignments		
Book review and reading (<i>Cross-cultural Servanthood</i> ; Elmer)	20 hours	
Intercultural visit & report	5 hours	
Journal/annotated reading (<i>Passport to Mission</i> . Fourth revised edition.)	20 hours	
Web resources list	5 hours	
Book review and reading (<i>Introduction to Adventist Mission</i> ; Doss)	30 hours	
Final exam	10 hours	
Total Hours	135 hours	

*Assignments Due Date: Read Carefully

Late Submission - The following penalties will be applied for late submission of assessment items:

Assessments received by due date:	(possible A grade)
Delay up to 10 days:	(no better than an A- grade)
Delay up to 20 days:	(no better than a B grade)
Delay up to 30 days:	(no better than a C grade)

9. Grading

The final grade will be based on the following assignments (for 3 credits):

Attendance, participation, and conference report	10%
Book review and reading (<i>CCS</i>)	10%
Intercultural visit & report	5%
Journal entries and reading (<i>PPM</i>)	15%
Web resources list and Ee-Taow movie report	5%
Book review and reading (<i>IAM</i>)	20%
Final exam	35%
Total	100%

The following scale is used in evaluating assignments and determining grades:

A = 95-100	B+ = 87-89	C+ = 77-79		
A- = 90-94	B = 83-86	C = 73-76	D = 60-69	F = 0-59
	B- = 80-82	C- = 70-72		

SUGGESTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

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ABOUT YOUR INSTRUCTOR

Originally from Brazil, Wagner Kuhn has extensive cross-cultural experience. He has worked in three continents and in various capacities with the SDA Church, and traveled in the other three. In Brazil, he started his pastoral career working for the Publishing Department, and later he served as professor of Mission and Theology for the SDA Theological Seminary in São Paulo.



His first missionary post as a pastor was in the United States where he helped establish the Framingham SDA Portuguese Speaking Church, Massachusetts. A couple of years later Wagner worked in Central Asia, first as ADRA's regional and program director in the Autonomous Republic of Naxçivan and later as Country Director for ADRA Azerbaijan (1994-2003). In this capacity, he coordinated several large relief and development programs and learned from and interacted with dozens of expatriate colleagues from various nationalities as well as hundreds of national co-workers.

In 1986, Wagner graduated with a B.Th. degree from Seminário Adventista Latino-Americano de Teologia (IAE - São Paulo). His major study interest has been missions, and in 1994 he obtained a Master of Arts degree in Religion (Mission Studies) from Andrews University. Ten years later he completed his PhD in Missiology (2004), from the School of Intercultural Studies, Fuller Theological Seminary. His dissertation: "Toward a Holistic Approach to Relief, Development, and Christian Witness: with Special Reference to ADRA's Mission to Naxçivan, 1993-2003," won the Missiology Award from Fuller.

From his studies the book *Christian Relief and Development: Biblical, Historical and Contemporary Perspectives of the Holistic Gospel* was published in English by UNASPRESS in 2005, and in Portuguese by CePLiB in 2008. Kuhn has written several scholarly and seminal articles, which have been published in academic journals, magazines, and books. In 2012 Kuhn contributed a couple of articles and also edited the volume, *The Book and the Student: Theological Education as Mission*, published by the Department of World Mission. Kuhn has also authored the book, *Redemption and Transformation Through Relief and Development* (2013), *Transformação Radical: Em Busca Do Evangelho Integral* UNASPRESS (2016) and co-edited the books *Biblical Principles for Missiological Issues in Africa* (2015), and *Mission Vision in Action* (2022), both published by the Department of World Mission, Andrews University.

Wagner Kuhn has worked for Andrews University since 2005, first as Associate Director of the Institute of World Mission, General Conference, and Associate Professor of the Department of World Mission. In June 2011, he became a fulltime faculty (Professor of Mission and Intercultural Studies) and served as Director of the Doctor of Missiology from 2014-2016 and Chair of the Department of World Mission (2017-2022). Currently he is the Associate Dean and Director of the Post-Doctoral Program, at the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary, Andrews University. He has also been the director of Global Partnerships for the General Conference from 2007 to 2015, an initiative that provides cross-cultural training for tentmakers (self-supporting missionaries) in restricted access countries.

His particular areas of interest are missiological education, holistic ministries, tentmaking training, and cross-cultural communication and witnessing. For hobbies he likes to travel, language learning, cooking, counseling, walking, swimming, and some gardening. Wagner is married to Gisele Kuhn; the couple has two daughters, Gielle and Gillian, fruit of the mission field, with much love. His life's purpose is to honor and serve God by ministering, teaching, and serving the people of this world, God's people.

OTHER COURSE-RELATED POLICIES

Academic Integrity

The Seminary expects its students to exhibit rigorous moral integrity appropriate to ministry leaders representing Jesus Christ. Complete honesty in academic matters is a vital component of such integrity. Any breach of academic integrity in this class is subject to discipline. Consequences may include receipt of a reduced or failing grade, suspension or dismissal from the course, suspension or dismissal from the program, expulsion from the university, or degree cancellation. Disciplinary action may be retroactive if academic dishonesty becomes apparent after the student leaves the course, program or university. A record of academic integrity violations is maintained by the University Student Academic Integrity Council. Repeated and/or flagrant offenses will be referred to an Academic Integrity Panel for recommendations on further penalties.

Academic Dishonesty includes:

- Plagiarism in which one fails to give credit every time use is made of another person's ideas or exact words, whether in a formal paper or in submitted notes or assignments. Credit is to be given by use of:
 - Correctly designed and inserted footnotes each time one makes use of another individual's research and/or ideas; and
 - Quotation marks placed around any exact phrases or sentences (3 or more words) taken from the text or speech of another individual.
- Presenting another's work as one's own (e.g., placement exams, homework assignments);
- Using materials during a quiz or examination other than those explicitly allowed by the teacher or program;
- Stealing, accepting, or studying from stolen quizzes or examination materials;
- Copying from another student during a regular or take-home test or quiz;
- Assisting another in acts of academic dishonesty
- Submitting the same work or major portions thereof, without permission from the instructors, to satisfy the requirements of more than one course.

For additional details see: https://www.andrews.edu/academics/academic_integrity.html

Academic Accommodations

If you qualify for accommodation under the American Disabilities Act, please see contact Student Success in Nethery Hall 100 (disabilities@andrews.edu or 269-471-6096) as soon as possible so that accommodations can be arranged.

Use of Electronics

No recording or streaming is permitted in seminary courses. Courtesy, respect, and professionalism dictate that laptops and cell phones are to be used only for class-related activities during class time.

Communications and Updates

Email is the official form of communication at Andrews University. Students are responsible for checking their Andrews University e-mail, Moodle, and iVue alerts regularly.

LearningHub Access

Andrews University Learning Hub hosts this course online. Your Learning Hub username and password are the same as your Andrews username and password. Use the following contact information if you need technical assistance at any time during the course, or to report a problem with Learning Hub.

Username and password assistance	helpdesk@andrews.edu	(269) 471-6016
Technical assistance with Learning Hub	dlit@andrews.edu	(269) 471-3960
Technical assistance with your Andrews account	http://andrews.edu/hdchat/chat.php	

Emergency Protocol

Andrews University takes the safety of its student seriously. Signs identifying emergency protocol are posted throughout buildings. Instructors will provide guidance and direction to students in the classroom in the event of an emergency affecting that specific location. It is important that you follow these instructions and stay with your instructor during any evacuation or sheltering emergency.

Please Note: The instructor reserves the right to revise the syllabus, with the consensus of the class, at any time during the semester for the benefit of the learning process. The up-to-date Course Description for this course may be found at www.learninghub.andrews.edu.

APPENDIX 1: INTERPRETING LETTER GRADES

THE B GRADE

The B grade is a sign that you have competently fulfilled all of the requirements stipulated for an assessment or competency evaluation. It is a very good grade and demonstrates a high level of the knowledge, insight, critical competence and professional presentation standards essential for an individual wishing to pursue a career as a professional leader in ministry.

THE A GRADE

An A grade is given only when a student not only fulfills the criteria for a B grade, but in doing so demonstrates an advanced academic aptitude for content knowledge, critique, synthesis and independent insight, while exhibiting highly developed communication skills and professional publication standards that would allow them to pursue a highly competitive academic career.

THE C GRADE

The C grade differs only from a B grade in that the traits outlined in the B grade above are not consistently applied. However, with diligence and by applying feedback from your lecturer, the academic process can provide opportunity for a student to improve their consistency, and hence, their grade.

THE D GRADE

The D grade points to a limited level of knowledge, insight, and critique, as well as to inadequate quality of written work. This may be because of a lack of time management on the part of the student, difficulty grasping the concepts being taught, use of English as a second language, or a personal issue that is affecting one's concentration and motivation levels. Again, with diligence, applying feedback from your lecturer, and seeking services offered by the University like the writing lab or the counseling center, the academic process can provide an opportunity for a student to significantly improve their performance.

THE F GRADE

A failing grade is given when very limited or no demonstrable competency has been observed or when the final assignment is not submitted within the dates indicated in the Course Overview Table.

