Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary
Andrews University

MSSN 546
MISSION IN CULTURAL AND RELIGIOUS CONTEXT
Spring 2027

Daniel M. Duffis, PhD Candidate

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:	Southwestern Union. **This is an in-person class.**
Class meeting dates:	Spring (January 10-14, 2027)
Class meeting times:	Sunday, 6:00pm–9:00pm Monday–Thursday 8:00am–12:30pm; 1:30pm–6:00pm
Course Website:	http://learninghub.andrews.edu
Instructor Tel.:	(727)-403-6069
Instructor Email:	duffisgordo@andrews.edu

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Pre-intensive requirements:

1. Critical Book Review: **Due Sunday, January 10**.
   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, January 10**.

2. Journal: *Passport to Mission* (***PPM***): **Due Sunday, January 10**.
   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 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

Journal: *PPM*: Parts 1-6 (chapters 1-28; pages 1-238). **Due Sunday, January 10**.

Requirements during intensives:

1. Ee-Taow Movie Report: **Due Wednesday, January 13**.
   Each student will prepare a one-page response with two key missiological ideas that they gathered from the movie and how they can be applied to their own context of ministry. **Due Wednesday, January 13**.

2. The **Final Exam** will be on **Thursday, January 14**.

Post-intensive requirements:

1. Intercultural Visit Report: **(Due Monday, February 15)**.
   Each student will share a meal with a recent immigrant or refugee for a cross-cultural visit. The goal is to engage with someone whose cultural background differs significantly from the host country to better understand their experiences and traditions. The host will share aspects of everyday life, including food, entertainment, and cultural orientation. The food should reflect ordinary, daily meals from the host's home culture. Visits must remain small and personal to encourage meaningful exchange; large group gatherings or potlucks are not appropriate. A one-page (300–400 word), single-spaced report will be submitted, using the required heading and no cover page. **(Due Monday, February 15)**.

2. Critical Book Review: *Introduction to Adventist Mission* (***IAM***): **Due Monday, March 1**.
   One book review of Gorden 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, March 1**.

COURSE MATERIALS

Required Textbooks and Readings:

- Gorden 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	Assignments Due
1	Sunday January 10	• Overview of course & assignments • Introduction to the Study of Mission	**Critical Book Review: Elmer--*Cross-Cultural Servanthood (CCS)*.** **Due Sunday, January 10.** **Journal Report: *Passport to Mission* (*PPM*)** **Due Sunday, January 10.**
2	Monday January 10	• Theology of Mission (OT) • Theology of Mission (NT)	
3	Tuesday January 12	• Culture and Religion • Worldview and Biblical Interpretation	

4	Wednesday January 13	• Biblically Faithful Contextualization • Mission and the Remnant	**Ee-Taow Movie Report** **Due Wednesday, January 13**
5	Thursday January 14	• Contemporary Challenges in World Mission	**Final Exam** **Thursday, January 14**
	Monday February 15	Intercultural Visit Report	**Due Monday, February 15**
	Monday March 1	Critical Book Review: *Introduction to Adventist Mission* (***IAM***)	**Due Monday, March 1.**
	Thursday March 11		***60 days from the first day of class***. **All assignments are due by Thursday, March 11, 2027.** **Failure to submit all assignments by this date will result in an F grade.**

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: January 10-14, 2027			
			Running total
Sunday	6-9 p.m.	3 hours	3
Monday	8:00-12:30 p.m. 1:30-6:00 p.m.	4.5 hours 4.5 hours 9	12
Tuesday	8:00-12:30 p.m. 1:30-6:00 p.m.	4.5 hours 4.5 hours 9	21
Wednesday	8:00-12:30 p.m. 1:30-6:00 p.m.	4.5 hours 4.5 hours 9	30
Thursday	8:00-12:30 p.m. 1:30-6:00 p.m.	4.5 hours 4.5 hours 9	39
Pre-session and Post-session	Lectures to be viewed on-line	6 hours 6	45

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 (*Cross-cultural Servanthood*; Elmer)	20 hours	
Intercultural visit & report	5 hours	
Journal/annotated reading (*Passport to Mission*. Fourth revised edition.)	20 hours	
Ee-Taow Movie and report	5 hours	
Book review and reading (*Introduction to Adventist Mission*; 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 (*CCS*)	10%
Intercultural visit & report	5%
Journal entries and reading (*PPM*)	15%
Ee-Taow movie report	5%
Book review and reading (*IAM*)	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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- _____. 2005-2013. *Journal of Adventist Mission Studies*, Vols. 1-9. Berrien Springs, MI: Department of World Mission, Andrews University.
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- _____. 1985. *Anthropological Insights for Missionaries*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker.
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ABOUT YOUR INSTRUCTOR



Daniel M. Duffis was born on the Colombian island of San Andrés but spent his formative years on the Dutch Caribbean island of Curaçao as part of a missionary family. Holding an MDiv since 2016, he is currently completing his PhD in Religion and Intercultural Theology.

Throughout his ministry, Daniel has engaged with diverse ethnic and non-Christian communities. His recent endeavors include collaborating with the NAD Adventist-Muslim Relations team in Metro-Detroit, USA, and participating in intercultural ministry initiatives in Puerto Rico, Brazil, and New York. He is fervently committed to equipping Christians with the cultural intelligence and religious sensitivity needed to build Godly relationships with individuals from various faith traditions.

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 Tabl