

SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST  
THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

MSSN 546

MINISTRY IN CULTURAL &  
RELIGIOUS CONTEXT  
*Summer Intensive 2013*  
*July 14-18*

*Gorden R. Doss*



Andrews  
University  
Seek. Affirm. Change.

# Andrews University

MSSN 546

## MINISTRY IN CULTURAL AND RELIGIOUS CONTEXT SUMMER 2013

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### GENERAL CLASS INFORMATION

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Class acronym:	MSSN 546
Class name:	Ministry in Cultural and Religious Context
Semester & year:	July 14-18, 2012
Class location:	Seminary Building, Andrews University
Class time/day:	Sunday, 6:00-9:00pm; Monday-Thursday, 8:00-12:00; 2:00-5:00 Friday, 8:00-12:00
Credits offered:	3

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### INSTRUCTOR CONTACT

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Instructor:	Gorden R. Doss, Professor of World Mission, DMin, PhD
Telephone:	269-471-3392
Email:	dossg@andrews.edu
Office location:	S212
Office hours:	2:00-4:00 TWTh

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### COURSE DESCRIPTION

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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. Required of all MDiv students—AU Bulletin

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### COURSE MATERIALS

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#### 1. Required Textbooks

Doss, Cheryl, et al., eds. 2009. *Passport to Mission, 3d ed.* Berrien Springs, MI: Institute of World Mission. (available at Department of World Mission office.)

Winter, Ralph D. and Steven C. Hawthorne, eds. 2009. *Perspectives on the World Christian Movement, 4<sup>th</sup> Ed.* Pasadena, CA: William Carey Library.

#### 2. Required readings posted on Moodle:

Doss, Gorden R.  
*Maximizing the Missional Value of Short Term Mission.* Unpublished, 2011.

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*Resistance, Receptivity and Mission Among Muslims*. Unpublished, 2011.  
Kohls, L. Robert. *The Values Americans Live By*. The Washington International Center  
Washington, D.C., 1984  
U.S. Standards of Excellence in Short Term Mission  
*Standards of Excellence in Short Term Mission*, Minneapolis MN,  
<http://www.stmstandards.org/index.php>, 2006.

Others as needed

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## OUTCOMES

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### **Masters of Divinity (MDIV) Program Outcomes**

Organize, equip, and mobilize congregations for effective inter-ethnic and cross-cultural mission and ministry.

### **Student Learning Outcomes (SLO)**

Upon completion of this course students should be able to:

- SLO #1** Understand and explain major demographic dimensions of the unfinished task of world mission
- SLO #2** Summarize assigned chapters and class lecture materials.
- SLO #3** Critically analyze reading and lecture content.
- SLO #4** Demonstrate ability to apply concepts and principles to ministry situations.
- SLO #5** Value cultural differences and show sensitivity to those of other cultures.
- SLO #6** Explain basic mission principles.

### **Outcomes of Being:**

As a result of this course students will be:

1. World Christians engaged in Great Commission activities
2. Aware of the enormity of the unfinished task of world evangelization
3. Agents for promoting continued engagement in world mission
4. Able to teach and train church members to become involved in world mission

### **Outcomes of Knowing:**

As a result of this course students will know:

5. The importance of understanding the local context for any ministry or mission
6. The problems and opportunities Adventists face in mission
7. The difference between cultural baggage and gospel content

### **Outcomes of Doing:**

As a result of this course students will:

8. Develop attitudes and skills for missiological reflection as a basis of ministry

9. Develop attitudes of respect and appreciation for those from other backgrounds
10. Develop an intercultural perspective for ministry

## ASSIGNMENTS

### **A: Pre-Class Assignments**

#### **Chapter Reviews of *Perspectives on the World Christian Movement* —Due at first class period**

Selected book chapter reviews will be submitted as follows:

- a) In a single-spaced paragraph of 6-8 lines review the concepts in the chapter.
- b) In a single-spaced paragraph of 6-8 lines make practical applications of the concepts to mission and ministry in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.
- c) Submit the assignments upon arrival at the first class meeting.

Wanna B. A. Missionary  
 MSSN 546 Ministry in Cultural and Religious Context  
*Perspectives* Chapter X  
 Concepts  
 Applications

*Perspectives* Chapter Y  
 Concepts  
 Applications

<b><i>Perspectives</i> Chapters</b>
1, 2, 4, 7, 10, 12, 13, 15, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 24, 25, 27, 28, 30, 32, 34, 36, 39, 40, 43, 45, 49, 51, 52, 53, 54, 64, 65, 69, 71, 72, 74, 75, 77, 78, 83, 84, 85, 86, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100, 101, 102, 104, 106, 109, 110, 111, 126, 127, 133, 134

### **B: During-Class Week Assignments**

#### **Interaction Journals—Due each day**

Four daily interaction journals will be submitted covering classroom activities of Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. Each will be due the next day. Journals will be 200-300 words in length. They

will include (1) a report and analysis of the day’s major concepts and (2) an application to mission and ministry in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.

**Four Culture Game Report—Due at last class period**

The class will meet for 2-3 hours to play the “Four Cultures Game.” Afterwards, a 200-300 word report will be submitted.

**Final Exam**

**C: Post-Class Assignments**

**Interaction with Acts of the Apostles—Due September 30, 2012**

The Book of Acts will be read in a thought and prayerful way, seeking new insights facilitated by the course. The goal is to apply course materials in a way that brings new, practical insights. The assignment is intended to go beyond standard sermonizing. However, a fresh sermon series with new insights would be an ideal product of this assignment.

From the 28 chapters of Acts, 10 texts or passages will be selected. Drawing on course lectures and readings, a 100-150 word interaction with each text/passage will be submitted. Quotes should be referenced in parentheses, i.e., (*Perspectives*, p. 10). Because this is not a formal research paper a bibliography is not required. The 10 interactions will be numbered consecutively, the text/passage will be identified for each, all 10 interactions will be saved in a single Word file and submitted to [dossg@andrews.edu](mailto:dossg@andrews.edu).

**Chapter Reviews *Passport to Mission* –Due September 30, 2013**

Submit a review of each chapter as follows:

- a) In a single-spaced paragraph of 6-8 lines review the concepts in the chapter.
- b) In a single-spaced paragraph of 6-8 lines make practical applications of the concepts to mission and ministry in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.
- c) Save in a single Word file and submit by email to [dossg@andrews.edu](mailto:dossg@andrews.edu)

This book is available at the Department of World Mission for \$12. Purchase it while on-campus to avoid mailing costs.

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**GRADING CRITERIA AND COURSE ASSESSMENT ITEMS**

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**Letter Grade Assignment**

	B+ =87-90	C+ = 77-80		
A = 95-100	B = 83-86	C = 73-76	D 61-68	F 0-60
A- = 91-94	B- = 82-79	C- = 69-72		

**Grading and Time Distribution**

<b>Assignment</b>	<b>% of Grade</b>	<b>Time Estimate</b>
Class attendance	10	45
<i>Passport</i> Chapter Reviews	15	25
<i>Perspectives</i> Chapter Reviews	25	40
Game and Report	2.5	5
Interactions with Acts	12.5	10
Final Exam	35	10
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>135 hours</b>

Time formula: 3 credits = 45 hours in class + 90 hours out of class = 135 hours

### **Incomplete Grades**

“DG” (Deferred Grade), grades will be assigned in keeping with Andrews University policy. “DG” grades will be given for students who need more time to complete assignments because of documented major illness, family emergency or other situations arranged in advance with the teacher. To receive such consideration a student must have shown good faith through a pattern of on-time attendance and assignments. “DG” grades are not given because of typical life stresses or minor illnesses.

### **Late Submission of Assessment**

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

Assignments received by due date:	(possible A grade)
Delay up to 60 days:	(no better than an A- grade)
Delay up to 90 days:	(no better than a B+ grade)
Delay up to 120 days:	(no better than a B grade)
Delay up to 150 days:	(no better than a C grade)

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## **CLASS POLICIES**

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### **Classroom Seating**

To facilitate the instructor in learning each student’s name, please select a permanent seat.

### **Disability Accommodations**

If you qualify for accommodation under the American Disabilities Act, please see the instructor as soon as possible for referral and assistance in arranging such accommodation.

### **Emergency Protocols**

Andrews University takes the safety of its students seriously. Signs identifying emergency protocol are posted throughout the 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.

### **Eating and Drinking**

Because eating and drinking can distract oneself and others and dirty desks and floors, in-class consumption must be limited to water.

### **Use of Computers and Other Devices**

Computers are not to be used in class except for taking notes or if web searches are part of the class. “Multi-tasking” in class (doing email, surfing the web, etc.) diminishes participation and learning. Please keep cell phones off or on the silent setting.

### **Special Circumstances**

Students with special situations should inform the instructor before the event or as soon as possible after the event. The teacher values verbal explanations but a written request will ensure consideration at grading time.

### **Changes**

The teacher reserves the right to change elements of the course outline, assuming that timely and adequate notification is given in writing.

### **Examinations**

“Credit is not granted in courses unless the required examinations are completed by the student. Students are expected to follow the published examination schedule. In cases where the schedule requires a student to complete four exams in one day, arrangements may be made with the dean to complete one of the examinations at another time.” *Andrews University Bulletin 2010, page 29*

### **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.” *Andrews University Bulletin 2010, page 29-30*

Attendance is recorded on sign-in sheets mounted on clipboards and placed near the door. Students are responsible to see that their attendance is recorded. Points are awarded for daily attendance as follows: On-time—3 points; Late—2 points.

### **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.” *Andrews University Bulletin 2010, page 30*

### **Teacher Tardiness**

“Teachers have the responsibility of getting to class on time. If a teacher is detained and will be late, the teacher must send a message to the class with directions. If after 10 minutes no message has been received, students may leave without penalty. If teacher tardiness persists, students have the right to notify the department chair, or if the teacher is the department chair, to notify the dean.” *Andrews University Bulletin 2010, page 30*

### **Academic Integrity**

Andrews University takes seriously all acts of academic dishonesty. Academic dishonesty includes (but is not limited to) falsifying official documents; plagiarizing; misusing copyrighted material; violating licensing agreements; using media from any source to mislead, deceive or defraud; presenting another’s work as one’s own; using materials during a quiz or examination other than those specifically allowed; stealing, accepting or studying from stolen examination materials; copying from another student; or falsifying attendance records. For more details see the *Andrews University Bulletin 2010, page 30*.

“Consequences may include denial of admission, revocation of admission, warning from a teacher with or without formal documentation, warning from a chair or academic dean with formal documentation, receipt of a reduced or failing grade with or without notation of the reason on the transcript, 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.” *Andrews University Bulletin 2010, page 30*

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## **INSTRUCTOR PROFILE**

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Gorden R. Doss was born into a missionary family. His maternal grandparents served in Trinidad when his mother was a teen. He went to Malawi with his parents when he was three years old. Since then he has called Malawi home for 31 years, fifteen growing up and sixteen in mission service. He met his wife, Cheryl Brown, at Helderberg College when they were both academy students and Cheryl's parents were serving there as missionaries. Cheryl and Gorden have two adult children and four grandchildren.

Kristin and Adam, Zachary and Julie Kiš are missionaries at AIIAS in the Philippines. Richard and Hadassah, Zivah, and Zahra Doss work at Maxwell Academy, near Nairobi, Kenya.

Gorden graduated from Andrews University in 1972 with a BA Pre-Seminary, in 1975 with a Master of Divinity, and in 1987 with a Doctor of Ministry. He also completed a PhD/Intercultural Studies at Trinity Evangelical Divinity School in 2006.

His Stateside service includes a ministerial internship in Kansas Conference and a pastorate in Florida Conference. In Malawi he spent most of his years as principal of Lakeview Seminary, a junior seminary that trains pastors for Malawi.

Areas that are of particular interest to him are cultural anthropology, Christian spirituality and family ministry. For hobbies he does carpentry, auto mechanics, and mountain climbing.

Gorden joined the Department of World Mission in the SDA Theological Seminary in 1998.