

HT714D: MISSIONARIES, MYSTICS, and MARTYRS

Residential Elective for Spring Semester 2019

Instructor: Dr. Bonnie Sue Lewis

Office: 212 Severance

Phone: 563.589.3648; Cell: 563.580.0936

E-mail: bslewis@dbq.edu

No Prerequisites; Pass/Fail Only

Course Description:

This seminar will explore the lives of Christian missionaries, mystics, and martyrs and why they matter to the church. Christians believe that God is always speaking and these are ones who, often despite failures and foibles, are listening. They can teach us to be better listeners to the Triune God, provide role models of Christian discipleship and witness, and are a testimony to the love and glory of God. In light of what they have to teach us, we will assess our own availability to God for participation in the *missio Dei*, or mission of God.

Course Objectives:

- 1) To understand the nature of the call to mission and the tools necessary to effective missionary engagement.
- 2) To identify the theological and cultural values behind the missionary motivation and methods employed in the course of Church history and their impact on that history.
- 3) To assess one's own call to participation in the mission of God, and how best to prepare for that call in light of the gifts and disciplines our forebears in mission provide.

Required Texts:

Elisabeth Elliot, *Through Gates of Splendor*

Pagan Kennedy, *Black Livingstone*

Kiser, John, *The Monks of Tibhirine*

Judith Noone, *The Same Fate as the Poor*

Henri Nouwen, *The Return of the Prodigal*

Miriam Huffman Rockness, *A Passion for the Impossible*

Course Requirements:

- 1) A 1 page response to weekly questions as posted.
- 2) A 5-7 page paper of a personal interview with a missionary that assesses the call and work of that missionary in light of those studied throughout the semester.
- 3) A final 5-7 page paper that summarizes what you have learned of the missionary call and vocation and what impact it will have on your own calling to participation in the mission of God.