

PH.D. IN CHRISTIAN MISSIONS

Field Essay Study Guide

Billy Graham School of Missions, Evangelism and Church Growth

The graduate field essay is a component of the application for admission into the Ph.D. programs at Southern Seminary (see the current academic catalog for a general description of the essay). Students applying for admission to the Ph.D. program in missions will write an essay in response to questions based on a prescribed reading list, which is provided to the applicant prior to writing the essay. The applicant is expected to read the specified material in its entirety prior to writing the exam. Also provided to the student will be a set of questions based on this reading.

On the field essay, the applicant will be responsible for responding to questions chosen from that question bank. The essay will be graded by professors on the missions faculty, who will be evaluating the response based on how well the applicant directly answers the question(s), interacts with material from the reading list, and generally demonstrates a knowledge of the field. Additionally, the essay will be evaluated in terms of logical and clear flow of argument, grammar, and overall presentation.

1. Do you believe the concept of “missions” is found in the Old Testament? Answer yes or no, then explain your answer.
2. What was the apostle Paul’s mission strategy?
3. Why did Kenneth Scott Latourette call the nineteenth century the “Great Century” of Protestant missions?
4. Why is William Carey called the Father of Modern Missions?
5. What effect did Pietism have on the modern missionary movement?
6. State and explain challenges faced by missionaries when they share the gospel in cultures other their own with reflection on answering those challenges.
7. Explain the importance of the concept “church growth” for missions.
8. What is the indigenous approach to missions? Identify its principle proponents and explain their teachings.
9. Explain the importance of “contextualization” in missions with special reference to the C1-C6 spectrum and the Camel method.
10. With a brief reflection on missions over the last twenty years, identify and discuss significant current issues and future trends in missions.

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Field Essay Reading List

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Estep, William R. *Whole Gospel – Whole World the Foreign Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention 1845-1995*. Nashville, TN: B&H, 1994.

Glasser, Arthur F., Van Engen, C. E., Gilliland, D. S. and Redford, S. B. *Announcing the Kingdom: The Story of God's Mission in the Bible*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2003.

Hesselgrave, David. *Planting Churches Cross-Culturally*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker, 2000.

Hiebert, Paul. *Anthropological Insights for Missionaries*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker, 1986.

McGavran, Donald A. *Understanding Church Growth*, 3rd edition. Revised and edited by C. Peter Wagner. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1990.

Pocock, Michael, et al. *The Changing Face of World Missions: Engaging Contemporary Issues and Trends*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker, 2005.

Tucker, Ruth A. *From Jerusalem to Irian Jaya: A Biographical History of Christian Missions*, 2nd edition. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2004.

Winter, Ralph D. and Steve Hawthorne. *Perspectives on the World Christian Movement: A Reader*, 4th edition. Pasadena, CA: William Carey Library, 2009.