

**Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago**  
1100 East 55<sup>th</sup> Street Chicago, Illinois 60615

**Course:** T-602 Graduate Mission Seminar  
**Mission and Violence: The Conquest of America**  
**Instructors:** José D. Rodríguez ([jrodrigu@lstc.edu](mailto:jrodrigu@lstc.edu)) 773-256-0763  
Joel Cruz (Teaching Assistant) ([jcruz@lstc.edu](mailto:jcruz@lstc.edu)) 773-561-6016  
**Semester:** Spring, 2009  
**Day & Time:** Wednesday 6:30 – 9:30 PM  
**Room:**

**Statement of Goals**

This is a Graduate Theological Seminar in the area of Mission History and Theology. The goal of the course is to provide an examination of the models of mission and some examples of important theological positions that characterized the Spanish Christian missionary enterprise in America during the sixteenth century. Emphasis will be placed on examining a diversity of perspectives on this historical and religious experience, particularly the voices of women and representatives of indigenous communities. Participants will be encouraged to explore significant implications of this event for the ministry and mission of the Church today.

**Content**

The course will examine a variety of texts providing a historical account of the 16<sup>th</sup> century Spanish Christian mission in America, and its impact on these lands. It will also study the contributions of Bartolomé de Las Casas, the popular religious belief of the Virgin of Guadalupe, and the theological contributions of Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz as important theological perspectives embodying the religious significance of this missionary project.

**Method**

The class will follow a seminar format. There will be several presentations by the instructor and invited guests but primary focus will be given to the examination of texts and their critical analysis by participants. The topic will be explored from a variety of perspectives mainly studies written by scholars who focus on the theological impact and significance of the Spanish Christian mission to America.

**Requirements**

Students will be expected to participate actively in class providing a critical assessment of assigned readings (20%). Participants will also be expected to make a presentation in class (20%), write a book review (20%), and a final research paper on a topic agreed with the instructors (40%).

**Texts**

- De La Cruz, Sor Juana Inés, *Selected Writings* (New York: Paulist Press, 2005).  
León Portilla, Miguel, *The Broken Spears: The Aztec Account of the Conquest of Mexico* (Boston: Beacon Press, 1992).  
Hall, Linda B., *Mary, Mother and Warrior: The Virgin in Spain and the Americas* (Austin: University of Texas Press, 2004).  
Menocal, María Rosa, *The Ornament of the World: How Muslims, Jews, and Christians Created a Culture of Tolerance in Medieval Spain* (Boston: Little Brown and Company Inc., 2003).  
Rivera-Pagán, Luis N., *A Violent Evangelism* (Louisville: John Knox Westminster Press, 1995).  
Sullivan, Francis Patrick, *Indian Freedom: The Cause of Bartolomé de Las Casa 1484-1566 [A Reader]* (Kansas City: Sheed & Ward, 1995).  
Tinker, George E., *Missionary Conquest: The Gospel and Native American Cultural Genocide* (Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1993).  
Additional assigned readings on reserve at the JKM library