

## Exploring the Mission of God: Biblical, Cultural and Strategic Dimensions

Fall 2011- Tentative Syllabus  
BTS 3920-01, MNST 7190-01, 3 Seminary credit hours  
M 6:30-9:00 PM with One Required Fri/Sat 11/11-12

Instructor, Dr. Paul De Neui  
Office: Nyvall Hall, N4  
Office hours: By appointment

Office Phone: (773) 244-6230  
Seminary Box 14  
Email: [pdeneui@northpark.edu](mailto:pdeneui@northpark.edu)

**Purpose:** This course is designed as an introductory survey of important issues in missiology for students planning to take only one course in mission studies. It will engage students in critical reflection upon their own missiological awareness, ability and practice as well as engagement with other faiths and cultures. Stewardship, promoting causes of justice and life of the whole person and community are major themes that will be addressed. Students pursuing a certificate in Intercultural Studies are encouraged to follow the series of mission courses listed in the seminary catalog (MNST 5150, 5151, 5152).

**Goals:** This course is a learning experience of how theology, faith, and practice intertwine into a coherent missiological whole. Theology is “faith seeking understanding.” Yet, this faith must lead to faithful living and this living is always missional in orientation.

**Scope:** We will cover the theoretical and practical dimensions of missiology, giving special attention to biblical examples, contributions from the social sciences and reflections upon mission history and personal call. Themes we will address include:

1. The Mission of God as evident throughout the entire Bible
2. The interdisciplinary nature of missiology
3. Important contributions of cultural studies in missiology
4. A survey of mission models in various periods of history
5. A review of the mission strategy of the Evangelical Covenant Church
6. Personal cultural competency assessment and call in global mission service

Competencies	Measurability
1. Learners will <b>demonstrate understanding</b> of theological, biblical, and theoretical issues related to mission	1. <b>Pass</b> three quizzes, one on each major section of the course: biblical, cultural and historic/strategic
2. Learners will <b>reflect</b> individually <b>upon</b> their personal level of <b>cultural competency</b> for ministry	2. <b>Complete</b> Livermore’s self-assessment and <b>create</b> a personal plan for improvement based upon the results
3. Learners will <b>review</b> critical issues in mission theory and practice	3. <b>Write missiological reviews</b> on two missiology articles and one movie or fictional novel about mission on assigned topics.
4. Learners will <b>practice corporate missiological planning and evaluation</b>	4. Learners will <b>work together</b> in groups to <b>present</b> one major strategic missiological issue to the class

**Required Texts:**

- Lanier, Sarah. *Foreign to Familiar: A Guide to Understanding Hot and Cold Climate Cultures*. McDougal Press, 2000. 978-1581580228
- Livermore, David A. *Cultural Intelligence: Improving Your CQ to Engage Our Multicultural World*. Baker Academic, 2009. 978-0801035890
- Ott, Craig and Stephen J. Strauss. *Encountering Theology of Mission*. Baker Academic 2010. 978-0-8010-2662-1.
- Winter, Ralph and Hawthorne. *Perspectives on the World Christian Movement, 4<sup>th</sup> edition*. 2009. William Carey Library. 9780878083909

**Recommended:**

- Engel, James F. and William A. Dyrness. *Changing the Mind of Missions: Where Have We Gone Wrong?* IVP, 2000. 978-0830822393
- Kirk, J. Andrew. *What is Mission? Theological Explorations*. Fortress Press, 2000. 978-0800632335
- Piper, John. *Let the Nations Be Glad! The Supremacy of God in Missions, 3<sup>rd</sup> ed.* Baker, 2010. 978-0801036415
- Tucker, Ruth A. *From Jerusalem to Irian Jaya: A Biographical History of Christian Missions., 2<sup>nd</sup> ed.* Zondervan, 2004. 978-0310239376

**Weight of Assignments** Your final grade will be based on the following:

✚	Three quizzes	(10% each)	30% of course grade
✚	Three mini-projects	(15% each)	45% of course grade
✚	Three reviews	(5% each)	15% of course grade
✚	Reading self-assessment		10% of course grade

**Grading:**

Grading follows the system outlined in the seminary catalog.

**Quizzes:**

The course is divided into three major segments: biblical, cultural and historic/strategic. There will be a quiz covering only each section. Each quiz will be a combination of matching, fill-in-the-blank short- answer and brief essays. Each quiz is worth 10% of the total course grade. Dates for each quiz are given in the course schedule.

**Mini-Projects**

Communicating Biblical Mission Concepts Creatively: A biblical understanding of God’s mission must be communicated in a variety of ways. In an attempt to broaden the course participant’s ability to communicate biblical truth this assignment seeks to encourage *non-academic* communication of a biblical theme in mission. This could include writing a poem, creating a piece of visual art (such as a drawing, painting, carving or sculpture), developing and performing a dance about God’s mission, writing and singing a song on this theme, creating a visual on powerpoint with or without music or any number of expressions. The focus should be to provide the recipient an experiential opportunity to encounter the *missio Dei*. These will be presented in class on the date given in the course schedule and graded according to the rubric provided online. This assignment is worth 15% of the course grade.

*Personalizing Cultural Competency:* Course participants will complete the Self-Assessment of CQ found in Appendix B of the Livermore text. Based upon the results, each person will create an individualized plan outlining specific steps they can take towards improving their scores in the future. More details will be provided in the rubric online. These plans will not be shared in class but are for the benefit of each individual. We will discuss generally about the process of engaging in this assignment as it relates to the cultural dimensions of each person's involvement in God's mission. This is worth 15% of the course grade and is due on the date listed in the course schedule.

*Strategizing in Mission Corporately:* Missiology is a corporate task. To facilitate this understanding this assignment seeks to bring participants together to think, dream, plan, and develop a presentation to the class on a specific mission strategy issue. Early in the semester course participants will make first, second and third choice selections from a list of mission strategy issues provided online. Groups will be formed based on these selections. It may not be possible for everyone to have their first choice selection. Together the group will develop a strategy to address the mission issue following the rubric provided. This will require some out of class planning time. These strategies will be presented on the last day of class. This is worth 15% of the course grade.

### ***Reviews***

*Mission Journal Articles:* Learners will chose one article on a biblical theme and one on a historic/strategic theme that impact missions from any of the following journals: *Evangelical Missions Quarterly, International Bulletin of Missionary Research, International Journal of Frontier Mission, or Missiology* from between 2001-2011. Write a 500 word review using the rubric provided online. At the end of each article review, detail one question the article raises you feel would be worthy of further discussion. Each review is worth 5% of the total course grade. Due dates for each article review are listed in the course schedule.

*Movie or Fictional Novel:* Participants will view one movie or read one fictional novel on the theme of the cultural impact of missions and review it using the rubric provided online. A list of suggested titles will be provided online. If your choice is not listed please check with the instructor for final approval before investing time in viewing or reading it for this assignment. This review is worth 5% of the total course grade. Due date is listed in course schedule.

***Reading Self-Assessment***

At the end of the course each student will complete the form below and submit it to the instructor. This is worth 150 points or 10% of the course grade. The due date is listed in the course schedule.

**Grading Grid:**

Points	25	20	15	10	0
I read:	100% with sufficient care and thoroughness	Less than 100% but more than 75%; or, I read 100% but skimmed much	Less than 75% but more than 50%	Less than 50%	I did not read this book
WH Biblical Section					
WH Hst/Strt Sections					
WH Cultural Section					
Lanier					
Livermore					
OST					

## NOTES

1. Late assignments will be marked down 1/3 grade per day.
2. The instructor reserves the right to modify the course to best accommodate the particular learning needs of the class.
3. The instructor does not check email after 9:00 pm Monday through Thursday or after 5:00 pm on Friday until Monday morning. The instructor has office hours by appointment. Please let me know when you'd like to meet and I will find time.
4. If you have already read a required text or article you may suggest one that is new to you by asking the instructor beforehand.
5. Consider how you can best integrate the "Statement of Inclusive Language" from the NPTS Catalog into all your communication presentations during the course.
6. Use proper "netiquette" when writing or posting on blackboard (see A Guide to Netiquette in Course Information folder on Blackboard).
7. NPTS provides services for students with documented disabilities to ensure equal access to programs, services, facilities, and activities. Students with a disability who believe that they may need accommodations in this class are encouraged to contact Seminary Academic Services as soon as possible. If desired or necessary, discussion pertaining to documentation and accommodation can take place at another suitable location or by telephone. Further information about the American Disabilities Act Services is found in the Student Academic Handbook.

**EXPLORING THE MISSION OF GOD**  
Course Schedule BTS 3920-01, MNST 7190-01

<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Required For Class<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>Assignments Due</b>	<b>Comments</b>
<b>8/29</b>	Introductions; Mission, missions, and missiology	OST Intro, 3,4 WH 55,61,93 Online reading	Weekly reading	Please read material before coming to class
<b>9/5</b> Labor Day, No class				
<b>9/12</b>	The Mission of God in the Old Testament Part I	OST 1, WH 1,2,5, WH 6,7,8,9,11,12 Online reading	Weekly reading	
<b>9/19</b>	The Mission of God OT Part II, NT Part I	OST 2, WH 13,15,16, WH 17,18,19,20,21 Online reading	Weekly reading, Missiological Review of a Biblical/Theological Article on Mission due in class	Instructions for this assignment will be provided online
<b>9/26</b>	The Mission of God NT Part II	WH 10,22,23,25,26 Online reading	Weekly reading,	
<b>10/3</b>	Theological Issues in Mission Studies	OST 10,13 WH 27,28,30,31,62,77 Online reading	Creative non-verbal biblical missiology reflection brought to class and presented.	Instructions for this assignment provided online
<b>10/10</b>	Contributions of Social Sciences to Missiology Part I	Lanier (all) WH 43,79, 64,65,66,67,81,83 Online reading	Weekly reading	Quiz on Biblical Dimension of Mission 10/10
<b>10/17</b> Reading Week, No class				
<b>10/24</b>	Contributions of Social Sciences to Missiology Part II	WH 69,75,76, 78,80,81,82, 127, 134 Online reading	Weekly reading	
<b>10/31</b>	Intercultural Competence and Call to Global missions	Livermore (all), OST 9, WH 49,52,69, 75,76, 78, 82 Online reading	Weekly reading, Personal Plan Towards Cultural Competency due in class	Instructions for this assignment provided online
<b>11/7</b>	Intercultural Issues Impacting Mission Studies	OST 11 WH 53, 84, 85 Online reading	Weekly reading, Missiological Review of Movie or Fictional Novel about Cultural Dimensions of Mission due in class	Instructions for this assignment will be provided online
<b>11/11- 12</b>	Short Term Missions	Attendance at Advanced Topics Course Sponsored by CYMS	F Night 6-9 pm S 9:00-4:00 Both are required	
<b>11/14</b>	No Class Meeting this week. Attendance at Topics Course substitutes for this week's class			
<b>11/21</b>	Motives and Methods in Mission History	OST 5-8, WH 36-42,44- 48, 41, 87, 101-104 Online reading	Weekly reading	Quiz on Cultural Dimensions of Mission 11/14
<b>11/28</b>	Covenant World Mission History and Strategy	Online reading WH 116, 129,130,131,132,133 Online reading	Weekly reading, Missiological Review of Hist/Strategic Article on Mission due. Prepare to share in class	Instructions for this assignment will be provided online
<b>12/5</b>	Issues from Mission History Strategic to study of Mission of God	OST 12 WH 24, 109,110,111,120 Online reading	Weekly reading	Quiz on Hist/Strat Dimensions of Mission 12/5

<sup>1</sup>OST = Ott, Strauss and Tennent, WH = Winter and Hawthorne. Numbers indicate chapters

<b>12/12</b>	Group presentations, Closing ceremony	WH 105 Online reading	Weekly reading, Group Presentation on one issue of Mission strategy presented in class 12/12	Reading self- assessment due 12/16
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Updated 15 June 2011