

NORTH PARK THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
MNST 7190 - THE POST-MODERN CHURCH (ONLINE)
PRELIMINARY SYLLABUS (subject to change)
Spring Semester, 2010
Instructor: Soong-Chan Rah
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COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Upon completion of the course the Student:

1. Is introduced to an understanding of the philosophical and sociological attributes of the post-modern cultural context.
2. Develops his or her biblical, theological and social ethical reflection on the mission of the Church in the post-modern context.
3. Develops practical abilities and an understanding of ministry which the Christian and the Church can apply in the post-modern context.

This course works towards the fulfillment of the following learning objectives:

1. Developing a mature and theological and ethical perspective to reflect and act.
2. The ability to provide effective pastoral care.
3. Understanding of cultures in order to live and present the Gospel effectively.
4. The ability to communicate effectively through spoken and written media.
5. Developing understanding of the vocation and practice of ministry, including its joys, challenges and breadth.

REQUIRED READING:

Marsh, Charles. *The Beloved Community*. New York: Basic Books, 2005.

Middleton, J. Richard and Brian J. Walsh. *Truth is Stranger Than It Used to Be*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 1995.

Rah, Soong-Chan. *The Next Evangelicalism: Freeing the Church from Western Cultural Captivity*. Downers Grove: IVP Books, 2009.

Winner, Lauren. *Girl Meets God*. New York: Random House, 2002.

RECOMMENDED READING:

Marin, Andrew. *Love is an Orientation*. Downers Grove: IVP Books, 2009.

Senge, Peter. *The Fifth Discipline*. New York: Currency Doubleday, 1990.

Course Schedule (Subject to Change):

Module I	Course Introduction and Mechanics
Module II	Church and Culture
Module III	Historical Context of Modernity
Module IV	Philosophical Attributes of Post-Modernity
Module V	Sociological Characteristics of Post-Modernity
Module VI	Theological Reflection
Module VII	Evangelical Response to Post-Modernity
Module VIII	Changing Demographics: Global Christianity
Module IX	Immigration and Post-Modernity
Module X	Systems Thinking
Module XI	Multi-Ethnic Ministry
Module XII	Community and Pastoral Care
Module XIII	Evangelism / Mission / Justice

COURSE EXPECTATIONS AND ASSIGNMENTS

1. Participation in the online lectures, discussion boards, and online assignments
2. Personal integration and reflection of the reading, lecture, discussion material
3. Critical analysis and reflection papers on select texts
 - Write three 500 word interactive reflections (2 pages)
 - a) for Middleton/Walsh
 - b) for Rah
 - c) for Winner or Marsh
4. Write a 1,000 word (approximately 5 pages) critical analysis paper on the theological and sociological trends of post-modernity
5. Reading report of required texts
6. Final Paper/Project: Write a fully researched and documented 2,500 word paper (approximately 10-12 pages)

A **FINAL GRADE** for this course will be computed according to your successful completion of the following assignments:

ASSIGNMENTS OVERVIEW:

1) Participation in the Blackboard Discussion Forum	15% of grade
2) Reading Reflection Papers	30% of grade
3) Theological/Sociological Analysis Paper	20% of grade
4) Final Paper	35% of grade