

COURSE OF STUDY SCHOOL OF OHIO AT MTSO

COS 423 Mission

August 6 - 16, 2018

Arun Paul and Daniel Kim

This course introduces the theology and scope of mission, and the pastor's role in leading congregations in their mission as agents of God's transforming redemption. Redemption is God's holy activity that transforms individuals, societies and all of life.

Students will be able to:

1. Articulate a biblical and theological framework for Christian mission.
2. Explain the Wesleyan relationship of personal piety and social holiness.
3. Examine and reflect on unjust social realities and the response of the church locally and globally.
4. Analyze their ministry context and develop strategies for transforming mission.

Required Reading

The Book of Acts

The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church. Nashville, Tennessee: The United Methodist Publishing House, 2016.

Barna, George. Kinnaman, David. ***Churchless: Understanding Today's Unchurched and How to Connect with Them.*** Carol Stream, Illinois: Tyndale Momentum, 2014.

Robert, Dana L. ***Christian Mission: How Christianity Became a World Religion.*** West Sussex, United Kingdom: Wiley-Blackwell, 2009.

Wesley's Sermons VII ***The Way of the Kingdom***

Woodward, J. R. ***Creating a Missional Culture: Equipping the Church for the Sake of the World.*** Downers Grove, Illinois: InterVarsity Press, 2012.

Recommended Resources:

Barnett, Mike (Ed.). Martin, Robin (Ed.). ***Discovering the Mission of God: Best Missional Practices for the 21st Century.*** Downers Grove, Illinois: InterVarsity Press, 2012.

Jennings, Theodore W. ***Good News to the Poor: John Wesley's Evangelical Economics.*** Nashville, Tennessee: Abingdon Press, 1990.

Miroslav, Volf. ***A Public Faith: How Followers of Christ Should Serve the Common Good.*** Grand Rapids, Michigan: Brazos Press, 2011.

Snyder, Howard. ***The Community of the King.*** Downers Grove, Illinois: InterVarsity Press, 2004.

Writing Assignments

Paper #1: Write a Three Page Report on *Christian Mission* by Dana Robert (sent to the instructors by July 24)

- Choose an era of mission history
 - Missional movement from Christ to Christendom.
 - Missional movement from the era 1450-1910.
 - Missional movement from the era 1910 to the present.
- During the selected period of missional movement, where did Christianity spread?
- Who were the missionaries, and what cultural challenges did they experience?
- How did the missionaries engage with the peoples and the local cultures, in light of their cultural differences?
- What were the positive and the negative affects in the transmission of faith?
- How did the missionary movement impact the local culture?
- How did the missional practice of the chosen era recast or reshape the theology of mission for the next era?

Paper #2: Write a Two Page Report on Cross-Cultural Mission Experience, Choose Option A or B (sent to the instructors by July 24)

Option A: “Your Cross-Cultural Mission Experience.”

- Please, describe a cross-cultural mission experience you or your church has engaged.
- What was the purpose of this cross-cultural mission?
- Who are the hosting missionaries on site?
- What is the local missionaries vision?
- What opportunities did you have to interact with the local people and culture?
- What was challenging in a cross-cultural mission?
- How did you experience God in the mission field?
- If you had the opportunity to do it again, would you GO?

Option B: “Cross-Cultural Mission Partnership.”

- Please, describe a cross-cultural mission partnership your church, district or conference has partnered with a different nation or people group.
- What are the specific missional engagements of the organization(s) with the local people and culture?
- Who are the cross-cultural missionaries?
- How do the cross-cultural missionaries incarnate the Gospel?
- Are there opportunities for you or your congregation to experience cross-cultural immersion?

Paper #3: Write a Three Page Reflection on the Mission of the Church based on *The Book of Discipline* (See below for the Week 2 reading assignments) and ***Churchless* by Barna and Kinnaman** (sent to the instructors by August 26)

Paper #4: Write a Three Page Report on *Creating a Missional Culture* by J. R. Woodward (sent to the instructors by August 26)

- What are the elements of culture and how do they work?
- How does the author define “missional culture”?
- Which missional leadership quality speaks to you? Why?
- How can the missional leader equip the church for mission?
- What do you think is the greatest challenge facing a local church? Why?
- How can the local church begin to embody a missional culture?

For expediency, all written works should be emailed as an electronic attachment to the instructors. However, if electronic mail is not possible, the written work could be sent to the addresses below.

Contact Information

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Class Schedule and Reading Assignments

Reading Assignments (Week One)

Dana Roberts, **Christian Mission: How Christianity Became a World Religion**

John Wesley’s Sermons VII *The Way of the Kingdom*

Scriptures: The Book of Acts 1-12

Recommended Reading

Mike Barnett, Mike and Robin Martin, ***Discovering the Mission of God: Best Missional Practices for the 21st Century***. (Electronic copy will be provided)

Chap 1: “Word of God and Mission of God” Christopher J H Wright

Chap 2: “The Kingdom of God and His Mission”

Overview Week One:

- Discovering the Mission of God
- The Kingdom of God
- Knowledge of Worldviews and Globalization
- Understanding Culture
- The Primary Task of the Church
- The Missional Community
- Strategic Prayer for God’s Mission

Reading Assignments (Week Two)

2016 Book of Discipline:

- ¶102, ¶105 Distinctive Wesleyan Emphases and Theological Task
- ¶120–136, ¶ 140 The Mission and Ministry of UMC
- ¶160-166 Social Principles
- ¶ 201 – 203, ¶212, ¶218-220 The Strategic Local Church

George Barna and David Kinnaman, ***Churchless: Understanding Today's Unchurched and How to Connect with Them.***

J.R. Woodward, ***Creating a Missional Culture: Equipping the Church for the Sake of the World.***

Scriptures: The Book of Acts 13-28

Overview of Week Two:

- ❑ The Reign of God and Wesleyan Tradition of Social Holiness
- ❑ Creative and Comprehensive Contextualization
- ❑ Creating a Missional Culture
- ❑ Developing the Missional Leaders
- ❑ Cross-Cultural Worship Experience
- ❑ Cross-Cultural Ministry Site Visit

Attendance, Participation and Grading

Grades will be based on attendance, participation and assignments. Class participation showing engagement in the topic is expected. Attendance, participation and engagement will determine 20% of your grade. Assignments will constitute 80% of your final grade for the class. Grading will be based on articulation of the faith basis (biblical and theological) for the church's mission and involvement in the world.

EVALUATION:

- 20% Class Attendance and Contribution
- 20% Paper 1
- 20% Paper 2
- 20% Paper 3
- 20% Paper 4

Academic Honor

The Course of Study School of Ohio requires that all material submitted by a student in fulfilling his or her academic requirements be the original work of the student.

Violations of academic honor include any action by a student indicating dishonesty or lack of integrity in academic ethics. Violations in this category include, but are not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, or knowingly passing off work of another as one's own.

Cheating includes seeking, acquiring, receiving or passing on information about the content of an examination prior to its authorized release or during its administration. Cheating also includes seeking, using, giving or obtaining unauthorized assistance in any academic assignment or examination.

Plagiarism is the act of presenting as one's own work with the work of another whether published or unpublished (including the work of another student). A writer's work should be regarded as his or her own property. Any person who knowingly uses a writer's distinctive work without proper acknowledgement is guilty of plagiarism.

A student found guilty of a violation of the academic honor code, after a review of the case, may be subject to one or more of the following actions: (1) warning; (2) probation; (3) suspension for the remainder of the course; (4) dismissal from the Course of Study School of Ohio; (5) grade of Fail for the course. Regardless of the outcome, a letter will be sent to the student's District Superintendent and Board of Ordained Ministry representative.