



MIS5330 Christian Missions
New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary
Division of Church Ministry
Spring 2022 (Tu/Th 12:30-1:50p)

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Mission Statement

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary and Leavell College prepare servants to walk with Christ, proclaim His truth, and fulfill His mission.

Core Value Focus

The seminary has five core values.

- 1. Doctrinal Integrity:** Knowing that the Bible is the Word of God, we believe it, teach it, proclaim it, and submit to it. This course addresses Doctrinal Integrity specifically by preparing students to grow in understanding and interpreting of the Bible.
- 2. Spiritual Vitality:** We are a worshipping community emphasizing both personal spirituality and gathering together as a Seminary family for the praise and adoration of God and instruction in His Word. Spiritual Vitality is addressed by reminding students that a dynamic relationship with God is vital for effective ministry.
- 3. Mission Focus:** We are not here merely to get an education or to give one. We are here to change the world by fulfilling the Great Commission and the Great Commandments through the local church and its ministries. This course addresses Mission Focus by helping students understand the biblical foundations for fulfilling the Great Commission and the Great Commandments.
- 4. Characteristic Excellence:** What we do, we do to the utmost of our abilities and resources as a testimony to the glory of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Characteristic Excellence is addressed by preparing students to excel in their ability to interpret Scripture, which is foundational to effective ministry.
- 5. Servant Leadership:** We follow the model of Jesus and exert leadership and influence through the nurture and encouragement of those around us. Servant Leadership is modeled by classroom deportment.

The core value focus for this academic year is *Mission Focus*.

Curriculum Competencies

NOBTS faculty members realize that all ministers need to develop specific competencies if they are going to have an effective ministry. To increase the likelihood of NOBTS graduates having an effective ministry, the faculty developed a competency-based curriculum after identifying seven

essential competencies necessary for effective ministry. All graduates are expected to have at least a minimum level of competency in all of the following areas:

1. **Biblical Exposition:** to interpret and communicate the Bible accurately.
2. **Christian Theological Heritage:** To understand and interpret Christian theological heritage and Baptist polity for the church.
3. **Disciple Making:** To stimulate church health through mobilizing the church for missions, evangelism, discipleship, and church growth.
4. **Interpersonal Skills:** To perform pastoral care effectively, with skills in communication and conflict management.
5. **Servant Leadership:** To serve churches effectively through team ministry.
6. **Spiritual and Character Formation:** To provide moral leadership by modeling and mentoring Christian character and devotion.
7. **Worship Leadership:** To facilitate worship effectively.

This course addresses all curriculum competencies.

Course Description

In this course students are introduced to Christian missions through a brief examination of biblical and theological foundations and a historical overview. Attention is given to the International and North American Mission Boards of the Southern Baptist Convention, including their administration and programs. Particular attention is given to strategic concerns affecting the future of the mission enterprise.

Student Learning Outcomes

In order to help fulfill the Great Commission, the students, by the end of the course, should:

1. Be able to apply their knowledge and comprehension of the biblical, theological, historical, and cultural foundations of Christian Missions to the process of mobilizing the church for missions.
2. Develop an understanding and appreciation of missions history while identifying helpful and unhelpful missionary approaches.
3. Consider, analyze, and evaluate missions strategies and their impact on the future of missions based on partnership with SBC missions organizations.
4. Be able to accomplish the following:
 - a) Participate in missions experiences and advocacy
 - b) Advocate for the Great Commission and develop missions partnerships among Southern Baptists.

Course Teaching Methodology

A variety of teaching methods will be utilized such as class presentations by the professor using Power Point and handouts. Other teaching methods include small and large group discussion, multi-media presentations, utilization of missions related websites, and other communication mediums. A Blackboard shell for the class will be utilized extensively as a resource for students. Students will be expected to be thoroughly prepared for class discussions through readings and the Blackboard weekly unit supplements.

Textbooks

In addition to the Bible as a course text, the following are required:

Akin, Daniel L., Benjamin L. Merkle, and George G. Robinson. *40 Questions About The Great Commission* (Grand Rapids, Kregel, 2020).

Soerens, Matthew and Jenny Yang. *Welcoming the Stranger: Justice, Compassion, & Truth in the Immigration Debate*. Revised and Expanded. (Downers Grove: IVP, 2018).

Tennent, Timothy. *Invitation to World Missions: A Trinitarian Missiology for the Twenty First Century* (Grand Rapids, Kregel, 2010).

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. **Required Reading and Reading reactions (15%):** The student will read assigned sections in the course textbooks and turn in reading reactions each week (**only on Tennet text**). The assignment should be 1-2 pgs single spaced, including both brief summary, insights, key quote(s), and any lingering questions about the reading. Students will lose points if the paper is merely a summary of the reading. The discipline of writing will help clarify thinking and deepen the understanding of the subject.

For the 40 Questions and Acts Journal (25%): Students will read *40 Questions About The Great Commission* along with the *Book of Acts*. Students will keep a journal composed of the following: Answering at least 1 of the questions at the end of each chapter in *40 Questions*, reflect on one insight/challenge/thought from *Acts* (1-2 per chapter), and insights/thoughts on how you might communicate this topic to those in your churches (congregation, small group, children, etc.). **Due in class or uploaded to Blackboard by 11:55p on May 6, 2022.**

Each paper should begin with a simple declarative statement affirming the approximate percentage of the readings completed each week (see below). If the entire readings were not completed, then the grade will be lowered to correspond with the amount not read.

I, _____[insert name]_____, read _[100, 90, etc.]_ % of this week's course readings.

2. **Missional Assessment Paper (10%)**. Students are to write a 1-2 page, single-spaced paper responding to these questions:
 - “What is my understanding of the biblical/theological basis for missions?”
 - “What is present status of my life's practice when it comes to praying for and sharing the gospel with my neighbors and the nations?”
 - “What motivates me to engage personally the nations locally and globally?”
 - “What hinders me from going to the nations?”

This assignment is an introspective paper. It can be written in first person. No title page is needed. Be sure to include your name and student ID on the first page.

3. **Response to Missionary Biography/Presentation (25%):** Students will read 1 missionary biography or autobiography and write a **5 page, double-spaced** evaluation of the book. In the evaluation, students should analyze the missionary's mission and evangelism strategy. Be sure to include a concluding paragraph or two regarding how the

lessons learned might be applicable to your current and/or future ministry context. The goal of this paper will be to investigate the spiritual motivation and missionary insights which can be learned from reading about the lives of others. Professor must approve the biography.

Students will give an engaging oral presentation of their findings. The presentation will be no longer than 7 mins. It should cover basic life details and then 2 or 3 missionary insights gleaned from studying the life and ministry of this person. **Presentations will be in class beginning on April 26.**

4. **Exams (20%):** Students will take a final exam via Blackboard. Exam questions will be taken from both the lectures and the readings.
5. **Volunteer service (Optional).** Spend 5-10 hours in missions-related volunteer work. Student will provide a 1-pg summary and evaluation of experience on Blackboard. **Clear the volunteer experience with the professor before you commit to the volunteer placement.** This assignment is OPTIONAL and extra credit will be given for its completion by April 30

EVALUATION/GRADING:

Assignments for this course will be evaluated according to the following criteria. However, please refer to the grading rubrics for each assignment, posted on Moodle.

1. Does the work illustrate the student's grasp of basic concepts, definitions, and principles related to...?
2. Does the student demonstrate clear and specific interaction with the assigned reading material and class discussion?
3. Is there evidence of the student's personal reflection on the topics discussed? Does the work illustrate the student's independent research and learning?
4. Does the work reflect the student's responsibility to prepare both academically and practically (i.e., has the student attempted to apply the material to his/her ministry setting or to the local church in general)?
5. Does the work fulfill the assignment by the required date? Because ministry itself demands discipline, students are expected to meet established deadlines for submitted work.
6. Is the assignment written at a level appropriate for master's level work? Does the work follow proper style?

COURSE GRADING WEIGHT:

- Class Participation: 5%
- Reading Reactions: 15%
- Missional Assessment: 10%
- Missionary Biography Paper & Presentation: 25%
- Great Commission Journal: 25%
- Final Examination: 20%

COURSE GRADING:

Grading for the course will follow the guidelines in the Southeastern faculty handbook: A = 95-100; B = 87-94; C = 77-86; D = 70-76; F = below 70.

Course Schedule (subject to change at professor's discretion)

Class Meeting Week	Reading/Assignments
Jan 18	
Jan 25	Read Tennent <i>Part One</i> pp. 15-101; Acts chs. 1-3
Feb 1	Read Tennent <i>Part Two A</i> pp. 105-157; Acts chs. 4-6 Missional Assessment Paper Due (2/4)
Feb 8	Read Tennent <i>Part Two B</i> pp. 159-226; Acts chs. 7-9
Feb 15 10-12	Read Tennent <i>Part Three A</i> pp. 229-321; <i>40 Questions</i> Part 1; Acts chs.
Feb 22 12-14	Read Tennent <i>Part Three B</i> pp. 323-406; <i>40 Questions</i> Part 2; Acts chs.
Mar 1	<u>No</u> class 3/1; <u>Yes</u> class 3/3
Mar 8	Read Tennent <i>Part 4 A</i> pp. 409-457; <i>40 Questions</i> Part 3; Acts chs. 14-16
Mar 15 (SB)	<i>Spring Break</i>
March 22	Missionary Biography Paper Due (3/26)
March 29	Read Tennent <i>Part 4 B</i> pp 459-506; <i>40 Questions</i> Part 4A; Acts chs. 17-19
Apr 5	<i>40 Questions</i> Part 4B; Acts chs. 20-22
Apr 12	<i>40 Questions</i> Part 5 (chs. 32-35); Acts chs. 23-25
Apr 19	<i>40 Questions</i> Part 5 (chs. 36-40); Acts chs. 26-28
April 26	Biography Presentations in Class
May 3	40 Questions & Acts Journal Due (May 7)
May 5-11	Final Exam

Technical Assistance

For assistance regarding technology, consult ITC (504-816-8180) or the following websites:

1. Selfserve@nobts.edu - Email for technical questions/support requests with the Selfserve.nobts.edu site (Access to online registration, financial account, online transcript, etc.)
2. BlackboardHelpDesk@nobts.edu - Email for technical questions/support requests with the NOBTS Blackboard Learning Management System NOBTS.Blackboard.com.
3. ITCSupport@nobts.edu - Email for general technical questions/support requests.
4. www.NOBTS.edu/itc/ - General NOBTS technical help information is provided on this website.

Attendance

Students are expected to attend all classes. Absence of more than 9 hours will result in a failing grade. Any student missing 6 or more hours of class will receive a one letter grade reduction in his or her grade. Tardiness will impact grades. Three tardies will be considered as one hour's absence. In the event that the normal NOBTS schedule is impacted due to a natural event or epidemic go to the seminary website for information. Our class will continue through our Blackboard site. Please note announcements and assignments on the Blackboard site in the event one or more of our classes is cancelled.

Academic Integrity

Each student is responsible for the academic integrity of his/her work. The following are examples of violations of academic integrity: cheating on an exam, plagiarism, turning in work done by someone else, and submitting a paper which has been submitted in another class. These and other violations of academic integrity may result in failure of the course.

Help for Writing Papers at “The Write Stuff”

NOBTS maintains a Writing Center designed to improve English writing at the graduate level. Students can receive writing guides, tips, and valuable information to help in becoming a better writer.

Plagiarism on Written Assignments

NOBTS has a no tolerance policy for plagiarism. Plagiarism in certain cases may result in expulsion from the seminary. See the NOBTS Student Handbook for definition, penalties, and policies associated with plagiarism.

Writing Style Guide

Writing assignments should follow the NOBTS/Leavell College Manual of Form and Style (revised August 2019). A copy of the approved NOBTS Style Guide can be found in the course Blackboard shell, or can be located online at the Writing Center's page on the seminary website at <https://www.nobts.edu/resources/pdf/writing/StyleGuide.pdf>

MISSIONARY BIOGRAPHY EVALUATION RUBRIC

	Possible Points	Points Earned
Title Page	15	_____
Bibliographical Entry (top of first page)	15	_____
Declarative sentence	25	_____
Summary of book	30	_____
Purpose/Goal of book		
Grasp of concepts		
Clarity of description		
Organization		
Missional Methods Evaluation	50	_____
Grasp of concepts		
Critical analysis of concepts (+ / -)		
Ministry Context	40	_____
Application for ministry		
Form/Style	25	_____
Spelling		
Grammar		
Clarity		
Writing style		
TOTAL (Paper)	200	_____
Subtraction for not reading entire book		_____

Class Presentation	50	_____
Clear		
Demonstrates insight/understanding		
Engaging		

FINAL GRADE	250	_____