

**The Theology of Missions MISS9405
Fall Semester 2014**

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Seminary Mission

The mission of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary is to equip leaders to fulfill the Great Commission (Matthew 28: 16-20) and the Great Commandments (Matthew 22:34-40) through the local church and its ministries.

Course Purpose

The purpose of this course is to help equip those studying at NOBTS to fulfill the Great Commission (Matthew 28: 16-20) through the local church and its ministries.

Core Value Focus

Our seminary has five core values: doctrinal integrity, spiritual vitality, mission focus, character excellence, and servant leadership. This course relates to all five core values but especially mission focus which states in part: “We are here to change the world by fulfilling the Great Commission and the Great Commandments through the local church and its ministries.” The focus core value for 2014-2015 is spiritual vitality. “We are a worshiping community emphasizing both personal spirituality and gathering together as a Seminary family for the praise and adoration of God and instruction in His Word.”

Curriculum Competencies Addressed

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary has seven basic competencies guiding the NOBTS curriculum. This course supports and relates to various competencies such as biblical exposition in the section related to biblical foundations of missions. The disciple making competency which stated is “to stimulate church health through mobilizing the church for missions, evangelism, discipleship, and church growth” is especially addressed in the curriculum of this course.

Course Description

The theology of missions is examined from the perspectives of biblical foundations, historical development, contemporary discussions, and future directions. Special attention is given to major missiological motifs, the impact of significant missiological movements, and the interaction between theology and missiology.

Seminar Participant Learning Outcomes

By the end of the seminar, the student should be able to:

1. Comprehend the relationship between theology and missions.
2. Analyze the biblical foundations of the theology of missions.
3. Analyze the historical development of the theology of missions.
4. Apply the theology of missions to a specific context.
5. Synthesize their findings and the findings of other group members into a comprehensive expression of the theology of missions.

Seminar Teaching Methodology

Course Methods

1. The primary course method will involve student research and reporting of that research in papers and seminar presentations. Students are expected to be knowledgeable of basic research methodologies and to hone their research skills beyond the basic level.
2. Presentations and small-group discussions will be utilized to enhance and promote personal assimilation and integration of course concepts and content. Students are expected to be active participants in seminar discussions.
3. Student interaction with peers, resource persons, seminary faculty members, and the course instructor are encouraged during the duration of this class to facilitate insights about current mission methods and principles. Conferences with the instructor are invited and may be accomplished via telephone, e-mail, or office visits.

Seminar Textbooks

Newbigin, Lesslie. *The Open Secret: An Introduction to the Theology of Mission*. Rev. ed. Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1995.

Van Gelder, Craig. *The Essence of the Church: A Community Created by the Spirit*. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 2000.

Winter, Ralph D. and Hawthorne, Stephen, eds. *Perspectives on the World Christian Movement: A Reader*. 4th ed. Pasadena, CA: William Carey Library, 2009.

Other books, as required during the course of the seminar.

In addition to the required textbooks, members of the seminar will be asked to read various articles, journals, or internet resources as required by the instructor.

Seminar Requirements

1. Read each of the assigned texts, articles, and other reading assignments.

2. Prepare each week to participate in seminar discussion related to readings, presentations by members of the seminar, or the topic being considered. A portion of the individual's seminar grade will be based on one's degree of weekly participation in seminar discussions. *Perspectives* Prepare a summary of key ideas from three chapters and compose a one page summary of key points for each chapter.

3. Write and submit critical reviews of Van Gelder's *The Essence of the Church* and Newbigin's *The Open Secret*.

Each review should be eight to ten pages in length, double-spaced, and written with proper Turabian form. The review should include these elements: (1) Summarize the main points or chapters of the book. (2) Evaluate the book's content from a biblical, theological, and missiological perspective. (3) Discuss two or more key concepts from the book with which you agree or disagree. Explain logically and supported with Scripture, theology, and missiological foundations why you agree or disagree with a concept. If you disagree, explain how you would correct what has been written.

4. Write and submit a critical review of any additional assigned books.. The review should be eight to ten pages in length, double-spaced, and written with proper Turabian form. The review should include these elements: (1) Summarize the main points or chapters of the book. (2) Evaluate the book's content from a biblical, theological, and missiological perspective. (3) Discuss two or more key concepts from the book with which you agree or disagree. Explain logically and supported with Scripture, theology, and missiological foundations why you agree or disagree with a concept. If you disagree, explain how you would correct what has been written

5. Prepare minor papers on approved topics related to the theology of missions. The normal length of the papers would be eight to ten double-spaced pages. The paper should be in correct Turabian format with footnotes, cover page, blank page, contents page, introduction, body of paper, conclusion and a works cited bibliography. Lead an oral presentation of the paper based on the paper's contents. One should not read the paper verbatim.

6. Write and present a major paper related to an approved topic relating to the theology of missions. A proposal and outline must be submitted and the topic approved. The major paper should be in correct Turabian format with footnotes, cover page, blank page, contents page, , introduction, body of at least three chapters, conclusion, and works cited bibliography. The paper should be typed, double-spaced, and a minimum of thirty pages to fifty pages in length. A minimum of twenty Lead an oral presentation of the paper which should be a minimum of one hour in length and based on the paper's contents. One should not read the paper verbatim. The major paper will be due beginning one week prior to an oral presentation on the paper.

7. Each member of the seminar will submit a typed final exam on the last seminar day. The final exam should include the following: (1). A two to three page statement of the seminar member's

personal philosophy related to the theology of missions which reflects an assimilation and integration of the seminar's concepts, principles, and research relating to the field. (2) A summary of two or more key concepts exposed to in the seminar of appropriately three pages (3) An outline of how you would teach a course on the theology of missions to master's level students at NOBT, including a bibliography. Be prepared to discuss your answers and dialogue during the final seminar meeting of the semester.

Research and Writing Guidelines

1. All research should be documented from original sources as much as possible.
2. The use of secondary sources for documentation should be limited to reputable writers, researchers, and publishers. Use discretion related to internet websites.
3. Dissertations and theses may be referenced, but they should not constitute the majority of the resources consulted nor of the content formulated in written reports.
4. Interviews may be utilized for content formulation and documentation with regard to original and secondary documentation, but should not constitute the majority of the resources consulted nor of the content formulated in written reports without permission of the seminar leader.
5. Written papers should conform to the current edition of *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations* by Kate L. Turabian and *A Manual of Style* published by the University of Chicago Press.

Seminar Grading

Critical Book Reviews and Presentations	30%
Minor Papers	25%
Major Paper and Presentation	25 %
Final Exam and Presentation	10%
Seminar Leadership and Participation	10%

Absences

Students enrolled in the seminar are expected to attend each meeting of the seminar. Absence of over two hours of seminar meetings will result in a non-passing grade unless special permission is granted due to extraordinary circumstances. In such instances, permission must be granted prior to the seminar meeting of a particular week.

Seminar Schedule*

First Session: Introduction to the Seminar

Biblical Foundations of the Theology of Missions

Van Gelder's *The Essence of the Church Critique*

Perspectives Chapters 1-9

Minor Paper on Biblical Theology of Missions

Second Session: Historical Development of the Theology of Missions: Interaction between
Theology and Missions

Book Critique

Perspectives Chapters 10-18

Minor Paper on the interaction between theology and missions in a specific
historical development

Third Session: Historical Development of the Theology of Missions: Motifs

Journal Articles

Perspectives Chapters 19-28

Major Paper

Fourth Session: Contemporary Discussions on the Theology of Missions

Book Critique

Perspectives Chapters 29-35

Minor Paper on contemporary discussions on the theology of missions

Final Exam

*The seminar schedule and assignments may be adjusted as deemed appropriate by the professor.

A Bibliography

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