



**MISS9405 The Theology of Missions  
New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary  
Division of Pastoral Ministries  
Fall Semester 2018**

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**Mission Statement**

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.

**Core Value Focus**

The seminary has five core values: Doctrinal Integrity, Spiritual Vitality, Mission Focus, Characteristic Excellence, and Servant Leadership. The core value focus for this academic year is Doctrinal Integrity, which states in part, “Knowing that the Bible is the Word of God, we believe it, teach it, proclaim it, and submit to it. Our confessional commitments are outlined in the Articles of Religious Belief and the Baptist Faith & Message 2000”.

**Curriculum Competencies Addressed**

All graduates of NOBTS are expected to have at least a minimum level of competency in each of the following areas: Biblical Exposition, Christian Theological Heritage, Disciple Making, Interpersonal Skills, Servant Leadership, Spiritual and Character Formation, and Worship Leadership. This course supports and relates to various competencies such as Servant Leadership, Interpersonal Skills, and Spiritual and Character Formation. 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**

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**

Bosch, David J. *Transforming Mission: Paradigm Shifts in Theology of Mission*. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books, 1991.

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 Edition. 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 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 for each seminar meeting to participate in seminar discussion related to readings, guest presentations, or presentations by members of the seminar. A portion of the individual's

seminar grade will be based on one's degree of weekly participation in seminar discussions.

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

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 in three to four pages. (2) Evaluate the book's content from a biblical, theological, and missiological perspective. Include a minimum of two to three paragraphs for each separate element such as biblical. This section should be approximately two to three pages. (3) Discuss a minimum of two or three key concepts from the book. 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. This section should be approximately three to four pages.

4. Write and submit a critical review of any additional assigned books. Follow guidelines for writing in # 3 above. (See Seminar Schedule: Session 4)

5. Prepare minor papers on approved topics related to the theology of missions. The normal length of the papers would be a **minimum of ten to a maximum of fifteen double-spaced pages**. The paper should be in correct Turabian format with footnotes, cover page, blank page, contents page, introduction, separate sections in the body of paper, conclusion and a works cited bibliography. Use a **minimum of ten different resources** in writing the paper. Lead an oral presentation of the paper based on the paper's contents. One should not read the paper verbatim. Use Turabian, 9th edition, as the writing guide.

A minor paper will be due for the first seminar meeting on Thursday, September 13; the second seminar meeting on Thursday, October 11; and the third seminar meeting on Thursday, November 8... Consult the Seminar Schedule Section of the Seminar Syllabus for suggested topics under First Session; Second Session; and the Third Session. Your topic must be approved by the professor prior to writing each minor paper.

6. Read all of assigned chapters for each seminar meeting from *Perspectives*. Prepare a summary and application of two pages for selected chapters. (See **Seminar Schedule** for chapters from which each seminar member is assigned to select two chapters per seminar meeting to write a summary and application.)

7. Write and present a major paper related to an approved topic relating to the theology of missions. The topic should be explained in a proposal and tentative outline submitted to the professor and 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 to twenty-five different sources. 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 on **Thursday, Dec. 6.**

8. Each member of the seminar will submit a typed final exam on the last seminar day. **Thursday, Dec. 13.** 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 and explanation of how you would teach a course on the theology of missions to master's level students at NOBT, including textbook(s) and a bibliography. Be prepared to discuss your answers and dialogue during the final seminar meeting of the semester.

\*The discussion of concepts may include the major papers which will be sent electronically to seminar members a week before the final seminar meeting time.

### **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 8<sup>th</sup> 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 & Presentations	20 %
Minor Papers and Presentations	25%
Other Seminar Assignments	10%
Major Paper and Presentation	30 %
Final Exam and Presentation	5%
Seminar Leadership & 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.

## **Seminar Schedule\***

First Session: Introduction to the Seminar – Thursday, September 13

Biblical Foundations of the Theology of Missions

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

Lindsay- Overview Chapters 1-4; Trenton- Overview Chapters 5-7)

*Perspectives* Chapters 1-9 (Read all chapters)

(Lindsay 1-5; Trenton 6-9) (Select two chapters to summarize)

Minor Paper on Biblical Theology of Missions. (Examples of Possible topics: Biblical Theology of Missions in Old Testament passages such as Isaiah; ... in the Gospel of ..., ...in Acts; in Paul's Ministry, ... in the Letter(s) of ..., A Biblical Defense That All are Called as Missionaries, A Biblical Defense that A Special Call Sets Apart Long Term Missionaries)

Second Session: Historical Development of the Theology of Missions: Interaction between Theology and Missions – Thursday, October 11

Book Critique on Newbigin's *The Open Secret*

(Trenton- Overview Chapters 1-4, 9; Lindsay Overview Chapters 5-8, 10)

*Perspectives* Chapters 10-18(Trenton 10-14; Lindsay 15-18)

Minor Paper on the interaction between theology and missions in a specific historical development. (Examples of Possible Topics: Why the Theology of the Reformer ... did not emphasize missions; The Theology of Missions driving William Carey; the role of a Theology of Missions in development of the SBC; Why a Theology of Missions the connecting point for all Southern Baptists)

Third Session: Historical Development of the Theology of Missions: Motifs – Th., Nov. 8

Book Critique on Bosch's Transforming *Mission*

(Lindsay- Overview Chapters 1-8; Trenton Overview Chapters 9-13)

*Perspectives* Chapters 19-28 (Lindsay 19-23; Trenton 24-28)

Minor Paper on a motif or contemporary discussions on the theology of missions (Examples of Possible Topics: The Priority of Biblical Evangelism in Missions over Meeting Needs; The Impact of a Church's or Sending Organization's Theology of Missions on ways sending missionaries.)

Fourth Session: Contemporary Discussions on the Theology of Missions- Th., Dec. 13

Book Critique+ or Journal Articles (Minimum of Ten)

Major Paper (Submitted One Week Prior to Seminar Meeting)

*Perspectives* Chapters 29-35 (Trenton 29-31; Lindsay 32- 35)

Final Exam

+ Possible books for Fourth Session Critique

Kostenberger and O'Brien's *Salvation to the Ends of the Earth*; Ashford, *Theology and Practice of Mission*; Plummer and Terry, Eds. *Paul's Missionary Methods*; Wright, *The Mission of God*.

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

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