



TYNDALE

• SEMINARY •

Course Syllabus

WINTER 2019
GOSPEL, CHURCH AND CULTURE
MISS 0782

JANUARY 14 – APRIL 8, 2019
MONDAYS, 6:45 – 9:35 PM

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Access course material at <http://classes.tyndale.ca/>

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The mission of Tyndale Seminary is to provide Christ-centred graduate theological education for leaders in the church and society whose lives are marked by intellectual maturity, spiritual vigour and moral integrity, and whose witness will faithfully engage culture with the Gospel.

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

Preparing missional leaders in the postmodern world requires serious examination of the ideologies and cultural milieu of contemporary society and postmodernism. This course examines the main features of the postmodern culture, the meaning of faithfulness to the gospel, the good news of God's salvation, and the nature and mission of the Church. Church's witness and service to the world is studied and presented not as one of the functions of the church but as its essential nature. Missionary congregations are perceived as hermeneutic of the gospel and models of Kingdom communities. Missional leadership takes seriously the calling of all God's people to minister in every sphere of life as faithful witnesses to the gospel of salvation.

The course reflects on the church as intrinsically missionary—called to be so by God because God Himself is always reaching out in mission to humanity. The very identity of the church is missionary; and as such it needs to take the world and its struggles seriously.

The course will analyze the changing landscapes and context of contemporary mission, within the wider context of mission history and in the succession of various paradigms within that history.

II. LEARNING OUTCOMES

At the end of this course, students will be able to:

- Develop a comprehensive view of the missiological foundation of the Bible;
- Gain ability to engage the thorniest issues in Christian intellectual history: the relationship between the church and the world in general, and Mission and Social Concern in particular.
- Develop ability to integrate theological insights with cultural-social analysis in developing a theology to inform the Church's response to its local context.
- Analyze and engage of various voices within today's dialogue about mission: Latin American and Black (North) American theologies, and voices from diverse African contexts.
- Develop categories and concepts for cultural-social analysis of specific ministry context: how culture shapes our understanding of Gospel, Church and ministry.
- Critically reflect and integrate contemporary mission issues in terms of personal, congregational/local and global aspects of Christian identity.

III. COURSE REQUIREMENTS

A. REQUIRED TEXTS

Newbigin, Lesslie. *Foolishness to the Greeks*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1986.

Newbigin, Lesslie. *The Gospel in a Pluralist Society*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1989.

Guder, Darrell L. *Missional Church A Vision for the Sending of the Church in North America*
Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1989.

B. RECOMMENDED READING AND TOOLS

Van Gelder, Craig. *The Essence of the Church*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker, 2000.

Sider, Ronald J. *Good News and Good Works*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker, 1999.

Tyndale recommends www.stepbible.org – a free and reputable online resource developed by Tyndale House (Cambridge, England) – for word searches of original-language texts, as well as for topical searches, interlinear texts, dictionaries, etc. Refer to the library for other [online resources for Biblical Studies](#).

C. ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING

Careful completion of the assigned readings **in advance**, in conjunction with reflecting on their relation to the ideas presented in the lectures. It is expected that students will read all of the assigned reading prior to the scheduled lecture of the week.

1. Three book reviews: 30% of final grade.

Three book reviews 500-750 words (guidance will be provided)

Newbigin, Lesslie. *Foolishness to the Greeks*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1986.

Due date: February 4

Newbigin, Lesslie. *The Gospel in a Pluralist Society*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1989.

Due date: March 4

Guder, Darrell L. *Missional Church A Vision for the Sending of the Church in North America*
Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1989.

Due date: April 1

2. Discussion Comments: Dates vary; 20% of final grade.

15m Class Presentation/reflection (*last class):

The Church's Responsibility in Communicating the Gospel in Contemporary Canadian Context: With your local case in point

Discussion forums are a key aspect of this course. They are your opportunity to relate and reflect on major themes being studied, to share your ideas with your peers, and benefit from the ideas presented by your colleagues in the group. The purpose of this activity is to allow you to experience how our community's cross cultural and denominational backgrounds can help to broaden your perspective on areas where the gospel needs to challenge us, the church, and the society we live in. The aim is to make this a collaborative

learning experience that functions as a prototype of how the church as body of Christ is intended to operate.

3. Integrative Term Paper: Due on April 8, 2018, by 9am; 50% of final mark.

A 12-page integrative term paper which applies central ideas from the readings and class discussions to your own ministry.

The integrative paper should:

- Focus on the main thesis “what is the role of the church in communicating the message of the gospel in the postmodern context of North America.”
- Draw on course material, including all assigned readings and lectures.
- Interact with key ideas about the nature of Gospel and its relation to culture.
- Provide your own personal reflections and constructive suggestions related to specific implications of a missional paradigm for holistic ministry.
- Suggest possible obstacles or assets in embracing such a paradigm.

D. EQUITY OF ACCESS

Students with permanent or temporary disabilities who need academic accommodations must [contact](#) the [Accessibility Services](#) at the [Centre for Academic Excellence](#) to [register](#) and discuss their specific needs. *New students* must self-identify and register with the Accessibility Office at the beginning of the semester or as early as possible to access appropriate services. *Current students* must renew their plans as early as possible to have active accommodations in place.

D. SUMMARY OF ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING

Evaluation is based upon the completion of the following assignments:

Three book reviews	30%
Discussion/Presentation/Comments	20%
Integrative Term Paper	50%
Total Grade	100%

F. GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR THE SUBMISSION OF WRITTEN WORK

For proper citation style, consult the [Chicago-Style Quick Guide](#) (Tyndale e-resource) or the full edition of the [Chicago Manual of Style Online](#), especially [ch. 14](#). For citing scripture texts, refer to sections [10.44 to 10.48](#) and [14.238 to 14.241](#).

Academic Integrity

Integrity in academic work is required of all our students. Academic dishonesty is any breach of this integrity, and includes such practices as cheating (the use of unauthorized material on tests and examinations), submitting the same work for different classes without permission of the instructors; using false information (including false references to secondary sources) in an assignment; improper or unacknowledged collaboration with other students, and plagiarism. Tyndale University College & Seminary takes seriously its responsibility to uphold academic integrity, and to penalize academic dishonesty.

Students are encouraged to consult [writing resources](#).

Students should also consult the current [Academic Calendar](#) for academic policies on Academic Honesty, Gender Inclusive Language in Written Assignments, Late Papers and Extensions, Return of Assignments, and Grading System.

Research Ethics

All course-based assignments involving human participants requires ethical review and approval by the [Tyndale Research Ethics Board \(REB\)](#). Check with the Seminary Office (Room B302; aa@tyndale.ca) before proceeding.

G. COURSE EVALUATION

Tyndale Seminary values quality in the courses it offers its students. End-of-course evaluations provide valuable student feedback and are one of the ways that Tyndale Seminary works towards maintaining and improving the quality of courses and the student's learning experience. Student involvement in this process is critical to enhance the general quality of teaching and learning.

Before the end of the course, students will receive a MyTyndale email with a link to the online course evaluation. The link can also be found in the left column on the course page. The evaluation period is 2 weeks; after the evaluation period has ended, it cannot be reopened.

Course Evaluation results will not be disclosed to the instructor before final grades in the course have been submitted and processed. Student names will be kept confidential and the instructor will only see the aggregated results of the class.

H. VALUES AND EXPECTATIONS

The approach of the course is the integration of the mind (the academic), heart (transformation) and hands (right actions for mission): Scripture-based, Christ-centered and grace-empowered in a pastoral context. The course challenges students to think critically and encourages them to be intentional in seeking spiritual maturity that is sensitive to the needs

of the world, especially the needs of those who are at the margins of society. It is only to the extent that one is willing to be transformed that one can truly become the vehicle of the transforming power of the Gospel. In terms of the academic journey, students are expected to demonstrate Christian integrity in their work.

IV. COURSE SCHEDULE, CONTENT AND REQUIRED READINGS

Week One (Jan 14)

Introduction: What is Culture?

Reading:

- Newbigin, *The Gospel in a Pluralist Society*, pp.1-38, 171-197

Week Two (Jan 21)

God's Mission – The Missiological Foundation of the Bible

Reading:

- Newbigin, *The Gospel in a Pluralist Society*, pp.89-140

Week Three (Jan 28)

The Historical Survey: Analysis of Paradigm Shifts in the History of Mission,

Reading:

- Bekele, Girma. *Mission, Evangelism and Theology: How David Bosch forged the synthesis*. Public Lecture Presented at Calvin Seminar, Grand Rapids, January 18, 2011
* WILL BE POSTED

Week Four (Feb 4)

Factors Shaping Contemporary Global Missions: Voices and Current Trends

Reading:

- David Bosch, *Transforming Mission* *pp 357-371
- Christopher Wright, *The Mission of God's People*, ** pp 179-200
- Van Engen, Charles, *Mission on the Way: Issues in Mission Theology*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker, 1996), ***pp.17-31

Week Five (Feb 11)

The Culture of the Early Church & Mission after Christendom

Readings:

- Newbigin, *Foolishness to the Greeks*, Chapters 1&2

READING WEEK: FEB 18 NO CLASS

Week Six (Feb 25)

Modernity I

Readings:

- Newbigin, *Foolishness to the Greeks*, Chapters 3&4

Week Seven (Mar 4)

Modernity II

Readings:

- Newbigin, *Foolishness to the Greeks*, Chapters 5&6

Week Eight (Mar 11)

Postmodernity I

Readings:

- Selected Articles
- Newbigin, *The Gospel in a Pluralist Society*, pp.141-170; 211-244

Week Nine (Mar 18)

Postmodernity II

Readings:

- Selected Articles

Week Ten (Mar 25)

The Gospel and the Kingdom of God: The Gospel and Social Concern I

Readings:

- Sider, *Good News*, Chapters 1-4.
- Van Gelder, *The Essence of the Church*, Chapters 1-4

Week Eleven (Apr 1)

The Gospel and the Kingdom of God: The Gospel and Social Concern II

Readings:

- Sider, *Good News*, Chapters 5-8
- Van Gelder, *The Essence of the Church*, Chapters 5-7
- “Evangelism and Social Responsibility: An Evangelical Commitment”: A Joint Publication of the Lausanne Committee for World Evangelization and the World Evangelical Fellowship. Available online:
<http://www.lausanne.org/en/connect/regions/europe.html?id=79>
- An Evangelical Manifesto: The Washington Declaration of Evangelical Identity and Public Commitment May 7, 2008; Washington, D.C. (will be posted)
- Wright, Christopher J., *The Mission of God's People: A Biblical Theology of the Church's Mission* (Zondervan, 2010), pp. 222-243.

Week Twelve (Apr 8)

1. ***Vocation and Ministry in Daily Life/Vibrant Contextual Congregation***
2. ***The Church's Responsibility in Communicating the Gospel in Contemporary Canadian Context: With your local case in point***

Background reading:

- Sider, *Good News*, Chapters 9-11.
- Newbigin, *The Gospel in a Pluralist Society*, pp. 211-244

V. SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

(Tyndale Library supports this course with [e-journals and e-books](#). See the [Library FAQ page](#).)

Abraham, William. [The Logic of Evangelism](#). London: Hodder & Stoughton, 1989.

Adams, Michael. *Better Happy than Rich? Canadians, Money and the Meaning of Life*. Toronto, ON: Penguin, 2000.

*Adams, Michael. *Sex in the Snow: Canadian Social Values at the End of the Millennium*. Toronto, ON: Penguin, 1998.

Adeney, Bernard T. *Strange Virtues: Ethics in a Multicultural World*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP, 1995.

Bakke, Ray. [A Theology as Big as the City](#). Downers Grove, IL: IVP, 1997.

Bauman, Zygmunt. [Community: Seeking Safety in an Insecure World](#). Cambridge: Polity, 2001.

_____. *Globalization: The Human Consequences*. Cambridge: Polity, 1998.

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Beeby, H.D. [Canon and Mission](#). Harrisburg, PA: Trinity Press International, 1999.

Bevans, Stephen B. *Models of Contextual Theology*. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis, 1992.

Bibby, Reginald. *Restless Gods: The Renaissance of Religion in Canada*. Toronto, ON: Stoddart, 2002.

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

Braaten, Carl E. *The Flaming Center: A Theology of the Christian Mission*. Philadelphia, PA: Fortress, 1977.

Brownson, James V. [*Speaking the Truth in Love: New Testament Resources for a Missional Hermeneutic*](#). Harrisburg, PA: Trinity Press International, 1998.

* Clapp, Rodney. [*A Peculiar People: The Church as Culture in a Post-Christian Society*](#). Downers Grove, IL: IVP, 1996.

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Drane, John. *The McDonaldization of the Church*. Macon, GA: Darton, Longman & Todd, 2000.

Dyrness, William. [*How does America Hear the Gospel?*](#) Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1989.

Eagleton, Terry. [*The Idea of Culture*](#). Malden, MA: Blackwell, 2000.

Friedman, Thomas L. *The Lexus and the Olive Tree*. New York: Anchor Books, 1999.

Friesen, Duane K. *Artists, Citizens and Philosophers: Seeking the Peace of the City*. Scottsdale, PA: Herald Press, 2000.

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Gibbs, Eddie. [*Church Next: Quantum Changes in How we do Ministry*](#). Downers Grove, IL: IVP, 2000.

Grenz, Stanley J. [*A Primer on Postmodernism*](#). Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1996.

- Guder, Darrel. [Be my Witnesses](#). Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1985.
- _____. [Be my Witnesses](#). Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1985.
- * _____. *Missional Church*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1998.
- _____. [The Continuing Conversion of the Church](#). Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2000.
- _____. *The Incarnation and the Church's Witness*. Harrisburg, PA: Trinity Press International, 1999.
- _____. "Missional Theology for a Missionary Church." *Journal for Preachers* 22, no. 1. (Advent 1998).
- _____. "The Missional Center of Reformed Worship." *Reformed Liturgy and Music* 32, no. 2 (spring 1998): 100-104.
- Hammond, Pete, R. Paul Stevens & Todd Svanoe. [The Marketplace Annotated Bibliography: A Christian Guide to Books on Work, Business and Vocation](#). Downers Grove, IL: IVP, 2002.
- Harvey, Barry. [Another City: An Ecclesiological Primer for a Post-Christian World](#). Harrisburg, PA: Trinity Press International, 1999.
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- Hegeman, David Bruce. [Plowing in Hope: Toward a Biblical Theology of Culture](#). Moscow, ID: Canon Press, 1999.
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- Iyer, Pico. *The Global Soul: Jet Lag, Shopping Malls, and the Search for Home*. Toronto, ON: Random House, 2000.
- Jenkins, Philip. [The Next Christendom: The Coming of Global Christianity](#). Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2002.
- Kenneson, Philip D. [Beyond Sectarianism: Re-Imagining Church and World](#). Harrisburg, PA: Trinity Press International, 1999.

Kirk, J. Andrew. [The Mission of Theology and Theology as Mission](#) Harrisburg, PA: Trinity Press International, 1997.

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* Niebuhr, H. Richard. *Christ and Culture*. New York: Harper, 1951.

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Page, Patricia N. *All God's People Are Ministers: Equipping Church Members for Ministry*. Minneapolis, MN: Augsburg Fortress, 1993.

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An asterisk marks books of major importance for the topic.