



TYNDALE
Seminary

Course Syllabus

MISS 0782
GOSPEL, CHURCH AND CULTURE:
PREPARING MISSIONAL LEADERS FOR THE 21ST CENTURY

Winter 2012

February 2nd (Thursday 6:30pm- 9:30pm),
February 3rd -4th (Friday/Saturday 8:30am-4:30pm)
March 1st (Thursday 6:30pm- 9:30pm),
March 2nd – 3rd (Friday/Saturday 8:30am- 4:30pm)

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Course Resource Page: <http://class.tyndale.ca>

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

Preparing missional leaders requires careful examination of the ideologies and cultural milieu of contemporary society. This course examines the main features of postmodern culture, the meaning of faithfulness to the gospel, the good news of God's salvation and the nature and mission of the Church. The Church's witness and service to the world is studied not as one of the functions of the church but as its essential nature. 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.

II. LEARNING OUTCOMES

The student will gain a deeper understanding of the Gospel, develop a capacity for appreciating, evaluating and critiquing major currents of our culture, and be able to integrate these insights into ministry. More specifically:

- To understand the uniqueness of culture as a context for ministry.
- To develop a theological understanding of Gospel, Kingdom and Church that implicates mission and ministry.
- To develop and understanding of the uniqueness of Canadian Culture as a context for mission.
- To challenge the construct of our own cultures and reflect on how they implicate our ideas of ministry and mission.
- To allow participants to reflect theologically, missiologically and strategically.

III. COURSE REQUIREMENTS

A. REQUIRED TEXTS (LISTED IN ORDER OF ASSIGNED READING)

Adams, Michael. *Fire and Ice: The United States and Canada and the Myth of Converging Values*. Rev'd ed. Toronto: Penguin Books, 2009.

Van Gelder, Craig, Zscheile, Dwight J. *Missional Church in Perspective, The: Mapping Trends and Shaping the Conversation*, Baker Books, Grand Rapids. 2011

Nelson, Gary. *Borderland Church: A Congregation's Introduction to Missional Living*. St Louis: Chalice Press, 2009.

B. ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING

1. **Pre-Class Reflection Paper:** Due on Thursday February 2nd; 20% of final grade.

Write a 4 page personal reflection paper which discusses what you judge to be the three most important insights gained through your reading of Michael Adam's *Fire and Ice*. What impact and relevance does Adam's work suggest about the congregation/ministry in which you are currently involved and how relevant are his ideas for Christianity in the Canadian cultural context? Do **not** merely summarize Adam's book – interact creatively with it.

2. **Involvement:** 10% of final grade.

Attendance in class, participation in class/small group discussions and completion of assigned readings is expected. Because this is an intensive course over two weekends class attendance is required and missing any portion of the class is non-negotiable. (Student participation will be graded on a scale of 1 to 4: 1 (or D): present, not disruptive; 2 (or C): responds when called on but does not offer much; infrequent involvement; adequate preparation, but no evidence of interpretation or analysis; 3 (or B): offers straightforward information; contributes moderately when called upon; 4 (or A) good preparation, offers interpretation and analysis, contributes well to discussion in on-going fashion.)

3. **Congregational and Community Analysis Presentation:** Due on Thursday March 1st; 30% of final grade.

Develop a presentation of 7 minutes outlining a cultural and demographic analysis of your church and the community that it is situated in. A standard format is provided to guide you (see page 11).

4. **Final Assignment:** Due on April 1; 40% of final grade.

Choose one of the following:

- **Reflection Paper** linking biblical and theological ecclesiology with an effective methodology, articulate a biblically based mission of the church and illustrate your conclusions using a visual model for ministry that takes into account the position of the church in today's culture (10-12 pages).
- **Create a Video/Flash Media Presentation of the gospel**
Create two media presentations which visually present the engagement of gospel and culture through the missional church. This presentation should show an amount of creativity which portrays sensitivity and understanding of the challenges of communication to a secular culture with little if any "Christian Memory."
Length: 3-5 minutes each

C. GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR THE SUBMISSION OF WRITTEN WORK

More specific guidance about these written assignments will be provided in class.

Strict adherence to the page limits and due dates is required. Anything over the page limit doesn't get marked and anything late is automatically docked for every day late. (See Seminary policy attached.)

Use standard margins, double-spaced, typed, 12 point type.

Use gender-inclusive language in your papers. For example, use "We are made in the image of God" rather than "Men are made in the image of God."

Students should 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. The Academic Calendar is posted at www.tyndale.ca/registrar/calendar.

D. SUMMARY OF ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING

Evaluation is based upon the completion of the following assignments

Pre-Class Reflection Paper	20%
Involvement	10%
Congregational and Community Analysis Presentation	30%
Final Assignment	40%
Total Grade	100%

IV. COURSE SCHEDULE, CONTENT, AND REQUIRED READINGS

Pre-Course Work: complete the Pre-Class Reflection Paper.

This should be completed **before the first evening of class** (February 2nd, 2012).

Read the book by Michael Adams entitled *Fire and Ice: The United States and Canada and the Myth of Converging Values* and complete the Pre-Class Reflection Paper.

First Weekend of Classes (February 2nd evening, 3rd-4th all day)

Reading: Van Gelder, Craig, Zscheile, Dwight J. *The Missional Church in Perspective: Mapping Trends and Shaping the Conversation*. Baker Books, Grand Rapids, 2011.

Topics to be discussed:

- Challenging the ways we think and do church?
- Understanding the Culture at work in all of us?
- Crossing Over: the church living in the borderlands
- Canada and its Present Cultural Crossover
- What is Gospel? Leaning into the Culture with Good News

Second Weekend (March 1st evening, 2nd -3rd all day)

Reading: Gary Nelson, *Borderland Church: A Congregation's Introduction to Missional Living*. St Louis: Chalice Press, 2009; assigned articles.

Topics to be discussed

- Presentations of Context and Challenge; NOTE: These presentation assignments will be presented on the evening of March 4th. (See below for the parameters of the assignment)
- The Nature and Mission of the Church
- Context and Neighbourhood as the focus of Mission
- Implementing a Journey toward *Missio Dei*
- The Reality of Global Discipleship

V. SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

On being a people in mission

Augsburger, David. *Dissident Discipleship A Spirituality of Self- Surrender, Love of God and Love of Neighbor*. Grand Rapids: Brazos Press, 2006.

Brueggeman, Walter. [*Cadences of Home: Preaching Among Exiles*](#). Westminster: John Knox Press, 1997.

Bosch, David J. *Transforming Mission: Paradigm shifts in theology of Mission*. Maryknoll: Orbis Books, 1991.

Bevans, Stephen. *Models of Contextual Theology: Faith and Cultures*. Maryknoll: Orbis, 1992.

Bibby, Reginald. *Unknown Gods: The Ongoing Story of Religion in Canada*. Toronto: Stoddart, 1993.

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Clemens, Semak. *Doing Local Theology*. Orbis Press, 2002

Fitch, David E. *The Great Giveaway: Reclaiming the Mission of the Church*. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 2005

Grenz, Stanley. [*A Primer on Postmodernism*](#). Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1995.

Guder, Darrell, ed. [*Missional Church: A Vision for the Sending of the Church in North America*](#). Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Company. 1998.

Hunsberger, George. [*Church Between Gospel and Culture: The Emerging Mission in North America*](#). Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1996.

Long, Jimmy. [*Emerging Hope: A Strategy for Reaching Postmodern Generations*](#). Downers Grove: IVP Press, 2004.

Minatrea, Milfred. *Shaped By God's Heart: The Passion and Practices of Missional Churches*. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass, 2004.

Newbigin, Lesslie. [*Foolishness to the Greeks: The Gospel and Western Culture*](#). Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1986.

_____. [*The Gospel in a Pluralist Society*](#). Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1989.

_____. [*Truth to Tell: The Gospel as Public Truth*](#). Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1991.

_____. [*The Open Secret: An Introduction to the Theology of Mission*](#). Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1995.

Posterski, Don. *True to You: Living Our Faith in Our Multi-Minded World*. Winfield: Woodlake Books, 1995.

Schrieter, Robert. *Constructing Local Theologies*. Orbis Press: Marynoll, 198.

Van Engen, Charles. *God's Missionary People: Rethinking the Purpose of the Local Church*. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 1991.

Van Gelder, Craig. [*Confident Witness - Changing World: Rediscovering the Gospel in North America*](#). Grand Rapids: Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1999.

Wilson, Jonathan. *Living Faithfully in a Fragmented World*. Trinity Press International, 1997.

On being the Church

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

Dawn, Marva. [*Truly the Community: Romans 12 and How to Be the Church*](#). Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans. 1998.

Dulles Avery. [*Models of the Church*](#). Garden City: Doubleday and co. Inc., 1974.

Frost, Michael. *The Shape of Things to Come: Innovation and Mission for the 21st Century Church*. Peabody Mass. Hendrickson Publishers, 2000.

Grenz, Stanley. *Created for Community*. Wheaton: BridgePoint/Victor Books, 1996.

_____. [*Theology for the Community of Faith*](#). Nashville: Broadman & Holman, 1994.

Guder, Darrell. [Continuing Conversion of the Church](#). Eerdmans: Grand Rapids, 2002.

Hall, Douglas John. *The Future of the Church*. Toronto: UCPH, 1989.

Hauerwas, Stanley & William Willimon. *Resident Aliens*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1989.

Leddy, Mary Jo. *Reweaving Religious Life*. Mystic: Twenty Third Publications, 1990.

Murray, Stuart. *Post-Christendom: Church and Mission in a Strange New World*. Paternoster: Carlisle, 2004.

Posterski, Don and Gary Nelson. [Future Faith Churches: Reconnecting with the Power of the Gospel for the 21st Century](#). Winfield: Wood Lake Books, 1997.

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Watson, David. *I Believe in the Church*. London: Hodder and Stoughton, 1979.

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Webber, Robert. *The Younger Evangelicals*. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 2002.

Willimon, William. [The Intrusive Word: Preaching to the Unbaptized](#). Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1994.

Wright, N.T. *Bringing The Church to the World*. Minneapolis: Bethany House, 1992.

Vanier, John. [Community & Growth](#). New York: Paulist Press, 1979.

On engaging through word- evangelism

Brueggeman, Walter. *Biblical Perspectives on Evangelism: Living in a Three-Storyed Universe*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1993.

Gibbs, Eddie. *In Name Only: Tackling the Problem of Nominal Christianity*. Wheaton: BridgePoint Book, 1994.

- Green, Michael. *Evangelism Through the Local Church*. Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1992.
- Hunter, George. *How to Reach Secular People*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1992.
- Pannell, William. *Evangelism from the Bottom Up*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishing, 1992.
- Posterski, Don. *Reinventing Evangelism: New Strategies for Tomorrow's Church*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 1993.
- Roxburgh, Alan. [*Reaching a New Generation: Strategies for Tomorrow's Church*](#). Downers Grove: IV Press, 1993.
- Sider, Ronald J. *One-Sided Christianity: Uniting the Church to Heal a Lost and Broken World*. San Francisco: Harper/Collins, 1993.
- Watson, David. *I Believe in Evangelism*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1976.
- On engaging through deed- Moving into the Neighborhood**
- Grigg, Viv. [*Companion to the Poor*](#). Monrovia: MARC, 1991.
- _____. *Cry of the Urban Poor*. Monrovia: MARC, 1992.
- Hauerwas, Stanley. *In Good Company: The Church as Polis*. Notre Dame: University of Notre Dame Press, 1995.
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- Schreier, Robert. *Constructing Local Theologies*. Maryknoll: Orbis Books, 1985.
- Sine, Tom. *The Mustard Seed Conspiracy*. Waco: Word Books, 1981.

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On missioning your vocation

Banks, Robert. *Faith Goes to Work*. New York: The Alban Institute, 1993.

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On leading

Armour, Michael. [Systems-Sensitive: Empowering Diversity Without Polarizing the Church](#). Rev'd ed. Joplin: College Press Publishing Co., 2000.

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- Schaef, Ann W. *The Addictive Organization*. San Francisco: Harper and Row, 1988.
- Van Oech, Roger. *A Kick in the Seat of the Pants*. New York: Harper & Row, 1986.

Congregational and Community Analysis

Presentation date: March 4th- (evening class)

1. You have 5-8 minutes. Be precise. It is hard work to be brief and focused. Work at it.
2. Give us a glimpse of your community? Where is it located? What are the cultural, sociological and economic themes that shape this community? What are the demographics? What issues does the community feel are paramount to their community life?
3. How does the community mirror the church or does it? What is the demographic of the church? How does it view the community? What methods are used to engage the community in meaningful ministry and dialogue?
4. What is the operative image used by the church to portray the community around them and those scattered communities of workplace and relationships that their people live in?
5. What things that you have learned in this analysis keep you awake at night with excitement? With fear?