



TYNDALE

• SEMINARY •

Course Syllabus

Fall 2012

GOSPEL, CHURCH AND CULTURE
MISS 0782

SEPT 10 – DEC 7
MONDAYS 6:30 – 9:30 PM

INSTRUCTOR: WAFIK WAHBA, PhD
Telephone Number: 416 226 6620 ext. 2132
E-mail: wwahba@tyndale.ca

To access your course material, please go to <http://class.tyndale.ca>

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

Preparing missional leaders in the postmodern world requires serious examination of the ideologies and cultural milieu of 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 function 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.

II. LEARNING OUTCOMES

At the end of this course, students should:

- A. Have an in-depth biblical-theological understanding of the Gospel.
- B. Be able to articulate theologically the relationship between the Gospel, the Kingdom of God and the Church.
- C. Understand the nature and mission of the people of God as a sign, instrument and foretaste of the Kingdom of God.
- D. Understand how culture shapes our understanding of Gospel, Church and ministry.
- E. Developed categories and concepts for cultural-social analysis of specific ministry context.
- F. Recognize major dynamics of Canadian culture, including an exploration of the meaning and implications of late/post-modernity for the church's witness and service.
- G. Understand how the Gospel and the Church can address a multiethnic, pluralistic culture, using Toronto as a case study.
- H. Gain an ability to integrate theological insights with cultural-social analysis in developing a theology to inform the Church's response to its local context.

III. COURSE REQUIREMENTS

A. REQUIRED TEXTS

1. Newbigin, Lesslie. *Foolishness to the Greeks*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1986. (ISBN 0-8028-0176-5)
2. van Gelder, Craig. *The Essence of the Church*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2000. (ISBN 0-8010-9096-2)
3. Sider, Ronald J. *Good News and Good Works*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1999. (ISBN 0-8010-5845-7)
4. Selected Articles to be posted at the course web page or accessed through the internet.

B. 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. **Reflection Paper:** Due on Monday, October 15, 2012; 25% of final grade.

1000 word reflection paper on the culture of modernity and its impact on the life and ministry of the church based on Newbigin, *Foolishness to the Greeks*.

2. **Discussion Comments:** Dates vary; 25% of final grade.

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 Monday, December 3, 2012; 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.

C. GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR THE SUBMISSION OF WRITTEN WORK

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 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.

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 10.46 to 10.51 and 14.253 to 14.254.

D. SUMMARY OF ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING

Evaluation is based upon the completion of the following assignments:

Reflection Paper	25%
Discussion Comments	25%
Integrative Term Paper	50%
Total Grade	100%

IV. COURSE SCHEDULE, CONTENT AND REQUIRED READINGS

Week One

Introduction: What is Culture?

Week Two

***The Culture of the Early Church
Church & Mission after Christendom***

Readings:

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

Week Three

Modernity I

Readings:

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

Week Four

Modernity II

Readings:

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

Week Five

Postmodernity I

Readings:

Selected Articles

Week Six

Postmodernity II

Readings:

Selected Articles

Week Seven

The Gospel and the Kingdom of God

Readings:

Sider, *Good News*, Chapters 1-4.

Week Eight

The Nature of the Church

Readings:

Van Gelder, *The Essence of the Church*, Chapters 1-4

Week Nine

The Ministry of the Church

Readings:

Van Gelder, *The Essence of the Church*, Chapters 5-7

Week Ten

A Missional Understanding of the Church

Readings:

Sider, *Good News*, Chapters 5-8

Week Eleven

Reconciling the World to God

Readings:

Selected Articles

Week Twelve

Vocation and Ministry in Daily Life

Readings:

Sider, *Good News*, Chapters 9-11.

Selected Articles

The Church's Responsibility in Communicating the Gospel in Contemporary Canadian Context

Readings:

Selected Articles

Assigned readings for each week are to be done prior to the class.

V. SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

Abraham, William. [*The Logic of Evangelism*](#). (London, UK: 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, UK: Polity, 2001).

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

_____. [Liquid Modernity](#) (Cambridge, UK: Polity, 2000).

Beeby, H.D. [Canon and Mission](#). (Valley Forge, 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).

_____. *Unknown Gods* (Toronto, ON: Stoddart, 1993).

_____. *Mosaic Madness* (Toronto, ON: Stoddart, 1990).

*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 Press, 1977).

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

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

Clark, David, ed. *Changing World, Unchanging Church? An Agenda for Christians in Public Life* (London, UK: A.R. Mowbray & Company, 1997).

Dorr, Donal. *Mission in Today's World*. (Maryknoll, NY: Orbis, 2000).

Drane, John. *The McDonaldization of the Church*. (London, UK: Darton, Longman & Todd, 2000).

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

Eagleton, Terry. [The Idea of Culture](#). (Blackwell, 2000).

- Friedman, Thomas L. *The Lexus and the Olive Tree*. (New York, NY: Anchor Books, 1999).
- Friesen, Duane K. *Artists, Citizens and Philosophers: Seeking the Peace of the City*. (Harrisonburg, VA: Herald Press, 2000).
- Fuellenbach, John. *Church: Community for the Kingdom* (Maryknoll, NY: Orbis, 2002).
- _____. *The Kingdom of God: The Message of Jesus Today* (Maryknoll, NY: Orbis, 1995).
- Gay, Craig M. *The Way of the (Modern) World*. (Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1998).
- 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).
- * Guder, Darrel. *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* (Valley Forge, PA: Trinity Press International, 1999).
- Guder, Darrel. "Missional Theology for a Missionary Church," *Journal for Preachers*, vol. xxii, no. 1, Advent, 1998.
- Guder, Darrel. "The Missional Center of Reformed Worship," *Reformed Liturgy and Music*, vol. xxxii, no. 2, Spring 1998, pp. 100-104
- Hammond, Pete, R. Paul Stevens & Todd Svano. [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](#). (Valley Forge, PA: Trinity Press International, 1999).
- Heath, Joseph. *The Efficient Society: Why Canada is as Close to Utopia as it Goes* (Toronto, ON: Penguin, 2001).
- Hegeman, David Bruce. [Plowing in Hope: Toward a Biblical Theology of Culture](#). (Moscow, ID: Canon Press, 1999).

- * Hunsberger, George R. & Craig van Gelder, eds. [*Church Between Gospel and Culture: The Emerging Mission in North America*](#). (Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1996).
- Iyer, Pico. *The Global Soul: Jet Lag, Shopping Malls, and the Search for Home* (New York, NY: Random House, 2000).
- Jenkins, Philip. [*The Next Christendom: The Coming of Global Christianity*](#). (Oxford, UK: Oxford University Press, 2002).
- Kenneson, Philip D. [*Beyond Sectarianism: Re-Imagining Church and World*](#). (Valley Forge, PA: Trinity Press International, 1999).
- Kirk, J. Andrew. [*The Mission of Theology and Theology as Mission*](#). (Valley Forge, PA: Trinity Press International, 1997).
- _____. *What is Mission?* [*Theological Explorations*](#). (Minneapolis, MN: Augsburg Fortress, 2000).
- Kostenberger, Andreas J. & Peter T. O'Brien. *Salvation to the Ends of the Earth: A Biblical Theology of Mission* (Downers Grove, IL: IVP, 2001).
- Kraemer, Hendrik. *A Theology of the Laity*. (London, UK: Westminster Press, 1958)
- Kreider, Alan. *The Change of Conversion and the Origin of Christendom*. (Valley Forge, PA: Trinity Press International, 1999).
- Lipset, Seymour Martin. [*Continental Divide: The Values and Institutions of the United States and Canada*](#). (New York, NY: Routledge, 1990).
- Lohfink, Gerhard. [*Jesus and Community*](#). (Philadelphia, PA: Fortress Press, 1984).
- Lundin, Roger. [*The Culture of Interpretation: Christian Faith and the Postmodern World*](#). (Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1993).
- Lyon, David. [*Jesus in Disneyland: Religion in Postmodern Times*](#). (Cambridge, UK: Polity, 2000).
- Mallory, Sue. [*The Equipping Church*](#). (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2001).
- Mead, Loren. *The Once and Future Church: Reinventing the Congregation for a New Mission Frontier* (Herndon, VA: Alban Institute, 1991).

- Nessen, Craig L. [*Beyond Maintenance to Mission: A Theology of the Congregation*](#). (Minneapolis, MN: Augsburg Fortress, 1999).
- Newbigin, Lesslie. [*The Open Secret: An Introduction to the Theology of Mission*](#), rev. ed. (Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1995).
- * _____. [*The Gospel in a Pluralistic Society*](#). (Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1989).
- _____. *The Household of God*. (London, UK: SCM Press, 1953; Carlisle, UK: Paternoster Press, 1998)
- _____. *The Good Shepherd: Meditation on Christian Ministry in Today's World*. (Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1977).
- _____. *Proper Confidence* (Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1995).
- _____. [*Truth and Authority in Modernity*](#). (Valley Forge, PA: Trinity Press International, 1996).
- Nichols, Bruce. D., ed. *In Word and Deed: Evangelism and Social Responsibility* (Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1985).
- * Niebuhr, H. Richard. *Christ and Culture* (New York, NY: Harper & Row, 1951).
- Oden, Thomas C. [*After Modernity...What?*](#). (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1990).
- Ogden, Greg. *The New Reformation* (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1990).
- Ortiz, Manuel. [*One New People: Models for Developing a Multiethnic Church*](#). (Downers Grove, IL: IVP, 1996).
- Page, Patricia N. *All God's People Are Ministers: Equipping Church Members for Ministry* (Minneapolis, MN: Augsburg Fortress, 1993).
- Pickard, Stephen K. [*Liberating Evangelism: Gospel Theology and the Dynamics of Communication*](#). (Valley Forge: Trinity Press International, 1999).
- Posterski, Don & Gary Nelson. [*Future Faith Churches: Reconnecting with the Power of the Gospel for the 21st Century*](#). (Winfield, BC: Wood Lake Books, 1997).
- Postman, Neil. *Technopoly: The Surrender of Culture to Technology* (New York, NY: Random House, 1992).

- Rhodes, Stephen A. [*Where the Nations Meet: The Church in a Multicultural World*](#). (Downers Grove: IVP, 1998).
- Ritzer, George. *The McDonaldization of Society*. (Thousand Oaks, CA: Pine Forge Press, 2000).
- Roxburgh, Alan J. [*The Missionary Congregation, Leadership, and Liminality*](#). (Valley Forge, PA: Trinity Press International, 1997).
- Sampson, Philip, Vinay Samuel and Chris Sugden, eds. [*Faith and Modernity*](#). (Milton Keynes, UK: Regnum, 1994).
- Samuel, Vinay & Chris Sugden, eds. *Mission as Transformation: A Theology of the Whole Gospel* (Regnum, 1999).
- Sanneh, Lamin. [*Religion and the Variety of Culture*](#). (Valley Forge, PA: Trinity Press International, 1996).
- Sider, Ronald J., Philip N. Olson & Heidi Rolland Unruh. *Churches that Make a Difference: Reaching Your Community with Good News and Good Works*. (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker, 2002).
- Stassen, Glen, D.M. Yeager & John Howard Yoder. *Authentic Transformation: A New Vision of Christ and Culture* (Abingdon, 1996).
- Stevens, R. Paul, and Collins, Phil. *The Equipping Pastor: A Systems Approach to Congregational Leadership* (Herndon, VA: Alban Institute, 1993).
- Sweet, Leonard. [*SoulTsunami*](#). (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1999).
- Van Engen, Charles. *God's Missionary People: Rethinking the Purpose of the Local Church* (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker, 1991).
- _____. *Mission on the Way: Issues in Mission Theology* (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker, 1996).
- * Van Gelder, Craig, ed. [*Confident Witness—Changing World: Rediscovering the Gospel in North America*](#). (Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1999).
- Yates, Timothy. [*Christian Mission in the Twentieth Century*](#). (Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press, 1994).

*** An asterisk marks books of major importance for the topic.**