

Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary
WM 661- Missions and the Local Church
June 10-14, 2019 at 9am-12n; 1:00p-4:00p

Prof David Ro

This course will study the theme of Missions and the Church biblically, theologically, sociologically and practically to consider the relationship between the two. Special attention will be given to the missiological focus of the Church as the course deals with the nature of the Church, its missionary function, its structure of mission, its global influence and role as well as its mission spirituality and apostolic passion. Students will be encouraged to think at a higher missiological level about the Church's role in God's Mission both locally and globally and also her relationship to the global Christian movement before engaging in a local church mission praxis. The Lausanne Movement will be highlighted to connect the local church with a global mission movement.

Guest speakers invited include Doug Birdsall (former Lausanne Movement Chair), Todd Johnson (Center for Global Christianity), Julian Linnell (Park Street Church), and Jeannette Yep (Grace Chapel).

Course Objectives:

- To understand and learn the biblical-theological concepts of Mission and the Church, the body of Christ, and the relationship between them both.
- To investigate and critique the missiological perspective of *missio Dei* and the missional church with its various functions and forms.
- To assist and encourage students to think creatively and develop an appropriate ecclesiology for their part in God's Mission.
- To examine from practical experience how the Mission of God is being carried out locally and globally and what part is the Local Church everywhere playing to accomplish this.
- To understand global missions through the Lausanne Movement in joining a global movement of churches on mission to reach the world.

Required Texts:

1. *God's Missionary People* by Charles E. Van Engen (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 1991).
2. *Boundless Faith: The Global Outreach of American Churches* by Robert Wuthnow (Berkeley: University of California Press, 2009). Introduction, Chapters 1-5.
3. *What Is the Mission of the Church?: Making Sense of Social Justice, Shalom and the Great Commission* by Kevin DeYoung and Greg Gilbert (Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2011).
4. *The Lausanne Legacy: Landmarks in Global Mission* edited by Julia Cameron. (Peabody, MA: Hendrickson Publishing, 2016).
5. *The Fellowship of the Suffering* by Paul Borthwick and David Ripper (Downers Grove, IL: IVP 2018). (Optional)

Recommended Texts:

1. *Transforming Mission: Paradigm Shifts in Theology of Mission* by David J. Bosch, (Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books, 1991).
2. *Why On Earth Are There Churches?: The Biblical Mission of the Local Church* by Michael R. Privett (Bloomington, IN: WestBow Press, 2012).
3. *Western Christians in Global Mission: What's the Role of the North American Church?* by Paul Borthwick (Downers Grove, IL: IVP, 2012).
4. *Great Commission, Great Compassion.* By Paul Borthwick (Downers Grove, IL: IVP, 2015)
5. *How to be a World-Class Christian.* By Paul Borthwick (Downers Grove, IL: IVP, 2009)
6. *Encountering Theology of Mission.* Craig Ott, Stephen Strauss (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker, 2010)
7. *The Mission of God: Unlocking the Bible's Grand Narrative* by Christopher J. H. Wright (Downers Grove, IL: [VP, 2006).
8. *The New Global Mission: The Gospel from Everywhere to Everyone* by Samuel Escobar (Downers Grove, IL: IVP, 2003).

9. *The Praxis of Pentecost: Revisioning the Church's life and Mission* by Ray S. Anderson (Downers Grove, IL: IVP, 1993).
10. *Footprints of God: A Narrative Theology of Mission* by Charles Van Engen, Nancy Thomas and Robert Gallagher eds (Monrovia, CA: MARC, 1999).
11. *Missional Church: A Vision for the Sending of the Church in North America* by Darrell L. Guder (Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1998).
12. *Well Sent: Reimagining the Church's Missionary-Sending Process*: by Steve Beirn with George W. Murray (Fort Washington, PA: CLC Publications, 2015).
13. *Encountering Missionary Life and Work: Preparing for Intercultural Ministry* by Tom Steffen and Lois McKinney Douglas (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker, 2008).
14. *Loving the Church . . . Blessing the Nations: Pursuing the Role of Local Churches in Global Mission* by George Miley (Downers Grove, IL: IVP, 2012).
15. *Today's AIL-Star Missions Churches: Strategies to Help Your Church Get Into the Game* by Tom Telford with Lois Shaw (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker, 2001).
16. *The Gospel in a Pluralist Society* by Lesslie Newbigin (Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1989).

Course Requirements:

1. Regular class attendance and participation in small and large group discussions. Students will be asked to present what they have understood about the topics dealt with in the class and issues arising from them.
2. Reading Requirements: All students are required to read required texts and write up a 1page Book Review for each. You will be asked to state the percentage of reading that you have completed. Failure to complete the reading requirement may result in a grade penalty.
3. Option 1: A Church Mission Strategy Proposal
Option 2: A Theological or Missiological issue paper
4. A 10-minute power point class presentation at the last 2 days of class (June 13-14).

Option 1: Church Mission Strategy Proposal: Due: July 15th, 2019

Students should submit a completed mission strategy proposal for a local church that identifies the following core elements of the plan. The plan should provide support from the course's required and extra credit readings to justify elements of the proposal. This paper should have an introduction and plan of action at the conclusion.

1. Interview the pastor, church mission head or mission committee member and develop an analysis of the current mission program. This analysis should summarize and evaluate the vision, mission, values, strategy, budget, current missionaries supported, mission projects, short-term missions, mission agencies and ministries involvement locally and globally.
2. Formulate a vision and mission statement including core values for your church mission program. If one already exists, then provide any suggestions for improvement. Make sure to include global mission realities and needs outside your own context and envision where your church fits into an existing mission eco-system.
3. Examine current mission policy and provide any suggestions for improvement. If none exist, create a mission policy document for the church to consider.
4. Set mission goals and plan of action to achieve these goals. Goals could include funding %, missionaries sent, some measure of congregational involvement, short-term mission trips... Understand where your congregation is at and where they could be. Feel free to utilize other church models for comparison and encouragement as well as suggestions for partnerships in mission mobilization.
5. Develop a mission budget to accomplish these goals and ways to raise the funds.
6. In the conclusion, provide a summary analysis with your suggestions.
7. Prepare a Power-point presentation to share with the class as if to present to a mission committee, pastoral staff or board of elders.

Option 2: Missiological or Theological Strategic Issue paper: Due July 15th, 2019

This paper is intended to dive deeper into one of the missiological, theological, strategic issues concerning the missions and local church. A list of possible topics will be made available in the class.

Core Course ("C"-Level) Requirements:

1. Regular class attendance and participation in small and large group discussions.
2. Reading Requirements of texts 1-3 and Book Reviews as mentioned above.
3. A 7-8 page double-spaced paper, including bibliography and footnotes, option 1 or 2.
4. Class Presentation (10 minutes)

"B"-Level Requirements:

1. Regular class attendance and participation in small and large group discussions.
2. Reading Requirements of texts 1-4 and Book Reviews as mentioned above.
3. A 9-11 page double-spaced paper, including bibliography and footnotes, option 1 or 2.
4. Class Presentation (10 minutes)

"A"-Level Requirements:

1. Regular class attendance and participation in small and large group discussions.
2. Reading Requirements of texts 1-5 and Book Reviews as mentioned above.
3. A 12-15 page double-spaced paper, including bibliography and footnotes, option 1 or 2
4. Class presentation (10 minutes)

Grading:

If you contract for course requirements ("C" Grade), your course grade will be determined by: class participation (10%), three Book Reviews (30%), a written assignment (30%) and class presentation (10%). If you contract for "B" your course grade will be determined by: class participation (10%), four Book Reviews (40%), a written assignment (30%) and class presentation (10%). If you contract for "A" your course grade will be determined by: class participation (10%), five Book Reviews (50%), a written assignment (30%) and class presentation (10%). The grading scale is the common ten-point scale: 97- 100 (A+), 94- 96 (A), 90- 93 (A-); 87-89 (B+), 84-86 (B), 80-83 (B-); 77- 79 (C+), 74-76 (C), 70-73 (C-); 67- 69 (D +), 64-66 (D), 60-63 (D-); 59 or lower (F).

For extra credit (5%), you can do another Book Review.

Learning in a Christian Community:

This class will exemplify learning in a Christian community-- a group of loving believers working together, respecting and supporting one another, in pursuit of a common goal. As members of the body of Christ, we bear the greater responsibility to exercise Christian courtesy to one another as well. With this in mind we must have a few basic ground rules that will help us in our times of learning together:

Please make every effort to be on time for and to remain throughout class.

Please refrain from drinking from uncovered cups in the classrooms.

Please switch phones, pagers, smart phones and other remote devices off.

Please be encouraging toward students who work at a different pace.

We will make accommodation for students with different abilities.

Course Schedule:

Classes will meet June 10-14, 2019 at 9am-12n; 1pm-4p.

Monday (June 10)

- Syllabus and Introduction
- Biblical foundation: The Church and Mission
- Read *God's Missionary People*, by Charles Van Engen pp. 19-58; *What is the Mission of the Church?* by Kevin DeYoung & Greg Gilbert, pp. 15-63
- Read *Today's All-Star Missions Churches* "Biblical Foundation for Missions" p. 15-26
- *The Lausanne Covenant: The Purpose of God*, p.14

Tuesday (June 11)

- Read *Boundless Faith* "The Global Role of Congregations" by Robert Wuthnow, p. 140-187
- Guest Speaker: Jeannette Yep (Grace Chapel)
- Missiology: *Missio Dei* and the Missional Church; Read *Transforming Mission*, David Bosch p. 368-373; 389-393
- Is Social Justice Missions? *What is the Mission of the Church?* by Kevin DeYoung & Greg Gilbert, p. 141-193

Wednesday (June 12)

- State of Global Missions and the Lausanne Movement
- Read *The Lausanne Covenant* p. 13-53 and the *Cape Town Commitment* p. 99-162
- Guest Speaker: Doug Birdsall (Lausanne Movement)
- Global Christianity
- Read *Boundless Faith* by Robert Wuthnow, p. 12-61
- Guest Speaker: Todd Johnson (Global Christianity)

Thursday (June 13)

- Sending Structure of Missions: Historical Overview
- Julian Linnell (Parkstreet Church)
- Role of Church, Agency and Missionary
- Mobilizing the church for Missions
- Class Presentations

Friday (June 14)

- Apostolic Passion, Apostolic Suffering, Apostolic Leaders
- Read *Loving the Church, Blessing the Nations* by George Miley, "The Moravians" p. 174-182
- Read article "The Origin of the Student Volunteer Movement" by Dana Robert, p. 146-149
- Read *The Fellowship of the Suffering* by Paul Borthwick, p 173-210
- Mission China 2030
- Class Presentations