SYLLABUS – MISSIONAL STRATEGIES IN EMERGING CULTURE

GB 5643-02 Web based HST -04 Web based MACP
Earl Lavender
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Catalogue description:
A practical and theological analysis of contemporary efforts to be and become missional churches – in both domestic and international settings. The study includes biblical foundations, historical implications, and contemporary applications. Emphasis is given to the mission of the church in postmodern and cross-cultural contexts.

Special Note:
I am teaching this course in four formats simultaneously. Section 1 is a classroom-based course offered to students in the Hazelip School of Theology (HST). Section 2 (your section if HST web) is a web-based course offered to students in HST. Section 3 will meet with Section 1 in the classroom – same time and place, but offered to students pursuing the MACP degree. Section 4 (your section if MACP web) is the web-based version for the MACP. Each of the sections has its own syllabus, much of which is similar. However, there are different requirements for each section, based on the degree pursued. NOTE TO THE STUDENT: It is your responsibility to produce the work required in your section of the course. Whether a web-lecture or a class lecture, there will be information presented that may confuse you concerning required work. I have tried to keep the sections as close as possible to avoid confusion – but it is imperative that you stick to the requirements as laid out in your syllabus (this document).

NOTE: Class participation will be comprised of listening to the weekly lecture on Tegrity (through BlackBoard). You will see the PowerPoint and hear the discussion (no active video). The classes will be recorded as they are taught on Tuesday evenings. You are free to listen to the lecture anytime during the week – but the course participation parameters listed below must be followed.

Required texts:
- Bible (version of your choice, ideally a Bible in which you will be able to freely mark)
- Goheen, Michael W. A Light to the Nations. (Baker Academic, 2011)
- Gorman, Michael J. Becoming the Gospel: Paul, Participation and Mission (Eerdmans, 2015)
- Guder, Darrell L. Called to Witness: Doing Missional Theology. (Eerdmans Publishing Co. 2015)
- Roxburgh, Alan J. Structured for Mission: Renewing the Culture of the Church. (IVP, 2015)

Course Design:
1. The course will begin by studying the root of mission in the heart of God in the biblical text.
The importance of a narrative reading of the redemptive story of which we are a part will be a major point of emphasis. Goheen’s book will serve for this purpose.

2. We will then work on developing a missional theology and ecclesiology, based on the biblical story as well as Guder’s *Called to Witness*. This will include a brief historical survey on the historical development of Christian missions, leading to our current post-modern culture.

3. Gorman’s *Becoming the Gospel* will form the basis for our continuing study. We will consider the writing of Christianity’s greatest missionary – the apostle Paul for what he says specifically about evangelistic outreach. At this point in the class (half way), we will have established a biblically based missional theology (the focus of the mid-course paper – see below). This will serve as the foundation for the second half of the course.

4. The study will next focus on the heart of the leader. Using *The Missional Leader* as a guide, we will work though the characteristics and skills needed to lead a church in a missional direction.

5. How, then, should a church be structured for mission? Using Roxburgh’s *Structured for Mission* we will work toward implementing a missional plan in a specific context (chosen by the student – this is the subject of the final project).

6. The final section of the course delves into a much needed discussion – how might we involve every member of the church in a missional life? Brigg’s *Staying Is the New Going* will guide our exploration of this possibility.

Course objectives
Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to:
- Identify a biblical view of the world and understand God’s missional essence. The primary intent of the course is to aid the student in developing a genuine passion for *missio dei*.
- Understand the historical development of missions, gaining insight into why the church has to some extent misidentified God’s purposes for her.
- Identify a “theology of mission” that one will consciously and fervently pursue, which is consistent with the apostle Paul’s understanding of living out God’s mission.
- Verbalize awareness of the cultural changes that provide exciting opportunities for God’s mission.
- Identify and develop the organizational skills needed to plan kingdom expanding efforts wherever one is working.
- Recognize and pursue the role of spiritual leadership in the calling of all believers to full participation in *missio dei*.
- Have the ability to coach congregants into an active pursuit of the purposes of God unique and appropriate for that individual within the community.

COURSE ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING:
Pre-Course Essay [all students in course] (10% - due by January 11th)
All students are to write a 1,000 word (minimum, no more than 1,500 words) description of your understanding of God’s mission in the world, concluding with an explanation of what you hope to gain for this study. You are encouraged to briefly review your own spiritual journey in the context of this assignment.
Mid-Course Paper [all students] (25% - Due March 1st)
Each student is to write a carefully researched paper entitled, “A Biblical Theology of Mission.” The paper is to be a minimum of [HST 3,000 words (no more than 5,000)] [MACP – minimum 2000, maximum 3,000]. It is to take into consideration the class readings and discussions, but should be built on a strong biblical foundation. This paper will serve as the foundation for the final class research project. Note: This is to be sent as an attachment to earl.lavender@lipscomb.edu.

Threaded Discussion and Journal (20% of grade)
Each week you will have two responsibilities as a follow up of the lecture on BlackBoard:
First, you are to journal your response to the recorded lecture each week in the journal module of BlackBoard. This should be a thoughtful summary of what you think is most important in the required reading and lecture. Your journal entry is to be submitted by Saturday of each week (Lectures will be posted by Tuesday evening every week).

Secondly, I will post a threaded discussion question each week. Every student must provide a thoughtful response to the question, and then respond to at least two of your fellow student’s posts. Well-informed and thoughtful responses are expected. These will remain open only the week they are posted. All entries must be made by Monday evening following the week of that lecture. NO EXTENSIONS.

Final Exam [all students] (15% of grade, due May 1).
An open book and open note exam over the content of the course will be made available April 26th on BlackBoard. It must be submitted as an attachment by April 30th to earl.lavender@lipscomb.edu.

Final Research Project [all students] 25% of grade, due April 22nd.
Each student is to write a carefully researched project based on the missional principles studied in class. Work off of one’s “theology of mission” paper, the student is encouraged to choose a possible approach to a missional project. It is strongly suggested this project be doable by the student. It is of particular value is the project involves a current ministry in which the student is involved.

[HST -The paper should be no less than 5,000 words with a bibliography involving at least 20 sources of varied media (master’s level research, writing and sources used are expected). The required books for this course COUNT as sources for the required 20 if they are cited. NOTE: These page totals include the first paper

[MACP- The paper should be no less than 3,000 words with a bibliography involving at least 12 sources of varied media (master’s level research, writing and sources used are expected. The required books for this course COUNT as sources for the required 12 if they are cited.

Course requirements and calendar:
Remember this course is being taught simultaneously on campus and via the web. While some requirements are different, the basic calendar will be the same. Lectures will be posted on Tuesday of each week following the classroom experience. Assignments are to be done by
the date given – reading must be done before the lecture is listened to. It is imperative that
the work for this course is done in a timely manner. Please note that all writing assignments
are to be turned in as attachments through regular e-mail (send them to
earl.lavender@lipscomb.edu as an attachment that can be opened on a PC - .doc, .docx,
.pdf), not BlackBoard. BlackBoard will be used for the audio recordings of the lectures
(tegrity) and the Threaded Discussions for those taking the course via the web. The
readings posted should be read before you participate in the Tegrity recorded lecture.

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<th>Date</th>
<th>Required Reading or Assignment (before class)</th>
<th>Class content</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>1/12</td>
<td>Pre-course essay due</td>
<td>Introduction and purpose; design, assignments</td>
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<tr>
<td>1/19</td>
<td>Goheen preface-119</td>
<td>From creation to Jesus’ Resurrection: Missio Dei</td>
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<td>1/26</td>
<td>Goheen 121-199</td>
<td>The Missional Church in the New Testament</td>
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<td>2/2</td>
<td>Guder chap. 1-5</td>
<td>From Missions to Missional</td>
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<td>2/9</td>
<td>Guder chap. 6-concl.</td>
<td>Mio Dei and missional theology</td>
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<td>2/16</td>
<td>Gorman chap. 1-4</td>
<td>Becoming the Gospel, Paul as missional leader</td>
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<td>2/23</td>
<td>Gorman chap. 5-concl.</td>
<td>Embodying peace and justice.</td>
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<td>3/1</td>
<td>Rox and Rom Part 1</td>
<td>Context and challenge of missional leadership</td>
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<td>3/8</td>
<td>Rox and Rom Part 2</td>
<td>The missional leader</td>
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<td>3/15</td>
<td>Rox Structured Part 1</td>
<td>Loss of place</td>
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<td>3/22</td>
<td>SPRING BREAK – no assignments</td>
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<tr>
<td>3/29</td>
<td>Rox Structure Part 2</td>
<td>Reframing our imagination</td>
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<td>4/5</td>
<td>Special reading</td>
<td>Strategies for missional living?</td>
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<tr>
<td>4/12</td>
<td>Briggs chap. 1-5</td>
<td>The Resurrection of life</td>
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<td>4/19</td>
<td>Briggs chap. 6-9</td>
<td>Stay forth! The great commission reconsidered</td>
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<td>4/26</td>
<td>No Reading</td>
<td>Course summary and conclusion, celebration!</td>
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<td>4/30</td>
<td></td>
<td>Final Exam Due</td>
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**Bibliography** (Books only – note the required books for this course are not listed again here. There are many excellent articles on “missional church” and the influence of culture, but they are not listed here):

Claiborne, Shane 2006 *The Irresistible Revolution: Living as an Ordinary Radical.* Grand Rapids, MI:
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Cosden, Darrell  

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Duvall, J. Scott and J. Daniel Hays  
2012  *Living God’s Word: Discovering our Place in the Great Story of Scripture.* Grand Rapids, Zondervan

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2011  *The Road to Missional: Journey to the Center of the Church.* Grand Rapids, Baker.

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Putman, Jim

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