

## **REFORMED THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY**

PT5225 MISSIONS—January 2024

Professor: Mrs. Karen Ellis

Intensive: Tuesday January 9 – Friday, January 12, 9:30am – 4:30pm

### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course introduces the student to various missional motivations as they relate to the Christian ministry, including: identity and purpose, biblical/theological motivations, historical understanding, and strategic practical application. Our goal is to learn, in order to reach; to rediscover God's plan for his people until he returns. The emphasis of the course is on Spiritual formation that cultivates a burden for Kingdom advance, while stimulating a heart for God's people. The course considers the following questions: Who are the people of God and what is their purpose? How is that purpose carried out? What does the mission of God's people have to do with God's glory, the edification (building up) of the church, and the salvation and transformation of the local and global unconverted?

### **COURSE GOALS**

1. To enable the student to articulate and live out a Biblical theology of mission.
2. To enable the student to better understand the biblical/theological mandate of world evangelization, discipleship, and building missional communities/local churches.
3. To introduce the student to the history and personalities, major and minor, of Christian mission.
4. To prepare the student for cross cultural engagement, genuinely speaking truth in love.
5. To inspire a passion in the student for the transformative, life altering Biblical Gospel; to ignite a heart for local and world mission that will bear fruit both in the greater worldwide mission task and in the hearts of individual believers.
6. To equip the student with practical skills that will encourage spiritual formation that includes a heart for mission as an integral part of their own disciple-making process.
7. To acquaint the student with the various resources and agencies available for continued growth and participation in world missions.

### **FORMAT**

Interactive lectures from professor, possible guest lecturers, small group interactions, seminars, video presentations, and/or discussions.

### **TOPICS TO BE CONSIDERED**

The Mission Activity of the New Testament Church  
Discipleship through Dynamic Kingdom Prayer  
The Story and Mission of the People of God  
Intercultural Communication  
Revisiting the Honor/Shame, Guilt/Innocence, Power/Fear Paradigm  
Culture and Transmission of the Faith: Bavinck, Walls, and Bediako  
Finance and Mission  
Organic/Indigenous Mission Movements  
The “Holy Ground” of Worldviews  
Proclamation to All Nations  
Mission Trends

## REQUIRED READING AND MEDIA

**Devotional Reading:** Matthew 24, 28; Mark 16:14-20; John 17:18; 21:15-23; Acts 1:1-8  
Dates TBD.

Bavinck, J. H. 1993. *An Introduction to the Science of Missions*. Phillipsburg, N.J.: P & R Publishing, pp 57-76, 155-190. (54 pages).

Bediako, Kwame. 1995. *Christianity in Africa: The Renewal of a Non-Western Religion*. Edinburgh : Maryknoll, N.Y: Edinburgh University Press ; Orbis Books. pp 59-125 (66 pages)

Green, Gene L, Pardue, Stephen T, and Yeo, Khiok-Khng. 2015. *The Trinity Among the Nations: The Doctrine of God in the Majority World*. pp 3-13 (10 pages).

Richards, E. Randolph, and Richard James. 2020. *Misreading Scripture with Individualist Eyes: Patronage, Honor, and Shame in the Biblical World*. Downers Grove, Illinois: IVP Academic. (281 pages).

Smed, John. 2020. *Prayer Revolution: Rebuilding Church and City Through Prayer*. Chicago: Moody Publishers. (208 pages).

Walls, Andrew F. 1996. *The Missionary Movement in Christian history: Studies in the Transmission of Faith*. Maryknoll, N.Y.: Orbis. pp 43-78 (35 pages).

Total pages for required reading: 654.

## ASSIGNMENTS:

There will be three writing assignments, each due once per week in this month-long intensive course. In each assignment, the student is expected to show (1) significant Scriptural and theological reflection (2) integration of lecture and discussion material and (3) critical thinking, personal reflection, and conclusions.

**Project 1: (30% of grade).**

**Interview: Have a gracious conversation with a member of one non-Christian world religions** (Muslim, Hindu, Buddhism, Judaism, Atheist, Bahai, Sikh, etc.) and write one-page report about your experience: How they understand the nature and character of God, man, their world purpose, how devout they perceive themselves to be, have they held to a different faith in the past, etc). Write a paper on this experience. **(1000 – 1500 words double spaced or 4-5 pages)**. It is expected that this paper will be marked by a solid introduction and conclusion(s), a clear outline, solid argumentation, and a quality writing style with proper citation of multiple sources. **Due Date 1/31/22.**

**Project 2: (30% of grade).**

Students will **thoughtfully participate in ten (10) written student-to-student online discussion** questions. These discussions will occur via Canvas and will be based on course readings and lectures. **Due Date 1/31/22.**

**Project 3: Choose only one of the following (40% of grade):**

3a.

**Write a review of the essay of your choice** from *The Trinity Among the Nations: The Doctrine of God in the Majority World* **(3000 words double spaced or 10 pages)**. It is expected that this paper will be marked by a solid introduction and conclusion(s), a clear outline, solid argumentation, and a quality writing style with proper citation of any sources. **Due Date 1/31/22.**

OR

3b.

**Write an essay on a missionary from the list below.** This essay will include a brief biographical and ministry sketch, challenges faced on his/her particular mission field, and an honest assessment (including critique) of his/her contributions to world missions in light of the missionary's personality traits, strengths, weaknesses, mistakes, theological errors, methodology of their sending agency (if any), etc. **(40% of grade)**. **This essay should be approximately 10 pages (3000 words)** and should be:

- written on one of the missionaries listed below, but multiple other sources must be consulted for additional insights and evaluations.
- should integrate material discussed in class, as well as reading assignments.
- should be marked by a solid introduction and conclusion(s), a clearly articulated outline, solid argumentation, and a quality writing style with proper citation of sources.

**Missionary Selections for Essay:**

Andrew, Brother. *God's Smuggler* (Old Tappan, NJ.: Revell, 1967).

Bary, Rifqa. 2016. *Hiding in the Light: Why I Risked Everything to Leave Islam and Follow Jesus*. Reprint edition. Place of publication not identified: WaterBrook.

Blair, William, and Bruce Hunt. 2015. *The Korean Pentecost and the Sufferings Which Followed*. 1st Edition. Edinburgh ; Carlisle, Penn: Banner of Truth.

Curry, Dayna and Heather Mercer. *Prisoners of Hope: The Story of Our Captivity and Freedom in Afghanistan* (New York: Doubleday, 2002).

Deibler Rose, Darlene. *Evidence Not Seen: A Woman's Miraculous Faith in a Japanese Prison Camp During WWII* (San Francisco, CA.: Harper & Row, 1988).

Esther, Sister Gulshan, and Sangster, Thelma. 2010. *The Torn Veil*. Fort Washington, PA: CLC Publications.

Hill, Kimberly D. 2020. *A Higher Mission: The Careers of Alonzo and Althea Brown Edmiston in Central Africa*. Lexington, Kentucky: University Press of Kentucky.

Johnson, Dr Michael Dennis. 2006. *Making the Blind Man Lame: What Jesus Wouldn't Do*.

Livingstone, W. P. *Mary Slessor of Calabar: Pioneer Missionary* (London: Hodder & Stoughton, 1915).

Maharaj, Rabindranath. *Death of a Guru* (New York: A. J. Holman Company, 1977).

Phipps, William E. 2002. *William Sheppard: Congo's African American Livingstone*. Illustrated edition. Louisville, Ky: Westminster John Knox Press.

Sensbach, Jon F. 2006. *Rebecca's Revival: Creating Black Christianity in the Atlantic World*. 1st Harvard University Press paperback edition. Cambridge, Massachusetts London, England: Harvard University Press.

Shannon, David T., White, Julia Frazier, and Van Broekhoven, Deborah. 2013. *George Liele's Life and Legacy: An Unsung Hero*. 1st edition. Macon: Mercer University Press.

Appasamy, A. J. 2003. *Sundar Singh*. Cambridge: Lutterworth Press.

J. Christy Wilson. 2017. *Apostle to Islam: A Biography of Samuel M. Zwemer*. Independently published.

Qureshi, Nabeel, and Lee Strobel. 2018. *Seeking Allah, Finding Jesus: A Devout Muslim Encounters Christianity*. 3rd edition. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Zondervan.

#### **CITATION FORMAT FOR ALL PAPERS**

- References should be formatted according to Turabian/U of Chicago. For Bible references, consult 17.8.2 in Turabian for formatting.
- Papers should be double spaced, in 12 pt. Times New Roman font, with standard 1” margins all around. Do not include a cover page.

- Place your name in the saved file, as well as on the paper itself under your title.
- Send your paper to the professor via Canvas email.

## **FINAL EXAM**

Project 4 serves as the final for this course, and is worth 40% of our grade.

## **ATTENDANCE**

Classroom attendance is for the glory of God and preparation for the gospel ministry. Students therefore are expected to attend class sessions. Excessive unexcused absences will affect the final grade. Consult the RTS Catalogue for further details.

## **GRADING**

04PT5225R/1 Grading Matrix	
Project 1	30%
Project 2	30%
Project 3	40%
TOTAL	100%

### ***Recommended Reading on Mission (Not Required)***

Bantu, Vince L. 2020. *A Multitude of All Peoples: Engaging Ancient Christianity's Global Identity*. Illustrated edition. Downers Grove, Illinois: IVP Academic.

Bavinck, J. Herman. 1960. An introduction to the science of missions. Translated by David Hugh Freeman. Phillipsburg, New Jersey: Presbyterian and Reformed Publishing Company.

Bavinck, J. Herman. 1961. The church between the temple and the mosque. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Eerdmans

Bolt, Peter, and Mark Thompson, eds. 2000. The gospel to the nations: Perspectives on Paul's mission. Downers Grove: Intervarsity Press.

Escobar, Samuel. 1994. Missions: New world order. Christianity Today November 14: 48-52.

Glasser, Arthur F. and Donald A. McGavran. 1983. Contemporary theologies of mission. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House. 150-239.

Mandryk, Jason. 2010. Operation world: The definitive prayer guide to every nation. Completely revised seventh edition. WEC International; and Biblica Publishing.

Köstenberger, Andreas J., and Peter T. O'Brien. 2001. Salvation to the ends of the

earth: A biblical theology of mission. New Studies in Biblical Theology series. Leicester: Apollos; and Downers Grove: Intervarsity Press.

Moffett, Samuel Hugh. 1994. Why we go: Recapturing our motivation for missions. Christianity Today November 14: 53-55.

Murray, Andrew. Key to the missionary problem. Fort Washington: Christian Literature Crusade.

Newbigin, Lesslie. 1994. A word in season: Perspectives on Christian world missions. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans; and Edinburgh: Saint Andrew Press.

Nouwen, Henri J. M. 2011. *A Spirituality of Fundraising*. Edited by John S. Mogabgab. Nashville, Tenn: Upper Room Books.

O'Brien, Peter T. 1995. Gospel and mission in the writings of Paul: An exegetical and theological analysis. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House; and Carlisle: Paternoster Press.

Rawson, Katie J. 2015. *Crossing Cultures with Jesus: Sharing Good News with Sensitivity and Grace*. Downers Grove, Illinois: IVP Books.

Reymond, Robert L. 2000. Missionary Paul Theologian: A survey of his missionary labours and theology. Fearn, Ross-shire, Scotland: Christian Focus Publications.

Tennent, Timothy C. 2010. Invitation to world missions: A Trinitarian missiology for the twenty-first century. Grand Rapids: Kregel Publications.

Thomas, Norman E., ed. 1995. Classic texts in mission & world Christianity: A reader's companion to David Bosch's "Transforming Mission." Maryknoll: Orbis Books.

Timmer, Daniel C. 2011. A gracious and compassionate God: Mission, salvation and spirituality in the book of Jonah. New Studies in Biblical Theology. Series editor: D. A. Carson. Leicester, England: Apollos; and Downers Grove, Ill.: Inter-Varsity Press.

Verkuyl, Johannes. 1978. Contemporary missiology: An introduction. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans Publishing Co. 226-38

Thornbury, John. 1996. David Brainerd: Pioneer missionary to the American Indians. Durham: Evangelical Press.

Tucker, Ruth. *From Jerusalem to Irian Jaya*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishing House, 1983.

Winter, Ralph, and Steven C. Hawthorne, eds. 1999. *Perspectives on the World Christian Movement: A reader*. Third edition. Pasadena: William Carey Library.  
Woodberry, J. Dudley, Charles Van Engen, and Edgar J. Elliston, eds. 1996. *Missiological education for the 21st century: The book, the circle, and the sandals*. Maryknoll: Orbis Books.

### ***Recommended Reading on Islam (Not Required)***

Brown, Daniel W. 2009. *A new introduction to Islam*. 2<sup>nd</sup> edition. Wiley-Blackwell.  
Chedid, Bassam. 2004. *Islam: What every Christian should know*. Evangelical Press.

George, Timothy. 2002. *Is the Father of Jesus the God of Muhammad? Understanding the differences between Christianity and Islam*. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Zondervan.

Saleeb, Abdul, and Norman L. Geisler. 2002. *Answering Islam: The crescent in light of the cross*. 2<sup>nd</sup> edition. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Baker Books.

Sarker, Abraham. 2004. *Understand my Muslim people*. Barclay Press.  
Qureshi, Nabeel. 2014. *Seeking Allah, Finding Jesus: A Devout Muslim Encounters Christianity*. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Zondervan.

White, James R. 2013. *What every Christian needs to know about the Qur'an*. Minneapolis, Minnesota: Bethany House Publishers (Baker Publishing Group).

Yousef, Mosab Hassam. 2011 (2010 hardcover). *Son of Hamas: A gripping account of terror, betrayal, political intrigue, and unthinkable choices*. Saltriver.

### ***Websites***

<https://globalfrontiermissions.org>

<http://honorshame.com>

<http://www.joshuaproject.net/>

<http://www.lausanne.org>

<http://www.ad2000.org/>

<http://home.snu.edu/~hculbert/intro.htm>

<http://home.snu.edu/~hculbert/anthro.htm>

<http://www.theresurgence.com/>

<http://www.perspectives.org/>

<http://www.uscwm.org/>

<http://www.wholesomewords.org/missions/bioindex.html> (Mission Biographies)

<http://www.aims.org/> (Mission Strategies)

<http://www.worldchristiandatabase.org/wcd/default.asp> (Mission Statistics)

<http://www.newchurches.com/> (Church Planting)

<http://www.monergism.com/thethreshold/articles/topic/missions.html>

<http://www.missiology.org/>

<http://www.gca.cc/> (Church Planting)  
<http://www.strategicnetwork.org/>  
<http://www.strategicnetwork.org/index.php?loc=kb&view=b&fto=1347> (Biblical  
Theology of Missions)  
<http://www.imb.org> (Biblical Basis of Missions)  
<http://www.ntslibrary.com/PDF%20Books.htm> (Books online)  
<http://www.ntslibrary.com/PDF%20Books/The%20Biblical%20Basis%20of%20Missions.pdf>

***(The Biblical Basis of Missions)***

<http://www.gutenberg.org/>  
<http://www.asmweb.org> (Missiology Research Sites)  
<http://www.bible-researcher.com/links.html>  
<http://www.biblicalfoundations.org> (Köstenberger's webpage and blog)  
[http://www.everypeople.net/?whichPage=web\\_missions\\_resources\\_taylor\\_2003.php](http://www.everypeople.net/?whichPage=web_missions_resources_taylor_2003.php)  
<http://www.gmi.org/> (Global Mapping International)  
<http://www.martynmission.cam.ac.uk> (Henry Martyn CentreBUnted Kingdom)  
<http://www.missionresources.com/> (World Christian Resource Directory)  
<http://www.missionstudies.org/> (International Association for Mission Studies)  
<http://www.religion-online.org/> (Full texts online)  
<http://www.mislinks.org/topics/theology.htm>  
<http://www.christiananswers.net/evangelism/home.html>



Course Objectives Related to MDiv\* Student Learning Outcomes  
 Course: Mission 04PT5225R:1  
 Professor: K.A. Ellis  
 Campus: Atlanta

MDiv Student Learning Outcomes		Rubric	Mini-Justification
<p>In order to measure the success of the MDiv curriculum, RTS has defined the following as the intended outcomes of the student learning process. Each course contributes to these overall outcomes. This rubric shows the contribution of this course to the MDiv outcomes.            *As the MDiv is the core degree at RTS, the MDiv rubric will be used in this syllabus.</p>		<p>Ø Strong            Ø Moderate            Ø Minimal            Ø None</p>	
Articulation (oral & written)	<p>Broadly understands and articulates knowledge, both oral and written, of essential biblical, theological, historical, and cultural/global information, including details, concepts, and frameworks. Also includes ability to preach and teach the meaning of Scripture to both heart and mind with clarity and enthusiasm.</p>	<p>Ø Strong</p>	<p>Communication and Proclamation are central to God’s mission.</p>
Scripture	<p>Significant knowledge of the original meaning of Scripture. Also, the concepts for and skill to research further into the original meaning of Scripture and to apply Scripture to a variety of modern circumstances. (Includes appropriate use of original languages and hermeneutics; and integrates theological, historical, and cultural/global perspectives.)</p>	<p>Ø Moderate</p>	<p>Students are encouraged to incorporate Scripture and a biblical worldview in tall papers.</p>
Reformed Theology	<p>Significant knowledge of Reformed theology and practice, with emphasis on the Westminster Standards.</p>	<p>Ø Strong</p>	<p>The student will consider how the Story of Creation, Fall, Redemption and Glorification informs Christian mission and identity.</p>
Sanctification	<p>Demonstrates a love for the Triune God that aids the student’s sanctification.</p>	<p>Ø Moderate</p>	<p>Patience in engaging other members of the class in discussion groups; yielding, disagreeing, agreeing.</p>

Desire for Worldview	Burning desire to conform all of life to the Word of God.	Ø Moderate	Assessing strengths and deficiencies in the historical application and misapplication of the Gospel.
Winsomely Reformed	Embraces a winsomely Reformed ethos. (Includes an appropriate ecumenical spirit with other Christians, especially Evangelicals; a concern to present the Gospel in a God-honoring manner to non-Christians; and a truth-in-love attitude in disagreements.)	Ø Moderate	Patience in engaging other members of the class in discussion groups; yielding, disagreeing, agreeing.
Pastoral Ministry	Ability to minister the Word of God to hearts and lives of both church and unchurched, to include preaching, teaching, leading in worship, leading, and shepherding the local congregation, aiding in spiritual maturity, concern for non-Xns.	Ø Strong	For the nations.

*Date: 8 November 2023*

### **Zoom Policy**

Your professor may allow you to Zoom into class or watch Zoom recordings for excused absences based on the professor's discretion and subject to the availability of equipment. Students should contact their professor well in advance of the class meeting. For a third absence the Registrar should be consulted. Your professor may require additional interactive assignments to offset the absence of classroom interaction. Sync or Remote Live courses have priority for the limited Zoom equipment.

### **Extension Policy**

All assignments and exams are to be completed by the deadlines announced in this syllabus or in class.

Extensions for assignments and exams due within the normal duration of the course must be approved beforehand by the Professor. Extensions of two weeks or less beyond the date of the last deadline for the course must be approved beforehand by the Professor. A grade penalty may be assessed.

Extensions of greater than two weeks but not more than six weeks beyond the last deadline for the course may be granted in extenuating circumstances (i.e. illness, family emergency). For an extension of more than two weeks the student must request an Extension Request Form from the Registrar's Office. The request must be approved by the Professor and the Academic Dean. A grade penalty may be assessed. (RTS Catalog p. 46 and RTS Atlanta Student Handbook p. 18)

Any incompletes not cleared six weeks after the last published due date for course work will be converted to a failing grade. Professors may have the failing grade changed to a passing grade by request. (RTS Catalog p. 49)