

## **REFORMED THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY**

PT5225 MISSION—January 2025

Professor: Dr. Karen Ellis

**Intensive: January 12-15, 2026 (M – Th.)**

### **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 and 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 better understand the biblical/theological mandate of world evangelization, discipleship, and building missional communities/local churches.
2. To introduce the student to the history and personalities, major and minor, of Christian mission.
3. To prepare the student for cross cultural engagement, genuinely speaking truth in love.
4. To inspire a passion in the student for the life altering Biblical Gospel and ignite a heart for local and world mission that will bear fruit in the worldwide mission tasks of evangelization, disciple making, church planting and missionary care.

### **TOPICS COVERED**

Mission Identity – Centrality of Christ  
Proclamation to All Nations/Mandate for the Nations  
The Story and Mission of the People of God  
The Mission Activity of the New Testament Church  
Survey of Mission History  
Missional Frameworks  
Life on Mission  
Intercultural Communication/Gospel Encounters  
Learning Strategies: Orality Methodologies  
Church Planting/Gospel Implantation  
Christ-ward Movements (People, Church Planting, and Insider Movements)  
Suffering as Missional Act: Christ's Propitiation is Believer's Propagation  
Missionary Care

## FORMAT

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

## REQUIRED READING AND MEDIA

### Theology of Mission

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

WATCH: Stott, John. *Our God is a Missionary God*.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i-b6HEVyiHE>

Winter, Ralph, and Steven C. Hawthorne, eds. 2009. *Perspectives on the World Christian Movement: A reader*. Fourth edition. Pasadena: William Carey Library.

Winter, Ralph. *The Mission of the Kingdom*. pp 572-573.

Wright, Christopher. *Mission and God's Earth*. pp 27-33.

Verkuyl, J. *Biblical Foundation for the Worldwide Mission Mandate*. pp. 42-48.

Hawthorne, Steven. *The Story of His Glory*. pp. 49-63.

### Overview of Mission History

Winter, Ralph, and Steven C. Hawthorne, eds. 2009. *Perspectives on the World Christian Movement: A reader*. Fourth edition. Pasadena: William Carey Library.

*Selected articles:*

Beaver, R. Pierce. *The History of Mission Strategy*. pp 228-238.

Winter, Ralph. *Ten Epochs of Redemptive History*. pp 209-227.

Cornelius, David. *African Americans in World Missions*. pp 299-304

Kraft and Crossman. *Women in Mission*. pp. 294-298.

### Mission Life

*Have We No Rights?*

<https://www.gutenberg.org/files/24528/24528-h/24528-h.htm>

Tson, Josef. 2000. *Suffering, Martyrdom and Rewards in Heaven*. Published by The Romanian Missionary Society. pp 409-436.

Wilson, David J. *Mind the Gaps: Engaging the Church in Missionary Care* 2017.  
*Selected readings TBA.*

Winter, Ralph, and Steven C. Hawthorne, eds. 2009. *Perspectives on the World Christian Movement: A reader*. Fourth edition. Pasadena: William Carey Library.

Townsend, William Cameron. *Tribes, Tongues and Translators*. pp 327-328.

Richardson, Don. *Do Missionaries Destroy Cultures?* pp 486-492.

Parshall, Phil. *Missions and Money*. pp 482.

### Sending Trends

Winter, Ralph, and Steven C. Hawthorne, eds. 2009. *Perspectives on the World Christian Movement: A reader*. Fourth edition. Pasadena: William Carey Library.

Selected article on various countries: pp 370-375.  
Miley, George. *Mission Potential Found in Local Churches*. pp 746-749.  
Mandryk, Jason. *The State of the Gospel*, pp 361-368.

### **Missional Frameworks (From In-Class Lectures)**

Voluntary and Involuntary/Coming and Going  
The Evangelism Scale  
Sodalities/Modalities  
The C-Spectrum  
P Scale/E Scale  
Frontier Mission/‘Regular’ Mission  
Viable Organic/Indigenous Mission Movements  
The C-Spectrum

## **ASSIGNMENTS:**

**Attendance: (20% of grade).** Student receives four attendance points for each of our five days of classes. 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.

**Implementation Proposal: (30% of grade).**

**Interview: Create an implementation proposal (IP) for layperson training and missionary care for your local mission board. Incorporate readings and methodologies studied in class. Contextualize this proposal for your unique local church context. (Appx. 1500 words double spaced or 4-5 pages, 12 pt font).** It is expected that this plan will be marked by a solid rationale, clear introduction and conclusion(s), a clear outline, and a quality writing style with proper citation of multiple sources covered in class (at least three). **Due Date 1/31/26.**

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, under your title.
- Send your paper to the professor via Canvas upload.

**Final Exam:** There will be one multiple choice exam for this course, worth 50% of your grade. The exam will be based on readings, course lectures, charts, and will feature finer details from the course (be sure to take helpful notes). The exam will also ask students to articulate - in writing - their personal ‘biblical theology of mission.’ **The final exam will be available in Canvas from 2/2/26-2/5/26.**

# GRADING

04PT5225R/1 Grading Matrix	
Attendance	20%
Project 1	30%
FINAL EXAM	50%
TOTAL	100%

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

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.

### ***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 CentreBUnited 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 PT5225  
 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)	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.	Ø Strong	Communication and Proclamation are central to God's mission.
Scripture	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.)	Ø Moderate	Students are encouraged to incorporate Scripture and a biblical worldview in tall papers.
Reformed Theology	Significant knowledge of Reformed theology and practice, with emphasis on the Westminster Standards.	Ø Strong	The student will consider how the Story of Creation, Fall, Redemption and Glorification informs Christian mission and identity.
Sanctification	Demonstrates a love for the Triune God that aids the student's sanctification.	Ø Moderate	Patience in engaging other members of the class in discussion groups; yielding, disagreeing, agreeing.

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)