

Missions

PT5225-01



Reformed Theological Seminary-Orlando

Fall 2026

Professor Michael J. Glodo

A detailed schedule of readings and topics will be provided closer to the start of the course.

Missions (PT5225-01)

Course Syllabus – Fall 2026

Instructor: Professor Michael Glodo

Office hours: Tuesdays 9:00am-noon, and others time by appointment.

I am on campus much more than these hours and am glad to meet at other times by pre-arrangement or drop-in. It's always best to reach out ahead of time.

During my published office hours, I will be in or near my office or else available in one of the public campus spaces. If the latter, there will be note on my door indicating where I am.

Contact information: mglodo@rts.edu, (407)278-4476 direct

Communication: I prefer communicating in person (and so should you!), but email and Canvas are fine, too. If we are Facebook “friends,” please don’t use the messaging function in place of email. I won’t respond to email between Saturday evenings and Monday mornings.

Class meeting: Wednesdays, 2:00-4:00pm

Course Description.

This course examines issues in the world mission enterprise in light of today’s challenges, opportunities, and obligations. The call to mission service is examined, the theological mandate for missions is clarified, the historical advance of the Church through missions is reviewed, and strategies for effective contemporary missions are considered. 2 hours.

Course objectives.

Bible

- To develop a sense of God’s mission from creation to consummation as the basis of the church’s cross-cultural mission, including the history of missions, in order to inspire and illumine missions going forward.
- To comprehend the fundamental ways in which the gospel engages other religious outlooks.
- To assess contemporary strategies of missions and develop a basic sense of the task of missions strategy.
- To conceptualize the “sending system” of missions sending and support, including.
- To develop a sense of one’s own cultural situatedness and a capacity for grasping that of other cultures.
- To develop a deep conviction that cross-cultural mission is an essential task of the church requiring every Christian to consider their role in it and to seriously contemplate one’s own role in that task, including the prospect of personally going.

Course Requirements.

<u>Requirements</u>	
Biblical theology of mission project	25 %
Cross-cultural competency assessment	10
Missionary biography report	15
Cross-cultural field assessment	15
Personal reflection paper	10
Class participation & contribution	25
Total	<u>100%</u>

Assignment descriptions

Assignment rubrics and details will be covered in greater detail in class. Following is a brief description of the nature of each.

Biblical theology of mission project – Articulation of a comprehensive view of God’s mission in scripture based on lectures and readings.

Cross-cultural competency assessment – Exercise to measure one’s own cultural awareness as an aid to understand the need and process of understanding other cultures for the purpose of missions.

Missionary biography report – Brief report describing the life and significance of a particular missionary figure.

Cross-cultural field assessment – Brief report on a particular missions field describing the history of missions, the present status, and the challenges for missions.

Personal reflection paper – A description of one’s own sense of call to the missions task based on the biblical mandate, self-knowledge, and self-reflection.

Class participation & contribution – In-class demonstration of understanding of and reflection upon assigned readings; attentiveness and engagement with class discussions.

Assignment Deadlines.

All assignments are due at the start of class unless otherwise indicated in the schedule above. Late submissions of assignments will incur a grade penalty.

Required Reading.

The following works are to be read in their entirety unless otherwise indicated following the schedule provided. Students should be prepared to discuss the assigned readings by the dates due. An asterisk (*) indicates the item is available on Canvas.

Goheen, Michael W. *Introducing Christian Mission Today: Scripture, History, and Issues*. IVP Academic, 2014.

- *Barclay, John M. G. "Crucifixion as Wisdom: Exploring the Ideology of a Disreputable Social Movement." In *The Wisdom and Foolishness of God: First Corinthians 1-2 in Theological Exploration*. Fortress Press, 20015.
- *Strange, Daniel. "For Their Rock Is Not as Our Rock: The Gospel as the 'Subversive Fulfillment' of the Religious Other." *Journal of the Evangelical Theological Society* 56, no. 2 (2013): 379-95.
- Wright, Christopher J. H. *The Mission of God: Unlocking the Bible's Grand Narrative*. 2nd ed. IVP Academic, 2025.

Additional short readings as well as readings for research will be added during the semester.

Recommended resources.

- Anderson, Gerald H., ed. *Biographical Dictionary of Christian Missions*. Eerdmans Pub Co, 1999.
- Bavinck, J. H. *An Introduction to the Science of Missions*. P&R Publishing, 1993.
- Bosch, David J. *Transforming Mission: Paradigm Shifts in Theology of Mission*. Orbis Books, 2011.
- Flemming, Dean E. *Contextualization in the New Testament: Patterns for Theology and Mission*. InterVarsity Press, 2005.
- Gallagher, Robert L., John Mark Terry, and A. Moreau. *Encountering the History of Missions: From the Early Church to Today*. Baker Academic, 2017.
- Jenkins, Philip. *The New Faces of Christianity: Believing the Bible in the Global South*. Oxford University Press, 2006.
- Köstenberger, Andreas J., D. A. Carson, and T. Desmond Alexander. *Salvation to the Ends of the Earth: A Biblical Theology of Mission*. IVP Academic, 2020.
- Latourette, Kenneth Scott. *A History of the Expansion of Christianity*. Contemporary Evangelical Perspectives. Zondervan Pub. House, 1970.
- Moreau, A. Scott. *Contextualization in World Missions: Mapping and Assessing Evangelical Models*. Kregel Publications, 2012.
- . *Contextualizing the Faith: A Holistic Approach: Moreau*. Baker Academic, 2018.
- Moreau, A. Scott, Gary Corwin, and Gary B. McGee. *Introducing World Missions: A Biblical, Historical, and Practical Survey*. Second edition. Encountering Mission. Baker Academic, 2015.
- Neill, Stephen, and Owen Chadwick. *A History of Christian Missions*. Penguin Books, 1991.
- Peskett, Howard, and Vinoth Ramachandra. *The Message of Mission: The Glory of Christ in All Time and Space*. IVP Academic, 2003.
- Piper, John. *Let the Nations Be Glad!* Baker Academic, 2023.
- Pocock, Michael, Gailyn Van Rhee, Douglas McConnell, and A. Scott Moreau. *The Changing Face of World Missions: Engaging Contemporary Issues and Trends*. Baker Academic, 2005.
- Ramachandra, Vinoth. *Gods That Fail, Revised Edition: Modern Idolatry and Christian Mission*. Wipf & Stock Publishers, 2016.
- Redeemer City to City. "City to City DNA: What Is Contextualization?" September 28, 2023. <https://redeemercitytocity.com/articles-stories/city-to-city-dna-what-is-contextualization>.
- Smither, Edward L. *Christian Mission: Global History*. Lexham Press, 2019.
- Spitters, Denny, and Matthew Ellison. *When Everything Is Missions*. Bottomline Media, 2017.
- Stark, Rodney. *The Rise of Christianity: How the Obscure, Marginal Jesus Movement Became the Dominant Religious Force in the Western World in a Few Centuries*. First HarperCollins Paperback edition. HarperSanFrancisco, 1997.
- Stott, John R. W. *Christian Mission in the Modern World* | WorldCat.Org. n.d. Accessed October 24, 2025.
- Strange, Daniel. *Their Rock Is Not Like Our Rock: A Theology of Religions: Strange, Daniel: 9780310520771: Amazon.Com: Books*. Zondervan, 2014.

- Sundermeier, Theo, Steven B. Bevans, and Richard H. Bliese. *Dictionary of Mission: Theology, History, Perspectives*. Edited by Karl Müller. Wipf and Stock, 2006.
- Tennent, Dr Timothy. *Invitation to World Missions: A Trinitarian Missiology for the Twenty-First Century*. Kregel Academic, 2010.
- Tucker, Ruth A. *From Jerusalem to Irian Jaya: A Biographical History of Christian Missions*. Zondervan Academic, 2004.
- Walls, Andrew F., and Gillian Mary Bediako. *The Missionary Movement from the West: A Biography from Birth to Old Age*. Edited by Brian Stanley. Eerdmans, 2023.
- Walls, Andrew Finlay. *The Missionary Movement in Christian History Studies in the Transmission of Faith*. Orbis Books, 2009.
- Winter, Ralph D., and Steven C. Hawthorne, eds. *Perspectives on the World Christian Movement: A Reader, 5th ed.* William Carey Publishing, 2009.
- Wright, Christopher J. H. *The Mission of God's People: A Biblical Theology of the Church's Mission*. Zondervan Academic, 2010.

Assignment descriptions.

Writing.

Because communication is fundamental to learning as well as ministry, and because good writing is a reliable indicator that assignments have been completed in time to have been reviewed and improved before submission, the evaluation of all written assignments will include assessment of clarity, grammar, and spelling.

Class Participation & Contribution.

Assessment will be based on presence, attentiveness, and participation in class, including familiarity with assigned reading. Participation includes contribution to discussion on your own initiative as well your responses to questions I will ask about the assigned reading and previous lectures. Full credit will not be given by default, but must be earned through constructive participation in class. Assessment will be made at mid-semester and at semester's end.

Homework Assignments.

As announced in class and progressively posted to Canvas as the semester goes, homework assignments will a) reflect upon lectures, class discussions, and reading material or prepare for an upcoming class session. All assignments must comply with the "Use of Resources" policy below.

Computers, tablets, mobile phones, and Bibles

Smart phones should be silenced and placed out of sight during class unless you need to be available for urgent personal (e.g., you or your spouse is ≥ 8 months pregnant) or professional (e.g., you are a member of Seal Team 6) reasons. Please notify me ahead of time if this applies to you. Laptops and tablets are permitted for course use only while class is in session. By using these devices you are consenting to this policy.

Class recordings.

Students with a diagnosed learning disability or for whom English is a second language may be given access to lecture audio recordings for the entire semester. Other students who are providentially hindered from attending class may request the recordings on an as-needed basis when providing the reasons for their absence.

Class protocols.

Class will start promptly on the hour and break 5-10 minutes halfway through. Please arrive on time, return from break promptly, and stay seated throughout the class unless for urgent reasons you must leave quietly. You are free to stand in the back during class. If you neglect or forget these protocols, I will gently remind you of them.

Use of Resources

Students are expected to do their own original research and writing unless stipulated otherwise. Assignments must be the student's original composition except when attributed through citation (e.g. footnotes). Students may not use artificial intelligence bots, language generation models, or similar tools (e.g. Chat-GPT) for research, compilation of materials, or completion of assignments, including editing.

The reason for this policy is that the ministry of the Word is a calling in which the Lord's servant takes into himself the counsels of God and, through character and wisdom, speaks out of the abundance of his heart. "I have stored up your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you" (Ps. 119.11). Integrity is the integration of the whole person, including one's speech, not the projection of a public persona that is inconsistent with the person's inner life or actual abilities. Artificial intelligence is a powerful capability and very beneficial for many things, but not for the minister's study, preparation, and exposition.

If you have any questions or reservations about specific aspects of this policy, please contact me. Students will be asked at the end of the course to confirm their compliance with this policy. If you are unclear about the application of this policy, please see me.

Course Objectives Related to MDiv* Student Learning Outcomes

Course: 02PT5250
 Professor: Michael Glodo
 Campus: Orlando
 Date: Fall 2026

MDiv* Student Learning Outcomes <i>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.</i> <i>*As the MDiv is the core degree at RTS, the MDiv rubric will be used in this syllabus.</i>		Rubric ➤ Strong ➤ Moderate ➤ Minimal ➤ None	Mini-Justification
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.	Strong	Written assignments
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.)	Strong	Lectures & assigned reading
Reformed Theology	Significant knowledge of Reformed theology and practice, with emphasis on the Westminster Standards.	Strong	Distinctly Reformed approach to missions
Sanctification	Demonstrates a love for the Triune God that aids the student's sanctification.	Strong	Personally considering one's role in missions
Desire for Worldview	Burning desire to conform all of life to the Word of God.	Strong	Christianity's encounter with world religions
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.)	Strong	Contextualization protocols
Preach	Ability to preach and teach the meaning of Scripture to both heart and mind with clarity and enthusiasm.	Moderate	Written assignments
Worship	Knowledgeable of historic and modern Christian-worship forms; and ability to construct and skill to lead a worship service.	Moderate	Instill desire for God's glory through global worship.
Shepherd	Ability to shepherd the local congregation: aiding in spiritual maturity; promoting use of gifts and callings;	Moderate	Developing local church support

	and encouraging a concern for non-Christians, both in America and worldwide.		
Church/World	Ability to interact within a denominational context, within the broader worldwide church, and with significant public issues.	Strong	Christianity encounter with world religions