

The Mission of Erskine Seminary is “to educate persons for service in the Christian Church.”



Exploring the Missional Church

DC 945CO – Summer 2016

Michael A. Milton, Ph.D.

James Ragsdale Professor of Missions and Evangelism

980.229.3314 (cell)

864.379.3171 (fax)

mmilton@erskine.edu or mamilton@alumni.unc.edu (email)

Office: Room 9 Bowie Divinity Hall – Office hours as posted or by appointment
Class meets on Saturdays 9:00 AM-5:00 PM on the Columbia SC campus; June 25, July 2, July 16, July 23, and August 6.

Morning and Afternoon Schedule

The class will begin with morning prayers, with singing. Mornings are given to two major lectures and assignments. After lunch the class will be divided into groups to conduct research on the assignment of the day and, then, re-gather at 3:00 PM to begin presentations. The day will end with theological reflection, prayer, and homework assignments.

Course Description

This course analyzes the Biblical theme of mission and its significance for the development of a missional ecclesiology. Students explore missional church models of ministry and consider implications of the models for twenty-first century church ministry.

Elective. Three hours.

There will be a critical examination of the five Christian responses to culture from Helmut Richard Niebuhr's *Christ and Culture* (1951), as well as consideration of D.A. Carson's *Christ and Covenant Revisited* (2008).

Course Learning Objectives

By the end of this course, students will:

1. Define the theological and Biblical concept of mission. **(DMIN SLOs 1a, 1b, and 1c)**
2. Explain the relationship between mission and formation. **(DMIN SLOs 2c, and 3)**
3. Articulate a missional church theology. **(DMIN SLO 2a)**
4. Apply missional church concepts to an established church or a new church plant. **(DMIN SLOs 2c, 2d, and 3)**
5. Interact with one another in class and online to sharpen our mastery of course concepts. **(DMIN SLOs 2a, and 2b)**

Course Components by Module

The objectives of this course will be achieved through five learning Modules representing each of the course objectives. Since I weight each module equally, each module represents 20% of your total grade. Each of the first four modules has a particular focus, a required reading element, and an assignment that assesses your achievement of the objective for that module. Achievement of the objective for Module V will be determined by an analysis of your activity report generated by the course learning platform.

- | | |
|------------|--|
| Module I | Set out a Biblical foundation for the missional church by examining the Old and New Testaments. (CLO 1) |
| Module II | Explore the relationship between mission and spiritual formation individually and corporately using Paul's concept of the Body of Christ. (CLO 2) |
| Module III | Consider how we might articulate a theology of the church from a missional perspective. (CLO 3) |
| Module IV | Examine alternative strategies for implementing a missional conception of the church. (CLO 4) |
| Module V | Develop a Biblical-theological missional commitment of the local church in the culture. (CLOs 4 and 5) |

Course Readings by Module

(A module is a Saturday class)

Textbook for Module I

Wright, Christopher J. H. *The Mission of God: Unlocking the Bible's Grand Narrative*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP Academic, 2006. Read Part I: 29-70; Part II: 71-188; Part IV: 397-420; God and the Nations: 454-530.

Text for Module II (journal article)

Berding, Kenneth. "At the Intersection of Mission and Spiritual Formation in the Letters of Paul." *Journal of Spiritual Formation & Soul Care* 6, no. 1 (Spring 2013). <http://journals.biola.edu/sfj/volumes/6/issues/1/articles/18>.

There is a \$5.00 fee for this article.

Textbook for Module III

Newbigin, Lesslie. *The Household of God; Lectures on the Nature of the Church*. New York: Friendship Pr., 1954. Read the following chapters: Introduction; the Household of God: 11; The Congregation of the Faithful: 32; and Unto all the Nations: 135.

Textbook for Module IV

Niebuhr, H. Richard. *Christ and Culture*. New York: Harper, 1951; and Carson, D. A. *Christ and Culture Revisited*. Grand Rapids, MI: William B. Eerdmans Pub., 2008. For Christ and Culture by Niebuhr, read Chapter One on "The Problem," then each of the five approaches to addresses the culture. For Christ and Culture Revisited, read the entire book, as this is one of the the main texts for the course.

Textbook for Module V

Milton, Michael A. *Finding a Vision for Your Church: Assembly Required*.

Course Requirements by Module

Module I - Biblical and Theological Concept of Mission

We use the first module of the course to explore the biblical and theological concept of mission, as it will be used in this course. We will be guided through this section by the book *The Mission of God* and my own presentation in class. Part of our learning will take place in class and the remainder will take place via small group research, discussion, and report back. Students should begin reading *The Mission of God* before the first class. After reading the book and upon our com-

pletion of Module I, write a 3-5-page paper outlining the highlights of your own evolving biblical theology of mission. This paper will synthesize and integrate course concepts covered in Module I and your reading of the required text. Papers may be turned at any time during the course, but are all due by the conclusion of the course.

Homework: Readings for Module II.

Module II – Missional Formation for the Missional Church

In this module we explore the power of the missional community as a God-ordained and structured instrument of individual and corporate formation. In addition to class presentations, we will be guided in our deliberations about the place of spiritual formation in the missional church by the peer-reviewed journal article, Berding, Kenneth. "At the Intersection of Mission and Spiritual Formation in the Letters of Paul." As in Module I, you will compose a 3-5 page paper in which you synthesize the course concepts covered in the class presentations with the material in the selected portions of the textbook for this Module regarding the role of the church community in spiritual formation.

Homework: Readings for Module III.

Module III – Considering a Missional Ecclesiology

Having read Newbigin, *The Household of God; Lectures on the Nature of the Church* for this module in which we will explore the ecclesiology of mission as we move to the heart of the course. I want you to consider the implications of the missional perspective for the practice of church ministry and your view of the church. Write a 3-5 page first draft entitled "My Emerging Ecclesiology of Mission." As in previous Modules, I expect to find references to the required text and class presentations synthesized within your own framework. As at the conclusion of the previous Modules, we will hold a round-table discussion.

Next week: Readings from Module IV.

Module IV – Implementing a Missional Model: Incremental and Transformational

In this module we will wrestle with the practical applications and ministerial implications of the missional church model. There are two general ways to utilize the concepts set out in this course in church ministry. One is to apply them to an existing church thereby bringing about church revitalization. The other is to apply them to a new church plant. Yet, in both cases there must be a pastoral approach that includes a diagnoses and treatment approach to the congregation, the community, the culture, and yourself. We will discuss this in class. Then, after hearing the presentations of your colleagues in class you will begin to write your "Ministry Plan for Implementing a Missional Church." This final project (again, due at the completion of the course) will constitute your final exam for the course. This

means, I expect you to integrate and incorporate all previous course concepts and previous required reading into this final writing effort. The paper should be between 5-7 pages in length, according to the Turabian Erskine template for research papers (available online).

Homework: Readings for Module V.

Module V – Missional Commitment of the Local Church.

We will think through *Finding a Vision for Your Church: Assembly Required*, introduce strategies and pastoral methods for helping the local church move from a Christ-revealed burden for God's mission in the world to practical pastoral responses in leadership. We will host a roundtable to discuss strategies for your final paper.

Final Assignment for Doctor of Ministry Students

For DMin students: choose one book and scenario out of the options below and write a "white paper" on Leading a "Denominational Missions Project." Your "white paper"—a professional paper isolating a problem and offering a studied solution with scholarly citations of peer-reviewed writings, research, and subject matter expert (SME) authorities—will follow the Chicago-Turabian format normally expected. The outline of the paper, however, will include:

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

Explains the paper the reader is about to engage in a brief, succinct paragraph.

THE PROBLEM:

Identifies the problem, problem (s), and sub-set of problems that hinder a given mission. This will be partly imaginary and partly fact. E.g., you might choose to be advising the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church on entering Iraq for a new mission to reach exiles from the Islamic State takeover. That part is imaginary. Yet, the scenario in Iraq, today, will require a realistic approach to international relations, investigation into the threats to the proposed Mission's people and plans. What are those threats? Who are the actors that threaten the mission? What resources would be needed, but appear too costly? You should examine your scenario, conduct research through the Erskine Library online, using access to JSTOR.org.

An example of a brief bibliography for peer-reviewed research into the scenario I chose would include citations like this:

References

Calfano, B. R., P. A. Djupe, D. Cox, and R. Jones. 2016. Muslim mistrust: The resilience of negative public attitudes after complimentary information. *Journal of Media and Religion* 15, no. 1: 29-42, www.scopus.com.

Glazier, R. A. and W. J. Miller. 2016. For god or country? comparing the sources of anti-american and anti-muslim attitudes. *Islam and Christian-Muslim Relations* 27, no. 2: 153-174, www.scopus.com.

Hassin, A. and B. Isakhan. 2016. The failures of neo-liberal state building in Iraq: Assessing Australia's post-conflict reconstruction and development initiatives. *Australian Journal of Politics and History* 62, no. 1: 87-99, www.scopus.com.

THE SOLUTION

The solution should be the carefully stated and well-researched response to the problem. Your response will need to address the problem and subsidiary problems, and any special issues you discover.

CONCLUSION

Your conclusion will recap, summarize, and make your recommendations in numbered lists. Concluding with a strong Biblical-theological statement of the situation, informing your conclusions.

Other criteria for your White Paper:

1. You will write with the "voice" of a senior level clergy-leader of your own denomination or fellowship of churches who has researched the problem and provided a sound solution that integrates a Biblical-theological worldview with readings, peer-reviewed journal articles, and books by SME authors;
2. The paper may include graphics to illustrate the problem or your solution.
3. White papers employ numbered lists for quick, easy digesting of complex matters. Use numbering lists in your paper.
4. The paper, in Erskine Seminary Turabian format, should be no more than 8 pages.

The paper represents your final examination.

Select one of the following books and scenarios for your paper:

1. *Considering a New Mission in the Middle East*
Gorka, Sebastian. *Defeating Jihad: The Winnable War*.
Jenkins, Philip. *The Lost History of Christianity: The Thousand-Year Golden Age of the Church in the Middle East, Africa, and Asia- and How It Died*. New York: HarperOne, 2008.
2. *New Church Development in the Pacific Northwest*
Garreau, Joel. *The Nine Nations of North America*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1981.
3. *Developing Ministries to Reach New Immigrants in the Metropolitan Areas of the Southern United States*
The Next Christendom: The Coming of Global Christianity. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2002.

Grade Criteria

I will use the following criteria to assess student work for this course. In order for a student to earn an "A" for course work submitted, it must reflect exceptional skill and mastery above the minimum requirement of fulfilling the assignment as stipulated in the course syllabus.

- A Level Work* = Exemplary ability to differentiate constituent parts; assess and critique theories, thoughts, ideas, concepts, proposals, and relevant literature; and the ability to reason in a logical and compelling manner.
- B Level Work* = Reflects above average grasp of the subject matter; displays a superior ability to use new knowledge in a creative manner; and can demonstrate an above average ability to discriminate among alternative viewpoints.
- C Level Work* = Adequate but not exceptional ability to think cogently and clearly; sufficient ability to understand and comprehend subject matter; and a satisfactory ability to integrate and organize course concepts in a logical and coherent manner.
- D Level Work* = Inadequate and unexceptional ability to think cogently and clearly; insufficient ability to understand and comprehend subject matter; and an unsatisfactory ability to integrate and organize course concepts in a logical and coherent manner.

Erskine Seminary Grading Scale

A	95-100	C	80-83
A-	93-94	C-	78-79
B+	91-92	D+	76-77
B	88-90	D	72-75
B-	86-87	D-	70-71
C+	84-85	F	0-69

Recommended Literature on the Missional Church

Biblical Foundations for Mission

Berding, Kenneth. "At the Intersection of Mission and Spiritual Formation in the Letters of Paul." *Journal of Spiritual Formation & Soul Care* 6, no. 1 (Spring 2013). <http://journals.biola.edu/sfj/volumes/6/issues/1/articles/18>.

There is a \$5.00 fee for this article.

Blauw, Johannes. *The Missionary Nature of the Church; a Survey of the Biblical Theology of Mission*. New York: McGraw-Hill, 1962.

- Bolt, Peter, Mark Thompson, and Peter T. O'Brien. *The Gospel to the Nations: Perspectives on Paul's Mission*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP, 2000.
- Carson, D. A. *Christ and Culture Revisited*. Grand Rapids, MI: William B. Eerdmans Pub., 2008.
- DuBose, Francis M. *God Who Sends: A Fresh Quest for Biblical Mission*. Nashville, TN: Broadman Press, 1983.
- Dupont, Jacques, and John R. Keating. *The Salvation of the Gentiles: Essays on the Acts of the Apostles*. New York: Paulist, 1979.
- Filbeck, David. *Yes, God of the Gentiles, Too: The Missionary Message of the Old Testament*. Wheaton, IL: Billy Graham Center, Wheaton College, 1994.
- Gelder, Craig Van. *The Ministry of the Missional Church: A Community Led by the Spirit*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 2007.
- Guder, Darrell L. *Be My Witnesses: The Church's Mission, Message, and Messengers*. Grand Rapids, MI: W.B. Eerdmans Pub., 1985.
- Guder, Darrell L., and Lois Barrett. *Missional Church: A Vision for the Sending of the Church in North America*. Grand Rapids, MI: W.B. Eerdmans Pub., 1998.
- Guder, Darrell L. *The Continuing Conversion of the Church*. Grand Rapids, MI: W.B. Eerdmans Pub., 2000.
- Hahn, Ferdinand. *Mission in the New Testament*. Naperville, IL: A.R. Allenson, 1965.
- Hahn, Ferdinand. *Mission in the New Testament*. Naperville, IL: A.R. Allenson, 1965.
- Hays, J. Daniel. *From Every People and Nation: A Biblical Theology of Race*. Downers Grove, IL: Inter Varsity Press, 2003.
- Jeremias, Joachim. *Jesus' Promise to the Nations*. Naperville, IL: A.R. Allenson, 1958.
- Jonge, M. De. *Jewish Eschatology, Early Christian Christology, and the Testaments of the Twelve Patriarchs: Collected Essays of Marinus De Jonge*. Leiden: E.J. Brill, 1991.

- Jonge, M. De. *God's Final Envoy: Early Christology and Jesus' Own View of His Mission*. Grand Rapids, MI: W.B. Eerdmans Pub., 1998.
- Kaiser, Walter C. *Mission in the Old Testament: Israel as a Light to the Nations*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 2000.
- Keathley, Naymond H. *The Church's Mission to the Gentiles: Acts of the Apostles, Epistles of Paul*. Macon, GA: Smyth & Helwys Pub., 1999.
- Köstenberger, Andreas J. *The Missions of Jesus and the Disciples According to the Fourth Gospel: With Implications for the Fourth Gospel's Purpose and the Mission of the Contemporary Church*. Grand Rapids, MI: W.B. Eerdmans, 1998.
- Köstenberger, Andreas J., and Peter Thomas. O'Brien. *Salvation to the Ends of the Earth: A Biblical Theology of Mission*. Leicester, England: Apollos, 2001.
- Kraus, Hans-Joachim. *The People of God in the Old Testament*. New York: Association Press, 1958.
- LaGrand, James. *The Earliest Christian Mission to "all Nations" in the Light of Matthew's Gospel*. Grand Rapids, MI: W.B. Eerdmans Pub., 1999.
- Manson, T. W. *Only to the House of Israel? Jesus and the Non-Jews*. Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1964.
- McKnight, Scot. *A Light among the Gentiles: Jewish Missionary Activity in the Second Temple Period*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1991.
- Milton, Michael A. *Finding a Vision for Your Church: Assembly Required*. Phillipsburg, NJ: P&R Publishing, 2012.
- Newbigin, Lesslie. *The Household of God; Lectures on the Nature of the Church*. New York: Friendship Pr., 1954.
- _____. *The Gospel in a Pluralist Society*. Grand Rapids, MI: W.B. Eerdmans, 1989.
- Niebuhr, H. Richard. *Christ and Culture*. New York: Harper, 1951.
- O'Brien, Peter Thomas. *Gospel and Mission in the Writings of Paul: An Exegetical and Theological Analysis*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 1995.
- Peters, George W. *A Biblical Theology of Missions*. Chicago: Moody Press, 1972.

- Piper, John. *Let the Nations Be Glad!: The Supremacy of God in Missions*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2003.
- Ridder, Richard De. *Discipling the Nations*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Book House, 1975.
- Rowley, H. H. *Israel's Mission to the World*. London: Student Christian Movement Press, 1939.
- Schnabel, Eckhard J. *Early Christian Mission*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2004.
- Stumme, Wayne. *Bible & Mission: Biblical Foundations and Working Models for Congregational Ministry*. Minneapolis: Augsburg Pub. House, 1986.
- Trites, Allison A. *The New Testament Concept of Witness*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1977.
- Trites, Allison A. *New Testament Witness in Today's World*. Valley Forge, PA: Judson Press, 1983.
- Wright, Christopher J. H. *Knowing Jesus through the Old Testament*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1995.
- Wright, Christopher J. H. *The Mission of God: Unlocking the Bible's Grand Narrative*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP Academic, 2006.
- Wuellner, Wilhelm H. *The Meaning of "Fishers of Men"*. Philadelphia: Westminster Press, 1967.

Missional Church

- Bekele, Girma. *The In-between People: A Reading of David Bosch through the Lens of Mission History and Contemporary Challenges in Ethiopia*. Eugene, Or.: Pickwick Publications, 2011.
- Engen, Charles Edward Van. *God's Missionary People: Rethinking the Purpose of the Local Church*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Book House, 1991.

- Frost, Michael, and Alan Hirsch. *The Shaping of Things to Come: Innovation and Mission for the 21st-century Church*. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson Publishers, 2003.
- Gelder, Craig Van. *The Ministry of the Missional Church: A Community Led by the Spirit*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 2007.
- González, Justo L. *Out of Every Tribe and Nation: Christian Theology at the Ethnic Roundtable*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1992.
- Hedlund, Roger E. *The Mission of the Church in the World: A Biblical Theology*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Book House, 1991.
- Hirsch, Alan. *The Forgotten Ways: Reactivating the Missional Church*. Grand Rapids, MI: Brazos Press, 2006.
- Rhodes, Stephen A. *Where the Nations Meet: The Church in a Multicultural World*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1998.
- Skreslet, Stanley H. *Picturing Christian Witness: New Testament Images of Disciples in Mission*. Grand Rapids, MI: William B. Eerdmans Pub., 2006.
- Stetzer, Ed, and David Putman. *Breaking the Missional Code: Your Church Can Become a Missionary in Your Community*. Nashville, TN: Broadman & Holman, 2006.
- Stetzer, Ed. *Planting Missional Churches*. Nashville, TN: Broadman & Holman, 2006.
- Stott, John R. W. *Christian Mission in the Modern World*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1975.
- Thompson, George B. *Treasures in Clay Jars: New Ways to Understand Your Church*. Cleveland: Pilgrim Press, 2003.
- Winter, Ralph D., and Steven C. Hawthorne. *Perspectives on the World Christian Movement: A Reader*. Pasadena, CA: William Carey Library, 1981.
- Wright, N. T. *Surprised by Hope: Rethinking Heaven, the Resurrection, and the Mission of the Church*. New York: HarperOne, 2008.
- Yates, T. E. *Christian Mission in the Twentieth Century*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1994.

Hermeneutics

Bauckham, Richard, and Richard Bauckham. *Bible and Mission: Christian Witness in a Postmodern World*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2003.

Beeby, H. D. *Canon and Mission*. Harrisburg, PA: Trinity Press International, 1999.

Brownson, James V. *Speaking the Truth in Love: New Testament Resources for a Missional Hermeneutic*. Harrisburg, PA: Trinity Press International, 1998.

Erskine Theological Seminary Writing Standards and Guidelines

All written work must conform to the latest edition of the Turabian manual of style and typed in twelve-point type, Times New Roman (or similar), normally double-spaced, with one-inch margins. Some reflection papers (which do not use footnotes) may be single spaced. See syllabus requirements for each assignment

Turabian, Kate L., et. al. *A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*. Eighth ed. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2013.
(464 pp., ISBN 978-0226816388)

Click [here](#) for a video tutorial on formatting a document in Turabian style.

Additional writing guidelines are available in the [Sample Paper and Writing Aids](#) folder found on the Seminary's web site. Here you will find sample papers for several courses, a "Seminary Research Paper Template," a Bibliography sample, footnote samples, and more.

Students who may need more assistance are encouraged to make use of the [Write Here Center](#) (Click Here) for improved writing skills.

Students may find the [Erskine Theological Seminary Writing Rubric](#) (Click Here). Scroll down to the Writing Assessment Rubric and download.

All written work presented is expected to be the student's own unless credit for the ideas, words, etc. of others is clearly identified. Plagiarism in sermons costs pastors their jobs. Plagiarism in class will not be tolerated and penalties will be assigned in keeping with the Seminary's Catalog.

Students are strongly encouraged to review the provisions of the Seminary's Catalog, particularly those governing registration for and withdrawal from classes, class attendance, grades (including incompletes), academic conduct, and expectations for written assignments.