
REFORMED  THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
DISTANCE EDUCATION



MISSIONS
DR. CRAIG SHEPPARD



Course Overview

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Course Description:

OMS518 Missions, 2 hours
Lecturing Professor and Professor of Record:
Dr. Craig Sheppard

This course presents and examines world missions from three perspectives: the Biblical theology of missions; the history of missions; and current trends, methods, and issues facing missions.

Course Objectives:

- To enable the student to articulate a Biblical theology of missions and evaluate missiological trends and practices in light of it.
- To enable the student to better understand the biblical/theological mandate of world evangelization, discipleship and church planting.
- To enable the student to understand the role of the local pastor in leading his congregation in obedience to the Great Commission.
- To introduce the student to the history and the leading personalities of Christian missions.
- To prepare the student to interact Biblically with the various challenges, debates and opportunities facing the church today in light of globalization, economics, politics, and technology.
- To equip the student to develop and implement a church-based strategy for world missions that will bear fruit both in the greater worldwide missions task and in the hearts of individual believers, resulting in missions-minded and missions-active congregations.
- To acquaint the student with the various resources and agencies available for continued growth and participation in world missions.

Required Textbooks:

Tucker, Ruth. *From Jerusalem to Irian Jaya*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2011.

Read one missionary biography (previously unread by the student) that is legitimately book-length. The biography is to be about a cross-cultural missionary as opposed to evangelists or other outstanding leaders (i.e. not Billy Graham, George Whitefield, etc.) or a movement (such as the Welsh Revival of 1904). A starter list of missionary biographies is available for download

in Canvas. On the reading report, the student will report the missionary's name, the name of the biography with the author and publisher, and the number of pages read (by percentage). This biography will be used for the Missionary Biography Essay.

General Missions Articles:

- Hesselgrave, David. "A Missionary Hermeneutic: Understanding Scripture in Light of World Missions." *International Journal of Frontier Missions* 10:1 (January 1993): 17-20.
- Kaiser, Jr, Walter C. "The Great Commission in the Old Testament." *International Journal of Frontier Mission* 13:1 (January-March 1996): 3-7.
- Piper, John. "A Passion for the Supremacy of Christ—Where He is Not Named." *Desiring God Ministries*. This article can be found [here](#).
- Thornwell, James Henley. "The Sacrifice of Christ: The Type and Model of Missionary Effort," in *The Collected Writings of James Henley Thornwell*, Vol. 2 (Edinburgh: Banner of Truth Trust, 1986), 411-449.

Articles Pro-Insider Movement:

- Brown, Rick. "Biblical Muslims." *International Journal of Frontier Missiology* 24:2 (Summer 2007): 65-74.
- Brown, Rick. "The Kingdom of God and the Mission of God, Part 1." *International Journal of Frontier Missiology* 28:1 (Spring 2011): 5-12.
- Brown, Rick. "The Kingdom of God and the Mission of God, Part 2." *International Journal of Frontier Missiology* 28:2 (Summer 2011): 49-59.
- Lewis, Rebecca. "The Integrity of the Gospel and Insider Movements." *International Journal of Frontier Missiology* 27:1 (Spring 2010): 41-48.

Articles Con-Insider Movement:

- Garner, David B. "High Stakes: Insider Movement Hermeneutics and the Gospel." *Themelios* 37.2 (2012): 249-274.
- Schweitzer, William M. "The Insider Movement: The Answer is 'No,' In Reply to Timothy Tennant." *The Aquila Report*. This article can be found [here](#).

The PCA Study Committee Report on Insider Movements

[These articles will be made available in the Canvas classroom.]

Online Student Handbook:

The [Online Student Handbook](#) has been designed to assist you in successfully navigating the Distance Education experience, whether you are taking a single course or pursuing a certificate or degree program. In it you will find valuable information, step-by-step instructions, study helps, and essential forms to guide you through every aspect of your distance education opportunity from registration to graduation. Please use this resource as your first-stop reference manual.

Summary of Requirements:

1. Listen to all recorded [Lectures](#)
2. Complete all [Readings](#)
3. Participate in [Forum Discussions](#) (with other students and the professor)
4. Take the [Final Exam](#)
5. Submit [Missionary Biography Essay](#)
6. Submit [Missions Funding Essay](#)
7. Submit [Mentor Report or Course Application Paper](#)

Meet the Professor

Lecturing Professor and Professor of Record:



Rev. Dr. Craig Sheppard is from Wichita, Kansas and a graduate of the University of Kansas with a B.A. degree in Communication Studies. He also holds an M.Div. degree in Missions and a Th.M. degree in Theology from Reformed Theological Seminary in Jackson, MS, and a Ph.D. degree in Theology from the University of Wales. He and his wife Lisa have been blessed with five children (four sons and a daughter).

After serving eight years in campus ministry, including four years in Jackson where Craig directed the college ministry of First Presbyterian Church, the Sheppards moved to the mission field. In June of 1996 they arrived in Sofia, Bulgaria to begin a church planting ministry with Mission to the World (MTW). There they planted a church, established a translation and publishing company, and, along with missionary colleagues and friends, started a Christian school for missionary children (the Sofia Christian Academy). Craig led pastor training conferences and taught theology and Bible at the Bulgarian Evangelical Theological Institute. From 2002 to 2009 He also served as the MTW Regional Director for Eastern Europe, overseeing the ministries of 65 missionaries in seven countries. For 11 years he also served on the MTW Policy Council, helping set worldwide missions policy and practice.

In June of 2009, after 13 years in Bulgaria, the Sheppards returned to the United States where Craig accepted the call to serve as the Senior Pastor of Bethel Church PCA in Dallas. Since 2013 he has pastored Arden Presbyterian Church in Asheville, NC. He also teaches missions at RTS Charlotte, Atlanta, and Global. He regularly returns to Bulgaria to teach Bible, theology and ministry skills. He enjoys woodworking, sports, and especially Kansas basketball. You can follow him on Twitter [@craigshep7](https://twitter.com/craigshep7).

Grades

Forum Discussions (15%):

The student is required to interact in two (2) forums:

1. Student-Professor Posts (15 total posts)
 - A. Personal Introduction Forum: The student is required to post a brief personal introduction to the professor/class. Suggested details include your vocation, where you live, your church background, why you chose RTS, and what you hope to gain through the course (1 required post).
 - B. 5 Topical Discussion Q&A Forums: The student is required to answer each topical discussion question with one (1) response. The professor will acknowledge the student's answer and will follow up with a subsequent question to which the student must also answer with one (1) response. Each topical discussion question, therefore, requires two (2) total posts/responses from the student (Total of 5 forums x 2 posts = 10 total posts).
 - C. Student-Professor Forum: The student is required to post four (4) times in this forum. Posts in this forum should focus on course-related content such as research paper topics, lectures and reading assignments, or other academic issues related to the course.
2. Student-Student Forum (5 total posts)

A post may be either a new topic or a response to an already existing topic.

Examinations (Final 40%):

The final exam will be a short-answer and essay exam, covering material discussed in class and all reading assignments. Use the Lesson Questions and Topical Discussion Questions to assist you in your study.

The final exam for this course are to be taken online in the Learning Management System (LMS). Please note that you will need to have a proctor for your exams. Your proctor can be anyone except a relative or current RTS Student. After clicking on the exam link you will be given detailed instructions about the exam. Please read these instructions carefully before entering the exam.

Missionary Biography Essay (20%):

The student is required to write an essay which shall 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, sending agency, etc.

This essay should be approximately 10 pages (3000 words), and should be written on the same missionary studied in the missionary biography selected for the required reading, but other sources must be consulted for additional insights and evaluations. 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 sources.

Missions Funding Essay (10%):

The student is required to write an essay (~ 5 pages, 1500 words) outlining your Biblical philosophy of funding missions. The essay is to look at the various methods of funding missions, including individual support-raising, sending-agency general funding, bi-vocational (or tent-making) and “faith-based” funding (there may be some overlap in these options).

The essay should briefly describe and define the various options and Biblically and critically argue for one approach. 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 sources.

Reading Report (10%):

The student must complete all of the required reading. Reading assignments are broken down week by week within the LMS. The Reading Report will indicate the amount of required reading that has been completed during the semester and must be filled out and submitted at the end of the course.

Mentor Report OR Course Application Paper (5%):

If you are enrolled in an **RTS Global** degree program, you are required to submit a mentor report at the end of the course. Every portion of the form (goals, summaries, assessments, and signatures) should be filled out completely by both the student and the mentor to receive full credit. You can download the Mentor Report form in your Canvas classroom.

If you are receiving your degree through another **RTS campus** (Orlando, Jackson, Charlotte, et. al.), or are a certificate student, or special student (e.g. from another seminary), you are asked to write a 200-word summary of how you perceive what you have learned in this course will fit into the objectives you have for your ministry, your educational goals, or other objectives you wish to achieve in life. Course Application Papers (CAP) that fall well-short of 200 words will receive a grade deduction.

Assignments:

Best practice for your time management is for you to submit all assignments at the end of the week in which they fall, using the upload links provided in the LMS. All work must be submitted by midnight of the course end date, per your course start letter. You are responsible for turning in all assignments on time; no late submissions are permitted. Any student who needs an extension must get approval from the Registrar prior to that time.

Contact Information:

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Lessons

Lesson One

Missions and Missiology

Lesson Two

The Trinitarian Foundation of Missions

Lesson Three

Biblical Theology of Missions in the
Old Testament

Lesson Four

Biblical Theology of Missions in the
New Testament

Lesson Five

Evangelism and Missions Barriers

Lesson Six

The Task of Church Planting

Lesson Seven

Church Membership

Lesson Eight

Theological Education in the Field

Lesson Nine

Financial Support and the Missionary

Lesson Ten

The Excellent Sending Church

Lesson Eleven

Missions Vision and Direction for the
Local Church

Lesson Twelve

Leading a Short-Term Missions Trip

Lesson Thirteen

The Family on the Field

Lesson Fourteen

The Insider Movement

Course Objectives Related to Student Learning Outcomes

Course: MS518
 Professor: Craig A. Sheppard
 Campus: Charlotte, Atlanta, Global

Student Learning Outcomes <i>In order to measure the success of the 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 outcomes.</i> <i>*As the is the core degree at RTS, the 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	1. Essay on methods of funding missions. 2. Research/biographical essay on a missionary, including analysis 3. Final exam questions test knowledge and articulation of course topics
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	1. Explores biblical teaching on missions and traces missiological themes throughout scripture 2. Examines biblical basis and methods of missions 3. Analyzes trends in missions in light of Biblical teaching
Reformed Theology	Significant knowledge of Reformed theology and practice, with emphasis on the Westminster Standards.	Moderate	1. Emphasizes connection between reformed theology as the beginning place of Biblical missiology 2. Presents a Reformed approach to missions
Sanctification	Demonstrates a love for the Triune God that aids the student's sanctification.	Strong	1. Explores the Trinitarian foundation of missions and emphasizes our dependence on God in all facets of missions engagement. 2. Ultimate purpose of missions is the glory of God
Desire for Worldview	Burning desire to conform all of life to the Word of God.	Strong	1. Reformed methodology of missions presented 2. Presentation of the view that missions should permeate any Biblical worldview. 3. Christian worldview shown to be thoroughly missiological
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	1. Assignment of leading articles from non-Reformed missiologists and theologians presenting missions and missions theory and practice 2. Emphasis on engaging winsomely these alternate missiologies, taking into account their contributions as well as limitations.
Preach	Ability to preach and teach the meaning of Scripture to both heart and mind with clarity and enthusiasm.	Minimal	1. Inclusion of missions and the mission of God regularly in preaching and teaching
Worship	Knowledgeable of historic and modern Christian-worship forms; and ability to construct and skill to lead a worship service.	Minimal	Consideration of the ultimate goal of missions as the gathering of worshipers from all cultures for the glory of God
Shepherd	Ability to shepherd the local congregation: aiding in spiritual maturity; promoting use of gifts and callings; and encouraging a concern for non-Christians, both in America and worldwide.	Strong	1. Importance of establishing local churches throughout the world with trained, godly leadership. 2. Presentation of critical components, steps and procedures to establishing a vital sending-church missions program
Church/World	Ability to interact within a denominational context, within the broader worldwide church, and with significant public issues.	Strong	1. Strategies and importance of working with missions sending agencies. 2. Establishing field entities, foundations, NGOs, businesses, and employment for entry into mission fields