

REFORMED
THEOLOGICAL
SEMINARY



A mind for truth. A heart for God.®

01MS518 MISSIONS

by

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COURSE DESIGN

Master of Divinity
Reformed Theological Seminary

RTS Jackson, Mississippi
Fall 2018 A.D.

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PROFESSOR: Dr. Medeiros

EDUCATIONAL OBJECTIVES OF THE COURSE

This course **introduces** the student to four key “missional” motivations as they relate to the Christian ministry: pastoral, biblical/theological, historical, and practical (strategy). Our goal is to learn in order to reach. The question to keep in mind is this: What does it have to do with God’s glory, the edification (building up) of the church, and the salvation of the unconverted across the street and around the world? These “lectures” and activities have been designed to be reproduced in the context of the local churches.

FORMAT

“Lectures,” guest lecturers, small group interactions, seminars, video presentations, and discussions.

TOPICS TO BE CONSIDERED

Pastoral Motivation: Preaching

The Problem of Every Human Being (Reminder)
 The Greatest Joy of Every Human Being (Reminder)
 The Ultimate Purpose of the Christian Ministry (Reminder)
 The Preaching to All the Nations
 Matthew 24, 28;
 Mark 16:14-20;
 John 17:18; 21:15-23;

Acts 1:1-8

**(The Status of World “Evangelization” Today)
Biblical/Theological Motivation: Let the Nations Be Glad**

What is the Bible All About?

Exegeting Words in the Light of the Scriptures
Mission, Missionary, Missionary Work, Mission Field
“Missional” (the “new” kid on the block)

Historical Motivation: Biographies

From Jerusalem to Edinburgh
From Pentecost to the World Missionary Conference 1910

From Edinburgh 1910 to Cape Town 2010

From Whom to Whom? From Where to Where? What?
The Servants
The Places (Geo-graphy X Theo-graphy)
The Work

Practical Motivation: Strategy—“Just Do Something”

Critical Issue in World “Missions” Today: Diasporas

Case Study: Islam

Church Planting and Cultural “Anthropology”
Case Study: The Taliabo Story

So What?

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Attendance—“Classroom attendance is for the glory of God and preparation for the gospel ministry. Students therefore are expected to attend class sessions....” (RTS Catalogue).

SIX (6) ABSENCES:

GRADE F

FOUR (4) ABSENCES: **GRADE C+**
THREE (3) ABSENCES: **GRADE B-**

Participation in the classroom activities (“mission” reports/prayer, and presentations).

A 20 minutes “missional reports” and prayer presented by a team (group).
Read Genesis 18:16-25, 32-33; Isaiah 56:7; Mark 11:17; 1 Timothy 2:1-6.

Three reading reports—The careful reading of the assigned books and three reading reports (two pages each per book, except for the book of Acts), single space, highlighting the main propositions, statements, theses, principles, etc, gathered from the reading. **Check the due dates of the readings and of the written reading reports. IT IS THE STUDENT RESPONSIBILITY TO SUBMIT THESE INFORMATIONS VIA E-MAIL. DON'T WAIT FOR A REMINDER.**

OBS: If you submit all the required assignments according to the instruction above on due date, your final grade will be A. if you fail to submit the assignments on the due date, your assignment will be reduced 1% each delayed day respectively.

Required readings:

1. **The Book of Acts (5%)** (Church Planting emphasis). Who? Where? What? When? To Whom? Responses/Reactions? And So What?
Due on September 22.
2. **Written reading report 1: (15%)** Piper, John. 2010. *Let the nations be glad: The supremacy of God in missions.* 3rd edition. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic.
Due on October 20.
3. **Written reading report 2: (15%)** Patton, John (and James). 2009. *John G. Paton: Missionary to the New Hebrides.* Abridged edition. Christian Focus.¹
Due on November 17.

¹ Suggestions: Daniel L. Akin. 2012. Ten Who Changed the World. Foreword by David Platt. (Nashville, TN: B&H Publishing Group). Ron Davies. 2002. A heart for mission: Five pioneer thinkers. (Ross-shire, Great Britain: Christian Focus). John Thornbury. 1965. Five Pioneer Missionaries: David Brainerd, William C. Burns, John Eliot, Henry Martyn, John G. Paton (Banner of Truth).

4. **Written reading report 3: (15%)** At least 250 pages of reading on a world religion.²
Due on November 24.
5. **Interview (25%) (conversation with) a member of one non-Christian world religions (Muslim, Hindu, Buddhism, Judaism)** and write one page report about your experience.
Due on December 1.
6. **A “lecture” (25%)** presentation in a small group setting (Sunday School, for instance) about the life and ministry of a protestant evangelical “missionary,” highlighting God’s work through him and his family (wife and children), as well as his theology and strategy. Read Hebrews 11:39-12:2; 13:7.
Due on December 8.

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- Corrie, John, J. Samuel Escobar, and Wilbert R. Shenk. 2007. *Dictionary of mission theology: Evangelical foundations*. InterVarsity Press.

Reading on Islam

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

² Suggestion: Nabeel Qureshi. 2014. *Seeking Allah, Finding Jesus: A Devout Muslim Encounters Christianity*. Foreword by Lee Strobel. (Grand Rapids, Michigan: Zondervan).

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Recommended Reading

- 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
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Other Readings in Biblical Theology of Mission

For texts online see: <http://www.religion-online.org/listbycategory.asp?Cat=4>. See also the Bibliography on Mission Studies (*International Review of Mission*).

Allen, Rolland. 1991 [1962]. *Missionary methods: St. Paul's or ours?* Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans.

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<http://www.asmweb.org> (Missiology Research Sites)
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