

I. Course Description

This course will explore the mission of the church in global context with an eye for its paradigm shifts. It will carefully examine the historical development of the missionary movement as well as the current issues and challenges facing mission today. Special attention will be given to the future of the missionary movement in light of the fundamental shift of the center of gravity of Christianity toward the global South. Mission theories of some major thinkers in missiology (e.g., David Bosch, Lesslie Newbigin, and Andrew F. Walls) will also be studied.

This course will be taught in a hyflex format. Online learning will take place through interacting with a variety of online sources and participation in focused conversations.

Shannon Sampson will serve as a classroom technician.

II. Course Objectives

1. To reflect upon the future of Christian mission in light of the massive demographic shift in the composition of Christianity.
2. To be able to articulate a Wesleyan understanding of mission.
3. To comprehend the current issues and challenges facing mission in Africa, Asia, and Latin America.
4. To construct an integral view of mission that could shape and affect current and future missional practices of the church.

III. Contribution to MTSO's Educational Mission and Degree Outcomes

By helping students construct an integral view of the nature and purpose of the church and explore the mission of the church in global context, this course contributes to MTSO's commitment to creating a new imagination for the church and preparing leaders for ministry and service in pursuit of a transformed world consistent with the creative, renewing, resurrecting activity of God in the world.

Specific Degree Outcomes

- Students will grow in God's grace personally and spiritually so as to be of prophetic service to church, faith-based organizations and world (M.Div.).
- Students will be prepared for leading communities of faithful change (MAPT).

IV. Textbooks

Required Texts:

Borthwick, Paul. *Western Christians in Global Mission: What's the Role of the North American Church?*

Downers Grove, IL.: InterVarsity, 2012.

Bosch, David. *Transforming Mission: Paradigm Shifts in Theology of Mission*. 20th anniversary ed. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis, 2011.

George, Sherron K. *Called as Partners in Christ's Service: The Practice of God's Mission*. Louisville: Geneva Press, 2004.

Parratt, John, ed. *An Introduction to Third World Theologies*. Cambridge, U.K.: Cambridge University, 2004.

The United Methodist Church. *Grace upon Grace: Mission Statement of The United Methodist Church*.

Nashville: Graded Press, 1990. (PDF copy to be available on Populi)

Supplemental Readings:

Dale, Kenneth J. "Why the Slow Growth of the Japanese Church?" *Missiology* 26/3 (1998): 275–88.

Escobar, J Samuel. "A Missiological Approach to Latin American Protestantism." *International Review of Mission* 87 (April 1998): 161–73.

Gittins, Anthony J. "Passing Over . . ." In *Ministry at the Margins*. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis, 2002.

Kim, Kirsteen. "Mission Theology of the Church." *International Review of Mission* 99/1 (2010): 39–55.

Langerak, Ana. "The Witness and Influence of Pentecostal Christians in Latin America." *International Review of Mission* 87 (April 1998): 175–87.

- Mombo, Esther. "Missiological Challenges in the HIV/ Aids Era." *Theology Today* 62/1 (2005): 58–66.
- Muyombo, Mande. "A Mission of Hope and Peace Amid Suffering." In *The Practice of Mission in Global Methodism: Emerging Trends from Everywhere to Everywhere*, ed. David W. Scott and Darryl W. Stephens. New York: Routledge, 2021.
- Padilla, C. René. "What Is Integral Mission?" Del Camino Network. (n.d.) Available at <http://lareddelcamino.net/en/images/Articles/what%20is%20integral%20mission%20cr%20padilla.pdf>.
- Park, Joon-Sik. "Korean Protestant Christianity: A Missiological Reflection." *International Bulletin of Missionary Research* 36/2 (2012): 59–64.
- Park, Joon-Sik. "The Worldwide Nature of The United Methodist Church: A Historical and Missiological Reflection." In *Methodism and American Empire: Reflections on Decolonizing the Church*, ed. Filipe Maia and David W. Scott. Nashville: Abingdon, 2024 (forthcoming).
- Priest, Robert. "Short-Term Missions as a New Paradigm." In *Mission after Christendom: Emergent Themes in Christian Mission*, ed. Ogbu Kalu, Peter Vethanayagamony, and Edmund Kee-Fook Chia. Louisville: Westminster John Knox, 2010.
- Rieger, Joerg. "Theology and Mission Between Neocolonialism and Postcolonialism." *Mission Studies* 21/2 (2004): 201–27.
- Robert, Dana. "World Christianity as a Women's Movement." *International Bulletin of Missionary Research* 30/4 (2006): 180–188.
- Shenk, Wilbert R. "Recasting Theology of Mission: Impulses from the Non-Western World." *International Bulletin of Missionary Research* 25/3 (2001): 98–107.
- Walls, Andrew F. "The Expansion of Christianity." *Christian Century* 117/22 (2000): 792–95.
- Walls, Andrew F. "The Gospel as Prisoner and Liberator of Culture." In *The Missionary Movement in Christian History*. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis, 1996.
- Whiteman, Darrell L. "Contextualization: The Theory, the Gap, the Challenge." *International Bulletin of Missionary Research* 21/1 (1997): 2–7.
- World Council of Churches. "Together Towards Life: Mission and Evangelism in Changing Landscapes" (2013).
- Wright, Christopher J. H. "The Care of Creation, the Gospel and Our Mission." In *Creation Care in Christian Mission*, ed. Kopya J. Kaoma. Oxford: Regnum, 2015.
- (Some of the readings did not use gender-inclusive language as theirs was an age not yet sensitive to the issue.)

V. Course Requirements and Assessment of Student Learning

- (1) Class Attendance and Participation (15%):
Attendance at all sessions is expected. Unexcused absences will adversely affect the grade.
 Much of the value of this course will come from interaction among the participants. Students are thus to prepare for each class session by carefully reading the assigned texts and to take an active part in the discussions.
- (2) Weekly Online Participation (25%):
 - Students are expected to be fully engaged online.
 Weekly online participation is an essential and vital aspect of learning. In this hyflex format, the student's role requires more active and self-disciplined participation. Online participation may include: turning in assignments, posting an initial response and subsequent postings to the discussion board from midweek through Saturday, and other communication reflecting ongoing learning in the course. (See "Populi" each week for the assignment and online activity.) If no student response occurs during a week of the term, the student is considered absent. Lurking (reading only) does not earn credit, nor does it contribute to the class learning and community.

- It is important to manage your time.

Because hyflex courses move quickly and require self-discipline, it is important to efficiently manage time. It would include not waiting until the last minute to turn in assignments or responses. Technology is not fail-proof; you would need to allow time for unforeseen problems.

- Each student will belong to a **Missional Formation Group**.

Most focused discussions will take place within one or two groups. Groups are also designed to serve as a community that provides mutual support in a journey toward missional formation.

- Up to 3 weekly online discussions could be completed via Zoom video conferencing with a brief summary (1-page, 1.5-spaced), if group members agree.

(3) Two Critical Reading Reflections (20%):

- A reading reflection on *Transforming Mission*:

Students will complete the assigned readings from *Transforming Mission* by Bosch (for Weeks 4, 5, & 7) and write a 2-page (1.5-spaced) reflection. **Due on Oct. 10.**

- A reading reflection on “Grace Upon Grace”:

Students will carefully read “Grace Upon Grace,” a significant United Methodist mission statement, and write a 2-page (1.5-spaced) reflection. **Due on Oct. 31.**

Given the limited length of each reflection, it is to be *succinct* and *to the point*. You would thus need to be very *selective* of the themes to critically reflect on. **The reflections should note the key points or arguments of the readings that most challenged or resonated with you and discuss how they will shape and impact your views and practices of mission going forward.** What I would look for is not a summary but evidence that the readings have helped you grapple with integral mission deeply.

If necessary, use parenthetical citations – e.g., (377 [for Bosch]) and (par 3 [for Grace Upon Grace]). Name and save the reflection and review as “Bosch (Last Name)” and “Grace Upon Grace (Last Name)” respectively.

(4) Presentation on *Transforming Mission* or a Particular Missional Context (10%):

Each student will present either on the book *Transforming Mission* or on a particular missional context (Africa, Asia, or Latin America). **A 12- to 15-minute PPT presentation** (based on the assigned reading) will be made in class on one of the following dates:

- Transforming Mission (1): Sept. 19
- Transforming Mission (2): Sept. 26
- Transforming Mission (3): Oct. 10
- Africa: Nov. 7
- Asia: Nov. 14
- Latin America: Nov. 28

Presentations are to facilitate the class discussion on given topics. The more *inventive and insightful* your presentation, the more likely the class will be interested and responsive.

(5) Integrative Research Paper (30%):

A carefully researched paper of **2,500 words (1.5-spaced), not counting notes and bibliography**, on one of the following:

- a. Christianity and its mission in a particular country, region, or among a particular ethnic group.
- b. a particular missional issue (colonialism, contextualization, indigenous religions, martyrdom and mission, missional ecclesiology, oral culture, Bible translation and mission, Western wealth, etc.)
- c. a missionary or a missionary thinker
- d. a particular missionary movement or a milestone event in Christian mission.

The paper should reflect *a working knowledge of resources* currently available. **In addition to careful research (minimum of 3 books and 5 articles beyond the class readings), students are to engage various aspects of the course learning, including the readings, in an integrative way.** Due on Tuesday, December 12.

Regardless of the chosen topic, students are to briefly

- reflect on their own understanding of mission.
- share how the research would impact their views and practices of mission going forward.

Assessment:

- 15% Class Attendance and Contribution
- 25% Online Assignments
- 20% Reading Reflections (10% x 2)
- 10% Presentation
- 30% Research Paper

Written Work:

All written work must be typed with 12-point font. It will be evaluated on the basis of (1) clarity of the writing, (2) critical interaction with the text, and (3) the student's own integrative reflection. There will be a penalty for late papers commensurate with the degree of lateness and the adequacy of the excuse.

Inclusive Language:

In accordance with MTSO's inclusive language policy, all students are expected to use gender inclusive or gender neutral language in their writing and in classroom discussions when referring to human beings. Inclusive language is carefully and deliberately chosen to break barriers of exclusivity.

VI. Course Schedule

August 29 (Week 1)			
Classroom	Reading Assignment	Written Assignment	Online (8/30–9/2)
- Overview of the Course - What Is the Church Doing in the World? (Mission Statements of GBGM and Our Communities of Faith) - Four Images of the Church			Discussion on the Anglican "5 Marks of Mission" (videos)
September 5 (Week 2)			
Classroom	Reading Assignment	Written Assignment	Online (9/6–9)
Theology of Mission	- Kim, "Mission Theology of the Church" - Shenk, "Recasting Theology of Mission" - Padilla, "What Is Integral Mission?"		Discussion on Walls, "The Expansion of Christianity"

ME590 Mission of the Church in Global Context

Fall 2023, Tuesdays 4:00–5:30 pm, G145

Dr. Joon-Sik Park, jpark@mtso.edu, 740-362-3367, Werner 17

September 12 (Week 3)			
Classroom	Reading Assignment	Written Assignment	Online (9/13–16)
- Coming of Global Christianity - Discussion on Borthwick - Missiological Insights of Andrew F. Walls	- Borthwick, <i>Western Christians in Global Mission</i> - Andrew F. Walls, "The Gospel as Prisoner and Liberator of Culture"		Discussion on Bosch, <i>Transforming Mission</i>, pp. 1-11 & 372-376 (1-11 & 363-367 in 1st ed.)
September 19 (Week 4)			
Classroom	Reading Assignment	Written Assignment	Online (9/20–23)
- Transforming Mission (1) - Student presentations	Bosch, <i>Transforming Mission</i>, pp. 377-418 (368-408 in 1st ed.)		Discussion on Robert, "World Christianity as a Women's Movement"; and "Women and Mission" (video)
September 26 (Week 5)			
Classroom	Reading Assignment	Written Assignment	Online (9/27–30)
- Transforming Mission (2) - Student presentations	Bosch, <i>Transforming Mission</i>, pp. 430-478 (420-467 in 1st ed.)		Discussion on "Restore" 1 & 2 (videos)
October 3 (Week 6)			
Classroom	Reading Assignment	Written Assignment	Online (10/4–7)
Guest Lecturer: Dr. Darrell Whiteman	Whiteman, "Contextualization: The Theory, the Gap, the Challenge."		Discussion on Wright, "The Care of Creation, the Gospel and Our Mission"; and Robert, "Interview on Mission and Creation Care" (video)
October 10 (Week 7)			
Classroom	Reading Assignment	Written Assignment	Online (10/11–14)
- Transforming Mission (3) - Student presentations	Bosch, <i>Transforming Mission</i>, pp. 478-522 (467-510 in 1st ed.)	Reading Reflection on Bosch (2 pages, 1.5-spaced)	

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October 17 (Mid-Term Recess)

October 24 (Week 8)

Classroom	Reading Assignment	Written Assignment	Online (10/25–28)
- Edinburgh 1910 and 2010 “Together Towards Life”	“Together Towards Life” (WCC)		Discussion on Rieger, “Theology and Mission Between Neocolonialism and Postcolonialism”

October 31 (Week 9)

Classroom	Reading Assignment	Written Assignment	Online (11/1–4)
- United Methodist Understanding of Mission - Worldwide Nature of The UMC	“Grace upon Grace: Mission Statement of The UMC” - Park, “The Worldwide Nature of The UMC”	Reading Reflection on “Grace Upon Grace” (2 pages, 1.5-spaced)	Discussion on Muyombo, “A Mission of Hope and Peace Amid Suffering”; and “Forced to Carry the Cross” (video)

November 7 (Week 10)

Classroom	Reading Assignment	Written Assignment	Online (11/8–11)
- Christianity in Africa - Student presentations	- Stinton, “Africa, East and West” in Parratt - Phiri, “Southern Africa” in Parratt - Mombo, “Missiologial Challenges in the HIV/Aids Era”		Discussion on Africa as a Missional Context

November 14 (Week 11)

Classroom	Reading Assignment	Written Assignment	Online (11/15–18)
- Christianity in Asia - Student presentations	- Tang, “East Asia” in Parratt - Dale, “Why the Slow Growth of the Japanese Church?” - Park, “Korean Christianity: A Missiologial Reflection”		Discussion on Asia as a Missional Context

November 21 (Thanksgiving Break)

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November 28 (Week 12)			
Classroom	Reading Assignment	Written Assignment	Online (11/29–12/2)
- Christianity in Latin America - Student presentations	- Míguez Bonino, “Latin America” in Parratt - Escobar, “A Missiological Approach to Latin American Protestantism” - Langerak, “The Witness and Influence of Pentecostal Christians in Latin America”		Discussion on Latin America as a Missional Context

December 5 (Week 13)			
Classroom	Reading Assignment	Written Assignment	Online (12/6–9)
- Mission in Partnership - Short-Term Mission	- George, <i>Called as Partners in Christ's Service</i> - Priest, “Short-Term Missions as a New Paradigm”		

December 12 (Week 14)			
Classroom	Reading Assignment	Written Assignment	Online (12/13–16)
Conclusion	Gittins, “Passing Over . . .”	Final Research Paper due on Dec. 12	

VII. MTSO Standard Syllabus Statements

Carefully review these policies and refer to the MTSO Academic Catalog/Student Handbook for additional details.

All students in every degree program are expected to become familiar with MTSO policies as listed in the most current MTSO Academic Catalog and Student Handbook, connected here. The policies listed below are in the handbook and are highlighted here because of their importance to our academic lives together. https://www.mtso.edu/site/assets/files/2103/academic_catalog_-_student_handbook_20-21.pdf.

Class Attendance

Regular attendance is expected in all classes. In campus extend (online and hyflex), you are REQUIRED to show your face the entire class time, otherwise you will be considered “absent”. You are expected to attend class as you would in a face-to-face classroom (not driving, cooking, folding clothes etc.). During asynchronous class time, faculty will monitor time used in the posting and responding to colleagues to track your participation. During unavoidable absences, students are responsible for missed work. An excessive number of absences may result in grade reduction or course failure, despite successful completion of all assigned work. In most cases, a student will fail a course if they are absent for 25% of the class sessions (including online meetings).

Electronic Devices

As an institution dedicated to the advancement of learning, MTSO is firmly committed to a philosophy of mutual respect. When your use of electronic devices violates that respect instructors have the right to impose appropriate grading penalties. **Because of MTSO Campus Extend, a hyflex model, electronic devices are integral to learning.** However, the use of such devices should be restricted to course-related purposes. General browsing of the Internet or engaging in email or social networks during class time is inappropriate. Unless there is an emergency requiring immediate attention, phone calls should be returned during classroom breaks (even if you're at your home) in an area that is not disruptive to others.

Title IX/504 ADA Statement

MTSO is committed to providing a workplace and educational environment that are free from discrimination, harassment, and retaliation. To ensure compliance with federal and state civil rights laws and regulations, and to affirm its commitment to promoting the goals of fairness and equity, MTSO has developed internal policies and procedures that provide a prompt, fair, and impartial process for those involved in an allegation of discrimination or harassment on the basis of protected class status, and for allegations of retaliation. More information about the University's policy and grievance processes can be found at <https://www.mtso.edu/about-mtso/notice-nondiscrimination/>. Reports of misconduct can be made to the Title IX/504/ADA Coordinator, Kathy Dickson, kdickson@mtso.edu.

ADA / Disability Services

MTSO supports all students by encouraging self-advocacy and empowering students to help themselves, while providing a safe environment in which to do so. We commit to an inclusive learning environment and will support reasonable, documented requests for accommodations and learning adaptations. To request a reasonable accommodation, contact the director of student services, Dr. Jeremy Garber at jgarber@mtso.edu.

Documenting written work at MTSO

All written work submitted for courses at MTSO must conform to the Note-Bibliography style in the Chicago Manual of Style (17th edition). For a helpful discussion of how to avoid academic misconduct, see the Purdue University Online Writing Lab (OWL) website at <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/589/02>. Students who commit academic misconduct will be subject to penalties up to and including expulsion from the Institution.

VIII. SELECT BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Bediako, Kwame. *Christianity in Africa: The Renewal of a Non-Western Religion*. Mary Knoll, NY: Orbis, 1996.
- Bevans, Stephen B. and Roger P. Schroeder. *Constants in Context: A Theology of Mission for Today*. Mary Knoll, NY: Orbis, 2004.
- Bonk, Jonathan J. *Missions and Money: Affluence as a Western Missionary Problem*. Rev. ed. Mary Knoll, NY: Orbis, 2007.
- Denyer, Taylor. *Decolonizing Mission Partnerships: Evolving Collaboration Between United Methodists in North Katanga and the United State of America*. Eugene, OR: Pickwick, 2020.
- Farrell, B. Hunter and S. Balajiedlang Khylllep. *Freeing Congregational Mission: A Practical Vision for Companionship, Cultural Humility, and Co-Development*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity, 2022.
- George, Sherron. "Constructing Latin American Missiology: How the Holistic Perspective Overcame Traditional Stereotypes." In *The Reshaping of Mission in Latin America*, ed. Miguel Alvarez. Oxford: Regnum, 2015.
- Escobar, Samuel. *Changing Tides: Latin America and World Mission Today*. Mary Knoll, NY: Orbis, 2002.
- Hanciles, Jehu J. *Beyond Christendom: Globalization, African Migration and the Transformation of the West*. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis, 2008.
- Hiebert, Paul G. *Anthropological Reflections on Missiological Issues*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker, 1994.

- Jenkins, Philip. *The Next Christendom: The Coming of Global Christianity*. Rev. ed. New York: Oxford Univ. Press, 2007.
- Kaoma, Kapya J. *Creation Care in Christian Mission*. Oxford: Regnum, 2015.
- Kirk, J. Andrew. *What Is Mission? Theological Explorations*. Minneapolis: Fortress, 2000.
- Kritzinger, J. N. J. and Willem Saayman, eds. *Mission in Creative Tension: A Dialogue with David Bosch*. Pretoria: Southern African Missiological Society, 1990.
- Müller, Karl, et al, eds. *Dictionary of Mission: Theology, History, Perspectives*. Mary Knoll, NY: Orbis, 1997.
- Robert, Dana L. *Christian Mission: How Christianity Became a World Religion*. Chichester, UK: Wiley-Blackwell, 2009.
- . "Shifting Southward: Global Christianity Since 1945." *International Bulletin of Missionary Research* 24/2 (April 2000): 50–58.
- Saayman, Willem and Klippies Kritzinger. *Mission in Bold Humility: David Bosch's Work Considered*. Mary Knoll, NY: Orbis, 1996.
- Sanneh, Lamin and Joel A. Carpenter, eds. *The Changing Face of Christianity: Africa, the West, and the World*. Oxford, UK: Oxford Univ. Press, 2005.
- Sanneh, Lamin. *Translating the Message: The Missionary Impact on Culture*. Mary Knoll, NY: Orbis, 1989.
- Schreiter, Robert. *The New Catholicity: Theology between the Global and the Local*. Mary Knoll, NY: Orbis, 1997.
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- Walls, Andrew F. *The Cross-Cultural Process in Christian History*. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis, 2002.
- Walters, Bob. *The Last Missionary*. Eugene, OR: Wipf and Stock, 2021.
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- Yates, Timothy. *Christian Mission in the Twentieth Century*. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge Univ. Press, 1994.
- Yung, Hwa. *Mangoes or Bananas*. Carlisle, UK: Paternoster, 2002.
- Zurlo, Gina A. *Global Christianity: A Guide to the World's Largest Religion from Afghanistan to Zimbabwe*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2022.

Journals:

International Bulletin of Mission (Missionary) Research
International Review of Mission
Missiology
Mission Studies