

Houston Graduate School of Theology

PL 510 The Missional Church Movement

Spring 2019, Tuesdays, 6:00 P.M. to 8:30 P.M.

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Houston Graduate School of Theology equips women and men to be ministers and messengers of God's mission of reconciliation through academic excellence, personal transformation, and leadership development

I. Course Description

An introduction to the missional church movement as it has emerged in recent decades with special attention to its expressions in the United States. Study will focus on the nature, history, and significance of the movement, as well as distinctive concepts, practices, leaders, and literature.

II. Goals and Objectives

Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to:

1. Explain the concept of missional. This learning outcome will be reflected in a final comprehensive paper. (MDiv.-3)
2. Describe the history of the missional church movement. This learning outcome will be reflected in a final comprehensive paper. (MDiv -3 and MACM-1)
3. Discuss the concepts of Shalom and the Kingdom of God. This learning outcome will be reflected in a final comprehensive paper. (MDiv -3 and MACM-3)
4. Explain what is meant by the terms incarnational and contextual. This learning outcome will be reflected in a final comprehensive paper. (MDiv-3 and MACM-1)
5. Describe practical implications of a missional theology for his or her life. This learning outcome will be reflected in a final comprehensive paper. (MDiv-3 and MACM-4)
6. Describe a strategy for leading his/her congregation to become more missional in its focus. This learning outcome will be reflected in a final comprehensive paper. (MDiv-8, MDiv-3 and MACM-1)
7. Describe the four branches of the missional conversation. This learning outcome will be achieved in assignment number six in the syllabus. (MDiv-3 and MACM-2)
8. Build relationships with people who are very different than they are. This outcome will be accomplished through assignment number two in the syllabus. (MDiv-3 and MACM-4)
9. Discuss the implications of Luke 10: 1-11 for missional living. This outcome will be accomplished in assignment number five in the syllabus. (MDiv-3 and MACM-4)

III. Texts

Required Textbooks:

Frost, Michael. *The Road to Missional: Journey to the Center of the Church*. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 2011. ISBN: 978-0-8010-1407-9

Roxburgh, Alan J., and M. Scott Boren. *Introducing the Missional Church: What it is, Why it Matters, How to Become One*. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 2009. ISBN978-0-8010-7212-3

Roxburgh, Alan J. *Missional: Joining God in the Neighborhood*. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 2011. ISBN: 978-0-8010-7231-4

Van Gelder, Craig, and Dwight J. Zscheile. *The Missional Church in Perspective: Mapping Trends and Shaping the Conversation*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2011. ISBN: 978-0-8010-3913-3

Recommended Textbook:

Guder, Darrell L., ed. *Missional Church – A Vision for the Sending of the Church in North America*. Grand Rapids, William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1998. ISBN: 0-8028-4350-6

IV. Course Requirements

1. **Participation:** In order to receive full participation points, which will comprise **5% of the final grade**, students will arrive on time, participate in class discussion; be absent no more than one time during the semester, and exhibit excellence in effort, adherence to deadlines, and reliability.
2. Each student will befriend a person who is culturally or religiously different. The student will engage in a minimum of six conversations with this person over the course of the semester. The student will **write a three-page report of these conversations. Include what was learned about the other person's culture, what was learned about self, and what was learned about being missional.** This paper is **due April 23 and will comprise 10% of the final grade.**
3. Write a **four- to six-page expanded outline** of the book *Introducing The Missional Church*. The expanded outline should include key headings, key ideas/concepts, key individuals discussed, and significant pieces of learning for you. Students should format the paper so that each of these four components is easily identifiable. This paper is due **February 5 and will comprise 15% of the final grade.**
4. Write a **four- to six-page expanded outline** of the book *The Road to Missional*. The expanded outline should include key headings, key ideas/concepts, key individuals discussed, and significant pieces of learning. Students should format the paper so that each of these four components is easily identifiable. This paper is due **February 19 and will comprise 15% of the final grade.**
5. Read the book *Missional: Joining God in the Neighborhood*. Based on the reading, write a **four-page paper discussing implications of Luke 10: 1-11 for missional living.** This paper is due **March 19 and will comprise 15% of the final grade.**

6. Read the book *The Missional Church in Perspective*. Write a **four- to six-page paper discussing the four branches of the missional conversation and their sub-branches**. This paper is **due on April 9 and will comprise 15% of the final grade**.
7. A **final paper** will describe and apply learning from the course, as indicated in the outline below. The wise student will begin writing this **15-page paper** near the beginning of the semester, as soon as the initial section of class is complete, and will continue adding integrative learning as the semester proceeds. Prior to turning in the project, the wise student will spend a substantial amount of time editing the project in its entirety, adding general conclusions and overall learning as the paper draws to a close. Papers written in anything but Times New Roman, 12 point type, will not be graded. Please do not double-double space. Use citations as needed and third person writing throughout.
- Title – begin two inches from the top of the page
 - Introduction – a good introduction will begin without a “label” or subhead. The 1- 2 paragraphs will delineate the direction the writer will take in the paper and will provide a synopsis of the paper’s parts.
 - Part 1 – Write a comprehensive overview of your learning over the course of the semester. Make certain to include every key component covered in class and in the reading. Specifically discuss the history of the missional church movement, the concepts of Shalom and the Kingdom of God, and the meaning of the terms incarnational and contextualization.
 - Part 2 – Describe a strategy for leading your congregation/ministry into more of a missional understanding and practice.
 - Part 3 – Discuss how you will personally apply learning from the class. How will you become more missional in your own life?
 - Conclusion – A good conclusion will begin with a subhead and will recap in summary fashion the contents of the paper in order to draw a substantive conclusion. The paper should provide evidence of a semester of thinking, discovery, and integration. This paper is **due May 7 and will comprise 25% of the final grade**.

V. Student Workload Expectations

Class time – 45 hours

Reading – 39 hours - 780 total pagers (1 hour for each 20 pages of reading)

Assignments – 59 hours total

1. Conversations with a person who is culturally different - 6 hours.
2. Paper reporting the conversations - 3 hours.
3. Introduction to the Missional Church expanded outline - 4 hours.
4. The Road to Missional expanded outline – 4 hours.
5. Implications from Luke 10 paper – 4 hours.
6. The Missional Church in Perspective paper – 8 hours.
7. The Final Paper – 30 hours.

TOTAL = 143 hours

VI. Grading Scale

A	95-100	C+	80-81
A-	92-94	C	75-79
B+	90-91	C-	72-74
B	85-89	D	70-71
B-	82-84	F	69 or below

VII. Classroom-related Academic Policies

A. Regular attendance and regular submission of assignments on due dates in the syllabus is expected. The following guidelines have been approved for inclusion in all HGST syllabi and reflect standards for all courses:

Fall/Spring semester 15-session course – 3-absence maximum

Summer term 8-session course – 1-absence maximum (equals 4 hours).

6-session hybrid – 1-absence maximum

4-session hybrid – 0-absence maximum

If a student reaches the designated number of absences, the student will no longer be allowed to stay in the class. The student does have the opportunity to appeal to the Academic Dean and should assume responsibility for scheduling that meeting as soon as possible.

B. Work is expected on the due date. Late papers will receive no less than a one-letter grade reduction.

C. Turnitin.com

1. All written assignments are subject to required submission to www.turnitin.com to check for originality and style. The assignments that are required for submission will be described in the syllabus.

2. Students will create an account at www.turnitin.com. After doing so, the student will join the course page with the code and password supplied by the instructor. A list of assignments and due dates will be available on the course page.

3. Students will submit assignments by the due date and time and will be required to submit the assignments in a hard copy format as well.

D. Electronic Equipment Usage in Classrooms

It is expected that students will use technology (cell phones, laptop computers, iPads, etc.) during classes only for the purposes of class work. Therefore, students should turn off cell phones and refrain from texting and using laptop computers during classes except for the purposes of taking notes or doing research specifically authorized by the course instructor. Students who have emergency needs not covered by this policy must ask for an exception from the course instructor.

E. *Please review the Academic Catalog for requirements regarding Incompletes and Plagiarism issues. For more information on Library Services, please download the Library Handbook from the HGST website.*

VIII. Notes for Writing Assignments

For MDiv or MAML students: All writing assignments should conform to Kate Turabian, *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*, 8th Edition. This

includes matters of style and format. The instructor requires the use of footnotes for documentation when more than one resource is cited. The student must number pages. According to Turabian, page numbers appear in the upper right hand corner, except on pages with major headings (titles). Margins should be one inch on all four sides, except where major headings (titles) require a two-inch top margin.

All students shall utilize 12-point Times New Roman font throughout. The instructor prefers that the student **not** use presentation or report binders or folders. She prefers submission of papers with staples or binder clips.

Critical, or formal, writing differs from colloquial writing or spoken English at several points. The student should note the following guidelines for critical writing. The instructor expects students to follow these guidelines strictly for academic-style assignments. Failure to do so will be penalized.

- Avoid first- or second-person references, both singular and plural (“I,” “we,” or “you”). Keep the written projects objective and professional. The student must remember that imperative forms are second person.
- Never use contractions.
- Avoid passive voice construction (i.e., The student should write “God chose Joshua” rather than “Joshua was chosen by God.”). Some exceptions are necessary, but limiting the use of passive voice is a good policy.
- Be sure that number and tense always agree (i.e., Do not write in one place that “Brueggemann argues . . .” and at another place “Brueggemann argued . . .”). Subject-verb agreement is imperative.
- Spellcheck! Spellcheck! Spellcheck!
- Grammar check works as well!
- All pronouns should have clear antecedents. Avoiding “it is” and “there is” in the paper removes much of the ambiguity of pronoun usage.
- Sentence fragments are unacceptable. Every sentence must have a subject and a predicate.

IX. PL 510 Introduction to the Missional Church Movement Class and Schedule

January 22

- Introduction to the course
- Discuss the history of the missional church movement

January 29

- Reconsidering our context.
- Post-Christendom – Postmodern – the technological revolution

February 5

- Living as Sent People

February 12

- **The expanded outline of *Introduction to the Missional Church* is due.**
- What is the *Missio Dei*?
- The heart and nature of God

February 19

- What is the mission of God?
- Shalom

February 26

- **The expanded outline of *The Road to Missional* is due.**
- Rethinking the Gospel
- The Kingdom of God
- Restored wholeness in seven dimensions

March 5

- Reimaging Church
- Incarnational - Attractional

March 12 – **No Class – Spring Break**

March 19

- Missional community – compassion & community
- Four foundational life searches

March 26

- Christianity as a way of life
- The Missional Practices of Jesus
- **The implications paper from the book *Missional* is due.**
- Bounded-set vs. Centered-set

April 2

- Contextualization – how to exegete the culture
- Seven aptitudes

April 9

- Missional Practices
- Dialogue & Differentiation

April 16

- **The four streams paper from the book *The Missional Church in Perspective* is due.**
- Discuss the differences in the four streams.
- What about people of other faiths?

April 23

- View the movie *Chocolat*
- Debrief the movie discussing implications for living missionally.

April 30

- **The report on cultural diversity conversations is due.**
- The missional change model
- Change leadership

May 7

- **Final paper is due.**
- Five takeaways from the class.

The professor reserves the right to adjust classroom topics as the course develops.

X. Additional Resources

Arias, Mortimer. *Announcing the Reign of God*. Lima: Academic Renewal Press, 1984.

Baer, Michael R. *Business as Mission*. Seattle: YWAM Publishing, 2006.

Barrett, Lois Y. et al. *Treasure In Clay Jars*: Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 2004.

Bosch, David J. *Transforming Mission*. Maryknoll: Orbis Books, 1991.

Brueggemann, Walter. *Living Toward a Vision*. New York: United Church Press, 1976.

———. *The Prophetic Imagination*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2001.

Cavey, Bruxy. *The End of Religion*. Colorado Springs: NavPress, 2007.

Callahan, Kennon L. *Effective Church Leadership*. New York: Harper & Row, 1990.

Claiborne, Shane. *The Irresistible Revolution*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2006.

Claiborne, Shane, and Chris Haw. *Jesus for President*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2008.

Glasser, Arthur. *Announcing the Kingdom*. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 2003.

Grenz, Stanley J. *A Primer On Postmodernism*. Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1996.

Grenz, Stanley J., and John R. Franke. *Beyond Foundationalism*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2001.

- Guder, Darrell L. ed. *Missional Church*. Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1998.
- Frost, Michael, and Alan Hirsch. *The Shaping Of Things To Come*. Peabody: Hendrickson Publishers, 2003.
- Frost, Michael. *The Road to Missional*. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 2011.
- . *Exiles*. Peabody: Hendrickson Publishers, 2006.
- Hirsch, Alan. *The Forgotten Ways*. Grand Rapids: Brazos Press, 2006.
- Hunter, George G. III. *The Celtic Way of Evangelism*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2000.
- Hunter, James Davidson. *To Change the World – The Irony, Tragedy, & Possibility of Christianity in the Late Modern World*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2010.
- Hiebert, Paul G. *Anthropological Reflections on Missiological Issues*. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 1994.
- Kinnamon, David, and Gabe Lyons. *Unchristian*. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 2007.
- Kirk, J. Andrew. *What is Mission*. Minneapolis: Augsburg Fortress, 2000.
- Lingenfelter, Sherwood G., and Marvin K. Mayers. *Ministering Cross-Culturally*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 1986.
- Lohfink, Gerhard. *Jesus and Community*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1982.
- McKnight, Scot. *A Community Called Atonement*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2007.
- McLaren, Brian D. *The Secret Message of Jesus*. Nashville: W Publishing Group, 2006.
- . *Everything Must Change*. Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 2007.
- McNeal, Reggie. *Missional Communities – The Rise of the Post-Congregational Church*. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass, 2011.
- . *Missional Renaissance*. San Francisco: Jossey Bass, 2009.
- Minatrea, Milfred. *Shaped By God's Heart*. San Francisco: Jossey Bass, 2004.
- Murray, Stuart. *Post-Christendom*. Colorado Springs: Paternoster Press, 2004.
- Penner, Myron B. ed. *Christianity and the Postmodern Turn*. Grand Rapids: Brazos Press, 2005.

- Petersen, Jim, and Mike Shamy. *The Insider*. Colorado Springs: NavPress, 2003.
- Newbigin, Lesslie. *The Open Secret*. Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1995.
- . *The Gospel in a Pluralist Society*. Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1989.
- Roxburgh, Alan J., and Fred Romanuk. *The Missional Leader*. San Francisco: Jossey Bass, 2006.
- Roxburgh, Alan J., and M. Scott Boren. *Introducing the Missional Church*. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 2009.
- Roxburgh, Alan J. *Missional – Joining God in the Neighborhood*. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 2011.
- . *Missional Map-Making*. San Francisco: Jossey Bass, 2010.
- Sanneh, Lamin. *Translating the Message*. Maryknoll: Orbis Books, 1989.
- Stetzer, Ed, and David Putman. *Breaking the Missional Code*. Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 2006.
- Stetzer, Ed. *Planting Missional Churches*. Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 2006.
- Stone, Bryan. *Evangelism after Christendom*. Grand Rapids: Brazos Press, 2007.
- Van Gelder, Craig, ed. *Confident Witness – Changing World*. Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1999.
- , ed. *The Missional Church in Context*. Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 2007.
- . *The Ministry of the Missional Church*. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 2007.
- Van Engen, Charles. *God's Missionary People*. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 1991.
- Wright, Christopher J. H. *The Mission of God*. Downer Grove: IVP Academic, 2006.

Expanded Outline Example

I. EMERGING CHURCHES, CREATING CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY IN POST MODERN CULTURE

A. Chapter 1 - A Brief Look at a Culture Between

1. Key Concepts:

- a. Churches in the United Kingdom and the United States seriously underestimate the need for cross-cultural training for those in their respective congregations. (Kindle Locations 115-116).
- b. The church must recognize that we are in the midst of a cultural revolution and that nineteenth-century (or older) forms of church do not communicate clearly to twenty-first-century cultures. (Kindle Locations 133-136).
- c. Important culture shifts that occurred are the transition from Christendom to post-Christendom and the transition from modernity to post-modernity.

2. Key Individuals Discussed:

- a. H. Richard Niebuhr (*Tell me why he is a key*)
- b. The Roman Emperor Constantine (Tell me why)

3. Key Learning for me:

The church must seriously study culture. This raises the missional question as to whether the church exists simply as a subculture or a counterculture or whether it can become truly cross-cultural in the sense of crossing into the broader culture through proclaiming the good news within that cultural context.

(Be very thorough with the key learning component.)

B. Chapter 2 - What is the Emerging Church

1. Key Concepts:

- a. Emerging churches are missional communities arising from within postmodern culture and consisting of followers of Jesus who are seeking to be faithful in their place and time.
- b. The three core practices that combine to create the other practices are (1) identifying with the life of Jesus, (2) transforming secular space, and (3) living as community.
- c. Emerging churches are communities that practice the way of Jesus within postmodern cultures. This definition encompasses the nine practices. Emerging churches (1) identify with the life of Jesus, (2) transform the secular realm, and (3) live highly communal lives. Because of these three activities, they (4) welcome the stranger, (5) serve with generosity, (6) participate as producers, (7) create as created beings, (8) lead as a body, and (9) take part in spiritual activities.

2. **Key Individuals Discussed:**

- a. Eddie Gibbs (Tell me why)
- b. Dan Kimball
- c. George Barna

3. **Key Learning for me:**

This chapter has taught me that man understood the issue as a generational problem, but then realized it was about something much bigger. Some experts could not understand why people were obsessing about a subgroup when an enormous epistemological shift was occurring.

C. Chapter 3 - Identifying with Jesus

1. **Key Concepts:**

- a. By emphasizing church as relationships, emerging church thinkers are advocating not inwardly focused huddles but rather multiple circles of relationships lived out in the wider community.
- b. The *missio Dei* precedes the church, and so the issue is not where to bring or take God but to find God where he is working and to participate in redemption according to God-given skills and abilities.

2. **Key Individuals Discussed:**

- a. N. T. Wright, (Tell me why)
- b. Dallas Willard
- c. Brian McLaren
- d. David Bosch
- e. Lesslie Newbigin

3. **Key Learning for Me.**

XI. Grading Rubric (next page)

Criterion	Points Possible	Points Earned
Content - 60%		
All components included as outlined in the syllabus	30	
Evidence of thinking and understanding the concepts	30	
Grammar and Formatting - 25%		
Grammar	5	
Clear and concise sentences	10	
Proper use of words and evidence of editing	10	
Organization of the paper with clear headings and a cover page	5	
Fulfillment of the Assignment 15%		
Submitted by the due date	5	
Length of paper as assigned	5	
	100	0
Total	Grade	
	Due Date	
	Points Earned	Grade Points
Comments	95-100	A
	92-94	A-
	90-91	B+
	85-89	B
	82-84	B-
	80-81	C+
	75-79	C
	72-74	C-
	70-71	D
	0-69	F