



The Church and Mission
 MIN 420
 Southwestern College Professional Studies

COURSE SYLLABUS

I. Course Catalog Description

This course explores the concept of *missio Dei* (the mission of God) and challenges learners to think critically about missional practices in the church.

II. Required and Supplementary Instructional Materials

Hauerwas, Stanley. (2014). *Resident aliens: Life in the christian colony*. Nashville, TN: Abingdon Press. VitalSource: eText ISBN: 9781426788604, 1426788606

Hunter III, George G. (2011). *Celtic way of evangelism: How christianity can reach the west...again*. Nashville, TN: Abingdon Press. VitalSource: eText ISBN: 9781426732089, 1426732082

Newbigin, Lesslie. (1995). *The open secret: An introduction to the theology of mission*. Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Company. 978-0802808295

Ott, Craig (Ed.). (2016). *The mission of the church: Five views in conversation*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Publishing Group. 978-0801097409

III. Course Learning Outcomes

Course learning outcomes describe the knowledge, skills, values, and attitudes that learners gain as the result of a particular learning experience. Southwestern College Professional Studies has learning outcomes specific to each program of study that are in line with the institutional outcomes of critical thinking, ethical reasoning, leadership, communication, and career preparation. Course outcomes support program outcomes and are listed below.

Upon successfully completing this course, the learner will be able to:

1. Describe the concept of *missio Dei* (the mission of God) and its implications for congregational missional practices, including evangelism.
2. Assess the theological implications of historic and current missional practices, including evangelistic efforts.
3. Point out the significance of cultural context for engaging in missional practices.
4. Explain one’s personal theological rationale for engaging in missional practices.
5. Develop a structured plan for engaging in missional practices in a particular ministry setting.

Unit	Objectives	Topics Covered	Course Outcomes Supported

1	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Differentiate between the claims that the church <i>has</i> a mission and the church <i>is</i> a mission. 2 Explain how the phrase "resident alien" is a helpful for capturing the church-world relationship. 3 Identify the biblical passages that informs the relationship between the church and the world. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Church Has a Mission • The Church Is a Mission 	<p>1: 1, 2 2: 3 3: 2</p>
2	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Contrast the five typologies concerning the relationship between Christ and culture. 2. Explain how the character of God informs the Christian theology of mission. 3. Identify various Scripture that is relevant for questions concerning the theology of mission. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • God's Character and Mission • Christ and Culture 	<p>1: 1, 2, 3 2: 1, 2, 3 3: 1</p>
3	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Distinguish between various denominational approaches to the concept of mission. 2. Explain how the <i>missio Dei</i> justifies the mission of the church insofar as the church participates in God's mission. 3. Assess the consequences between using the plural term "missions" and the singular term "mission." 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Missio Dei • The Concept of Mission in Various Denominations 	<p>1: 1, 2, 3 2: 1 3: 1, 2, 3</p>
4	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Compare and contrast the five different views concerning the mission of the church: evangelical, multicultural, prophetic, sacramental, and transformational. 2. Evaluate the strengths of arguments about the mission of the church given your own experience in different mission settings. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Five Views on the Mission of the Church (Prophetic, Multicultural, Transformational, Sacramental, and Evangelical) 	<p>1: 2 2: 1, 2</p>
5	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Integrate the criticisms of other authors into the argument of an established perspective on the church and mission. 2. Consider the importance of understanding more than one critical viewpoint on a theological subject. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acknowledging Other Theological Positions • Strengthening One's Own Position by Considering Critiques 	<p>1: 2 2: 2, 3</p>
6	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Synthesize one's own theology of mission with the historic missional practices of the church. 2. Summarize one's own denomination's approach to mission. 3. Support one's own theological view of mission. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Christianity Reaching the Western World • Christianity Receiving from the World 	<p>1: 4, 5 2: 4, 5 3: 4</p>

At the end of the course, learners may vary in their ability to achieve these outcomes and unit objectives. You are more likely to achieve these only if you attend class and/or online activities as required by the syllabus, complete the requirements for all assignments to the best of your

ability, participate actively in class activities and group work as directed, and study diligently for exams.

IV. Course Policies

Students are expected to read and abide by the course policies located in the instructor-specific syllabus in the blackboard course.

V. Course Requirements

Requirements	Number of Assignments	Points Possible	Percent of Grade
Discussions (2 per unit)	12	300	30%
Unit 3 Group Presentation	1	150	15%
Unit 5 Paper	1	250	25%
Unit 6 Missional Engagement Plan (Mastery Assignment)	1	300	30%
Total Points		1000	100%

VI. Course at a Glance

Unit	Graded Work Due	Relevant Reading/Viewing Prep	Unit Learning Objectives Supported
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1.1 Discussion 1.2 Discussion 	<i>Resident Aliens</i> (for both discussions)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1, 2 3
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2.1 Discussion 2.2 Discussion 	<i>The Open Secret</i> (for both discussions)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2 1, 2, 3
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3.1 Discussion 3.2 Discussion Group Presentation: Adult Education on the Bible, Church, and Missions, due Sunday at 11:59 pm CT 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>The Mission of the Church – Perspective Chapters</i> (for both discussions) <i>Resident Aliens, The Open Secret, The Mission of the Church</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3 1, 2 1.1, 1.3; 2.1, 2.2, 2.3; 3.1, 3.2, 3.3
4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4.1 Discussion 4.2 Discussion 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Group Presentations <i>The Mission of the Church – Perspective Chapters</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2 1
5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5.1 Discussion 5.2 Discussion Paper: Perspectives on the Mission of the Church in the 21st Century, due Sunday at 11:59 pm CT 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>The Mission of the Church – Response Chapters</i> (for both discussions and the paper) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 2 4:1, 4:2; 5:1
6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6.1 Discussion 6.2 Discussion Missional Engagement Plan, due by Sunday at 11:59 pm CT 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>The Celtic Way of Evangelism</i> (for both discussions) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1, 3 2, 3 1, 2, 3

		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Various course resources	
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VII. [Other Policies and Requirements](#)

Follow this link to the Southwestern College Professional Studies [Standard Syllabus](#) in Blackboard. You may be required to log in.