

## **Syllabus: Paradigms for Christian Mission:**

Historical and Theological Perspectives

EM 3173 or TH 2173

Cliff Kirkpatrick, Professor

Fall 2019, Mondays 1:30-4:20 pm

**Course Description:** This course will survey the development of Christianity through mission and evangelization using a combination of historical and theological approaches. Students will trace changes in conceptions and practices of mission beginning with biblical and early church models, moving through historical paradigms of Christian mission, and exploring relevant postmodern approaches to mission today. This semester will include a special focus on 21<sup>st</sup> century global mission challenges: justice and development, missional congregations, mission from the margins, dialogue and witness with people of other faiths, and evangelism in a post-modern world. A special feature of this class will be dialogues with contemporary practitioners of mission from various parts of the world and from those addressing contemporary mission challenges in the USA in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

**Purpose and Objectives:** This course is designed to acquaint students with historical accounts and contemporary challenges relative to the expansion of Christian mission and the church's changing theological self-understandings of that task. Students will achieve the following learning objectives:

- assess the contemporary crises and opportunities in Christian mission
- trace the historical growth of Christian mission and evangelization
- evaluate changing biblical and theological paradigms for evangelism and mission
- develop contextually appropriate directions for Christian mission in today's world

**Themes** by week for the class, which will be conducted in plenary lectures, in discussion sessions, and in smaller reflection groups, are as follows:

- The Changing Context and the Crisis in Mission and Evangelism Today
- The New Testament as a Missionary Document
- A Brief Journey through Perspectives on Christian Mission from the Early Church through the Reformation
- A Brief Journey through Perspectives on Christian Mission from the Age of Discovery and Enlightenment through the 20<sup>th</sup> Century
- Fresh Missiological Perspectives for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century
- 21<sup>st</sup> Century Challenge I: Revitalization of Congregations for Mission and Evangelism.
- 21<sup>st</sup> Century Challenge II: The Prophetic Voice of Mission through Justice.
- 21<sup>st</sup> Century Challenge III: Mission and Dialogue with People of Other Living Faiths.
- 21<sup>st</sup> Century Challenge IV: "The Post-Christian West Meets the Non-Western Church"
- 21<sup>st</sup> Century Challenge V: Models of Mutual Mission for congregations with Global Church

### **Requirements and Evaluation:**

1. Active participation in class discussions and that displays a thorough understanding of the assigned readings (30%)
2. A take home exam on paradigms for mission —assigned at conclusion of class on October 7 and due back electronically to the professor by October 21. (30%)
3. Short (300 - 500 words) written and oral assignments due on three of the eight weeks related to specific topics being studied that week. These assignments are prompted by questions in the text specified as the assignment in the week by week schedule for the course and should include insights from the readings related to that item. (30%)
4. Leading the class in prayer and understanding of the mission of the church in different parts of the world making use of the Ecumenical Prayer Cycle and/or other resources. (10%)

### **Required Text:**

Nussbaum, Stan. *A Reader's Guide to Transforming Mission*. Orbis Books, 2005

**Recommended Texts for Further Reading and Research. These are the primary source books for class discussions and for the short papers each of you will prepare. In many cases the relevant sections of these books might be found on CAMS.**

Bevans, Stephen B. and Schroeder, Roger P. *Constants in Context: A Theology of Mission for Today*. Orbis Books, 2004

Bosch, David J. *Transforming Mission: Paradigm Shifts in Theology of Mission* (20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Edition). Orbis Books, 2011

George, Sherron Kay. *Better Together: the Future of Presbyterian Mission*. Geneva Press, 2010

Granberg-Michaelson, Wesley. *From Times Square to Timbuktu.* Eerdmans, 2013.

Hinson-Hasty, Elizabeth and Peters, Rebecca Todd, *To Do Justice: A Guide for Progressive Christians*, Westminster John Knox, 2008.

Jacobsen, Douglas, *The World's Christians: Who they are, where they are, and how they got there*. Wiley Blackwell, 2011.

Patel, Eboo, *Acts of Faith*. Beacon Press, 2007.

Rah, Soong-Chan, *The Next Evangelicalism*. IVP Books, 2009.

Reece, Martha Grace, *Unbinding the Gospel: Real Life Evangelism*. Chalice Press, 2006.

Richter, Don C., *Mission Trips that Matter*, chapter 10, pp.143-158. Upper Room Books, 2008.

White, Vera and Wiley, Charles, *New Worshipping Communities: A Theological Exploration*. Westminster John Knox, 2018.

**Articles/Chapters (available electronically or on CAMS):**

Adeney, Frances and Terry Muck, *Christianity Encountering World Religions*. Baker Academic, 2009. pp. 7-11 **(on CAMS)**

Kirkpatrick, Clifton, "Changes in the Global Church: What We Can Learn" in [thethoughtfulchristian.com](http://thethoughtfulchristian.com). **(on CAMS)**

March, Eugene, *The Wide, Wide Circle of Divine Love*. Westminster, John Knox Press, 2005. (Selected Readings **on CAMS**)

Robert, Dana L., "Witnessing to Christ Today": Mission and Unity in the "Long View"  
["http://www.edinburgh2010.org/en/resources/papersdocumentsc852.pdf?no\\_cache=1&cid=33076&did=21483&sechash=9a1c5a86"](http://www.edinburgh2010.org/en/resources/papersdocumentsc852.pdf?no_cache=1&cid=33076&did=21483&sechash=9a1c5a86)

Sanneh, Lamin. , *Translating the Message: The Missionary Impact on Culture*, pp. 1-7. Orbis, 2008. (Selected readings on **CAMS**)

**Global Ecumenical Statements:**

"Together towards Life: Mission and Evangelism in Changing Landscapes"

[http://www.oikoumene.org/en/resources/documents/wcc-commissions/mission-and-evangelism/together-towards-life-mission-and-evangelism-in-changing-landscapes.html?print=1\\_print%20Common%20parents%20in%20the%20faith](http://www.oikoumene.org/en/resources/documents/wcc-commissions/mission-and-evangelism/together-towards-life-mission-and-evangelism-in-changing-landscapes.html?print=1_print%20Common%20parents%20in%20the%20faith)

"Mission and Evangelism: An Ecumenical Affirmation"

<http://www.religion-online.org/showchapter.asp?title=1573&C=1525> (also on CAMS)

"Christian Witness in a Multi-Religious World: Recommendations for Conduct" (joint document from the Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue, WCC, World Evangelical Alliance)

<http://www.oikoumene.org/en/resources/documents/wcc-programmes/interreligious-dialogue-and-cooperation/christian-identity-in-pluralistic-societies/christian-witness-in-a-multi-religious-world.html>

**Resource for Prayer Leadership:**

Ecumenical Prayer Cycle, *In God's Hands*, <http://www.oikoumene.org/en/resources/prayer-cycle.html>

**Policies of LPTS:****Inclusive Language:**

In accordance with seminary policy, students are to use inclusive language in class discussions and in written and oral communication by using language representative of the whole human community in respect to gender, sexual orientation, ethnicity, age, and physical and intellectual capacities. Direct quotations from theological texts and translations of the Bible do not have to be altered to conform to this policy. In your own writing, however, when referring to God, you are encouraged to use a variety of images and metaphors, reflecting the richness of the Bible's images for God. See for further assistance,

[http://www.lpts.edu/Academic\\_Resources/ASC/avoidinggenderbiasinlanguage.asp](http://www.lpts.edu/Academic_Resources/ASC/avoidinggenderbiasinlanguage.asp).

**Academic Honesty:**

All work turned in to the instructors is expected to be the work of the student whose name appears on the assignment. Any borrowing of the ideas or the words of others must be acknowledged by quotation marks (where appropriate) and by citation of author and source. Use of another's language or ideas from online resources is included in this policy, and must be attributed to author and source of the work being cited. Failure to do so constitutes plagiarism, and may result in failure of the course. Multiple occurrences of plagiarism may result in dismissal from the Seminary. Students unfamiliar with issues relating to academic honesty can find help from the staff in the Academic Support Center. For the Seminary policy, see The Code of Student Conduct, 6.11; Student Handbook, p. 19.

**Special Accommodations:**

Students requiring accommodations for a documented physical or learning disability should be in contact with the Director of the Academic Support Center ([kmapes@lpts.edu](mailto:kmapes@lpts.edu)) during the first two weeks of a semester and should speak with the instructor as soon as possible to arrange appropriate adjustments. Students with environmental or other sensitivities that may affect their learning are also encouraged to speak with the instructor.

**Citation Policy:**

Citations in your papers should follow the Seminary standard, based on these guides:  
Kate Turabian, *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*, 7th ed. Chicago, IL: University of Chicago Press, 2007.

*The Chicago Manual of Style*, 15th ed. Chicago, IL: University of Chicago Press, 2003.

Copies of these guides are available at the library and in the Academic Support Center.

**Attendance Policy:**

According to the Seminary catalog, students are expected to attend class meetings regularly. Where an absence is unavoidable, students should if possible consult with the instructors in advance. In any case, they should be in communication with them no more than 24 hours after the class session. Multiple unexcused absences may result in a lowered grade; missing 3 sessions or more may result in failing the course.

## Weekly Schedule of Themes, Readings, and Assignments

### 1 – Sept. 9. The Changing Context and the Crisis in Mission and Evangelism Today

Sherron Kay George, *Better Together*. Geneva Press, 2010, Chapter 1, “What is Mission Today?” pp. 1-5. **(on CAMS)**

David Bosch, *Transforming Mission: Paradigm Shifts in a Theology of Mission (20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Edition)*. Orbis Books, 2011. pp. 1-11. **(on CAMS)**

Dana Robert, “Mission and Unity in the Long Run.” **(on CAMS)**

Pew Study on Global Christianity **(on CAMS)**

Kwame Bediako video on the world turned upside down

Assignment (first such assignments done during initial class session)

- a. Share a brief story/reflection of a personal experience you have had in mission that either 1) formed what you understand mission to be or 2) challenged your understanding of mission. This experience could be in local mission or in a global setting. Briefly describe the situation and then explain how and why it formed or challenged your understanding of mission.
- b. Write a 1-2 sentence definition of "mission" from your perspective.

A Pop Quiz on the Changing Context for Global Mission Today: What surprised you and what implications did you see for engagement in mission for you?

### 2 - Sept.18/19: (NOTE: CLASS WILL MEET ON WEDNESDAY/THURSDAY THIS WEEK)

Special Discussion with Najla Kassab on Mission and Peacemaking in the Middle East and other parts of the Global South. Conversation with Rev. Najla Kassab, a minister of the National Evangelical Synod of Syria and Lebanon and President of the World Communion of Reformed Churches – and this year’s Presler Lecturer at LPTS. We will discuss with her the mission of the church in the Middle East, the global movement toward ordination of women around the world, and whatever concerns you have to share.

All students in the course are expected to attend her two presentations:

12:30 pm, Sept. 18 Community Lunch followed by conversation with Najla in our class on “Women Invited to the Table: Ordination of Women as an Act of Justice, Love, and Hospitality.”

4:00 pm, Sept. 19 with the President's Roundtable on "Christian Witness in the Middle East Today."

3 – Sept 23. The New Testament as a Missionary Document.

Choose one of the following three essays to read and discuss:

- Stan Nussbaum, *A Reader's Guide to Transforming Mission*. Orbis Books, 2005. Chapters 1-4, pp. 13-42 **(on CAMS)**
- OR - David Bosch, *Transforming Mission*. Orbis Books, 2011. Chapter 1 (The New Testament as a Missionary Document), pp. 15-56. **(on CAMS)**
- OR - Stephen B. Bevans and Roger P. Schroeder, *Constants in Context: A Theology of Mission for Today*. Orbis Books, 2004. Chapter 1, pp. 10-31 **(on CAMS)**

Group 1 Assignment: Summarize the major themes that would be the basis of a missiology centered on the Great Commission (Matthew 28: 16-20)

Group 2 Assignment: Bevans and Schroeder maintain that the Book of Acts makes it very clear that the church is "missionary by its very nature." What are some of the bases for this assertion found in Acts?

4 – Sept. 30. A Brief Journey through Perspectives on Christian Mission from the Early Church to the Enlightenment and the Ecumenical Movement

Nussbaum, pp. 49- 84.

Tertullian's Defense of the Christian Community in Carthage **(on CAMS)**

Sermon of Montesimos, [https://www.pbs.org/conquistadors/devaca/lascasas\\_01.html](https://www.pbs.org/conquistadors/devaca/lascasas_01.html)

Lamin Sanneh, *Translating the Message*. Orbis Books, 2009. pp. 1-7. **(on CAMS)**

World Council of Churches, "Mission and Evangelism: An Ecumenical Affirmation" **(on CAMS)**

Special Guest: Rev. Dr. Jo Ella Holman: Jo Ella is a mission co-worker for the Presbyterian Church (USA) and coordinator for the PCUSA with churches and Christian movements in the Caribbean. She is also a visiting faculty member for our joint courses with the seminary in Cuba. She has been deeply involved in global conversations with the World Council of Churches on ecumenical and contextual mission for the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

5 - Oct. 7. Fresh Missiological Perspectives for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century

World Council of Churches, "Together Towards Life: Mission and Evangelism in Changing Contexts." **(on CAMS)**

Bevans and Schroeder, "Ferment: Second Vatican Council," pp. 249-255. **(on CAMS)**

Pope Francis, Synthesis of Apostolic Exhortation on "The Joy of the Gospel." **(on CAMS)**

Assignment for both groups: In the statements above, which themes do you most resonate with as the foundation for a relevant and faithful missiology for the 21<sup>st</sup> century? Why?

Take Home Exam on Mission Paradigms - to be completed electronically and returned to professor by the end of Research and Study Week.

6 - Research and Study Week, October 14-18 – No Class Session

7 – Oct. 21, 21<sup>st</sup> Century Challenge I: Revitalization of Congregations for Mission/Evangelism.

David A. Roozen, "A Decade of Change in American Congregations: 2000-2010." **(on CAMS)**

Assignments:

What are the pros and cons of the two approaches noted below? Each group will select one of these two approaches to analyze and share with the class.

- a. Evangelism and Renewal in Mainline Protestant Churches. Explore Reece, Martha Grace, *Unbinding the Gospel: Real Life Evangelism*, St. Louis, Chalice Press, 2008. pp. 3-37 and 57-102.
- b. 1001 New Worshipping Communities. Explore various models from the PCUSA website and the following article from *Presbyterians Outlook*: "Update: 1001 New Worshipping Communities." (website: <https://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/1001-2/>).

Special Features: 1001 New Worshipping Communities Film Festival and sharing by students related to mission and evangelism approaches in the congregations to which they are related. Staff related to the 1001 movement from the Presbyterian Center will be asked to join and update us on this movement.

8- Oct. 28. 21<sup>st</sup> Century Challenge II: The Prophetic Voice of Mission through Justice.

Read and discuss the Introduction and three of the essays in the book, *To Do Justice*, published by Westminster John Knox Press in 2008.

Explore the website of your denomination's agency for sustainable global development and how it might relate to your congregation:

- United Methodist: <http://www.umcor.org/>
- National and Progressive National Baptist: <http://www.pnbc.org/>,  
<http://www.nationalbaptist.com/departments/disaster-management/index.html>
- Presbyterian Church (USA) Matthew 25 movement:  
<http://www.pcusa.org/matthew25>

Special Assignment: Visit with pastor(s) of congregations which are deeply involved in justice ministries here in the Louisville area as an expression of Christian mission.

Special Opportunity: Video introduction to the Matthew 25 Movement:

9- Nov. 5 21<sup>st</sup> Century Challenge III: Mission and Dialogue with People of Other Living Faiths.

Eugene March, *The Wide, Wide Circle of Divine Love*, pp. 3-12, 23-32, and 130-139. **(on CAMS)**

Frances Adeney and Terry Muck, *Christianity Encountering World Religions*, pp. 7-11. "Christian Witness in a Multi-Religious World." **(on CAMS)**

WCC, "Christian Witness in a Multi-Religious World." **(on CAMS)**

Explore the website of the Pluralism Project, [www.pluralism.org](http://www.pluralism.org).

Assignment: Of the three classical ways that Christians describe their approach to mission related to people of other faiths – exclusivist, inclusivist, or pluralist-which do you most closely align with and why?

10 – Nov. 12. Challenge IV: "The Post Christian West Meets the Non-Western Church.

Wesley Granberg-Michaelson, "The Migration of Faith." (lecture at LPTS) **(on CAMS)**

Special Feature: Visit with Revs. Katie Lloyd and Jose Gonzalez and several of the immigrant members of Buechel United Methodist Church related to building congregations that are welcoming and are being renewed by Christians from the non-Western church.

11 – Nov. 19. 21<sup>st</sup> Century Challenge V: Models of Mutual Mission for Congregations with the Global Church

Don C. Richter, *Mission Trips That Matter*. Chapter 10, pp. 143-158. Upper Room Books, 2008.



Clifton Kirkpatrick, *Changes in the Global Church: What We Can Learn*. The Thoughtful Christian, 2012. **(on CAMS)**

David Bosch, *Transforming Mission: Paradigm Shifts in a Theology of Mission (20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Edition)*. Orbis Books, 2011. pp. 543-551. **(on CAMS)**

Assignment: Identify five criteria/elements you feel would be most important for your congregation in discerning the kind of mission in which the congregation is called to engage. What are the benchmarks? What are the most important things to include?

Special Feature: Dr. Don Richter will be invited to join us at the beginning of the class to discuss with us his book, *Mission Trips that Matter*.

12 – Nov. 26, Trends and Challenges from the Mission of the Global Church in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century

View and Discuss power point presentation on Dramatic Changes in Global Christianity.

Special Opportunity: Pop Quiz on Global Christianity

Jacobsen, Douglas, *The World's Christians: Who they are, where they are, and how they got there*. Wiley Blackwell, 2011. pp. 7-66 **(on CAMS)**

13 – Dec. 2, How our minds, hearts, and paradigms have changed in relation to Christian mission in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

9/3/2019