



Birmingham Theological Seminary
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Birmingham, Alabama 35243
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MS1610 Biblical Theology of Missions Syllabus

Semester: Fall, 2025

Day & Time: Thursdays, 7:30 PM

Professor: Dr. Amy Boe

Email: AmyWBoe@gmail.com

Course: MS1610 Biblical Theology of Missions

Room: 201/VC

Credits: 2

Phone: upon request

Course Description

This course is to examine God's purpose and activity related to missions as fulfillment of the Great Commission particularly to understand Israel's responsibility to the nations in the Old Testament and in the spreading of the Kingdom of God in the New Testament. The course will show the basic principles of strategic mission planning for the church, para church organization and the individual Christian worker's overall task in the Great Commission. Special emphasis will be given to the biblical perspective of missions, missiological principles, early church mission strategy, contextualizing, cultural research, etc. The student will be involved in developing a mission strategy in their chosen context (local, state, national or international).

Course Objectives

Cognitive (Content)

- To know the biblical definition of missions in order to understand its importance, its nature and dispel some of the common myths associated with missions.
- To know God's missionary intent for the nations throughout history.
- Know how to craft a biblical strategy of missions.
- Know common missiological principles for strategy development
- Know basic mission strategies that have been utilized throughout church history

Affective/Motivational (Character)/Comprehension

- Reflect on the biblical basis for missions.
- Distinguish between different models of missionary methods.
- Reflect on proper case studies.

- Understand the importance of proper cultural/cross-cultural research.

Volitional/Application (Competencies)

- To participate in the Great Commission in accordance with Matthew 28 and Acts 1:8.
- Develop a missional strategy to be used in the student's own context.
- Organize teams, map areas of outreach, and use effective strategies for that context.
- Execute and evaluate the effectiveness of teams and work done to evoke appropriate change.

Required Texts

A. Three Required Texts:

1. Barnett, Mike (Editor). 2012. *Discovering the Mission of God: Best Missional Practices for the 21st Century*. IVP Academic. ISBN: 978-0-8308-5635-0.
2. Goheen, Michael W. *A Light to the Nations: The Missional Church and the Biblical Story*. Baker Academics. ISBN: 978-0-8010-3141-0.
3. Terry, John Mark, J.D. Payne. 2013. *Developing a Strategy for Missions*. Baker Academics ISBN 978-0-8010-3953-9.
4. Turabian, Kate L. *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*. 9th ed. Chicago, IL: The University of Chicago Press, 2018.

B. In addition, the student will need:

1. Microsoft Word to submit assignments.
2. Microsoft PowerPoint (or a similar product like Prezi) for a presentation at the end of the semester.
3. Logos Bible Software. Please contact the seminary office for information on acquiring the Logos Remote Learning Library.
4. The [BTS Form and Style Guide](#).
5. The [BTS Research and Writing Center](#).

C. For this class, the estimated number of pages of required reading is 500. The student will identify additional reading for their research, as needed.

Course Requirements and Assessments

COURSE REQUIREMENT	GRADE WEIGHT	COMMENTS
Completion of Assigned Reading	10%	A student assessment of the

		percentage of completed reading will be used for this grade.
COA's & Mapping Exercise	15%	
Presentations/Participation/Reflection papers	20%	
Book Critique x 2	20%	Goheen and one of the student's choices
Mid-term	10%	Take home test
Final Strategy Plan	25%	

Plagiarism and use of AI for any assignment will result in a grade of zero for that assignment.

Required reading. The student is expected to complete all assigned reading.

Weekly research and writing assignments. The student is expected to complete weekly writing assignments, two book reviews and a final research project. Logos Bible Software and the BTS Writing Center provide resources for research, bibliography, and footnotes. A detailed description of each assignment will be provided via email or Blackbaud under "Downloads."

Final Research Project. The student will choose a mission's context which will culminate in a final research project. The project will be the result of their research and strategic understanding throughout the semester. This is a quantitative summary paper in conjunction with the student's personal learning objectives. It will reflect what is read/learned from the class, show how it will benefit the 'nations' now and in future ministry and be implemented into the mission's effort of the local church/ministry they are part of. Details will be available via email or in Blackbaud under the "Downloads"

The student will submit various reflection papers based on the course lectures, special presenters, and readings.

The student will develop a course of action planning model and perform a mapping exercise of their selected demographic area: local, national, or international. The student will submit a book critique of *A Light to the Nations* by Michael W. Goheen along with a missionary biography of the student's choice.

The student will be asked for an honest assessment of the percentage of the reading they completed.

BTS Format, Style, and Writing Standards

All research papers must be formatted in accordance with Turabian Chicago standards including the title page. All papers are to be 12-point, Times New Roman font and double-spaced. Any paper not conforming to these standards will automatically be dropped one letter grade. Please see the BTS

Form and Style Guide for more information. The BTS Form and Style Guide and other resources are available on the BTS Research and Writing Center webpage: <https://www.btswritingcenter.net/>

In addition, the BTS Research and Writing Center runs 2-3 Writing Workshops every semester. They are very helpful and highly recommended.

BTS Plagiarism / Generative AI Policy

As noted above, plagiarism and use of AI for any assignment will result in a grade of zero for that assignment. In addition to the BTS plagiarism policy, BTS is implementing a new Generative AI policy. Unless clearly directed by the instructor, the students should submit their own work, independent of artificial intelligence tools. Use of generative AI to write papers or to write significant portions of assignments is considered an ethical violation of our Student Code of Conduct and to be a violation of general academic integrity, which could result in a zero on the assignment and/or a lowered letter grade for the course by the professor. If determined to be an egregious violation, it could lead to further sanctions administered through the Academic Committee, including expulsion from BTS.

Course Schedule

Week	Date	AGENDA / TOPIC	DUE ON THIS DAY/DATE
1	9/4	Introduction Syllabus Overview Terms to Know	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Before the first class: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Read Goheen Ch. 1-2 Review Psalm 2:8, Isaiah 6:8, Isaiah 52.7, Matthew 28: 18-20, John 3:16, Acts 1:8, Acts 13:47, Acts 20:24, Romans 1:16, 1Corinthians 1:18 In class, begin considering a missions context topic for your final project. These ideas will be due week 3. In our discussion, begin writing a theological foundation paper that will lay a solid basis of missions for your project. You should add to this weekly. Begin searching for at least 3 resources (in addition to the reading required) that will support your theological research.
2	9/11	Missio Dei: Who, What and Why of Missions	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Before class: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Read Goheen Ch. 3 Read Barnett, 17-48.

			2. Homework: write and submit reflection paragraphs on the Missio Dei. Due by Saturday, 11:59 PM.
3	9/18	Mission Theology in the Old Testament	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Before class: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Read Goheen Ch. 4 Read Barnett, 85-113. Submit context topic for final project. Write and submit a reflection paper on the mission theology of the OT discussed in class. Provide evidence of biblical stories and concepts along with a synthesis of a biblical theology of missions. Submit by Saturday, 11:59 pm.
4	9/25	Mission Theology in the Old Testament	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Before class: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Read one Minor Prophetic book (chosen in class) Read Goheen 5-6 In class, choose a book of the Minor Prophets and present findings in class next week.
5	10/2	Mission Theology in the NT	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Before class <ol style="list-style-type: none"> If you have not already found the 4 resources pertaining to your research project, do that now. Read Barnett, 114-170 Read Goheen 7-9
6	10/9	Special presenter: Dr. Mike Gravette** (Dr. Boe will be on mission this week. This presentation is recorded.)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Before class: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Read Barnett 600-621 Review www.joshuaproject.net website. *Review only: Terry/Payne chapters 6-14 & Barnett 198-305 Submit a 1-page reflection paper on Dr. Gravette's presentation.
7	10/16	Mission Theology in the NT	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Before class: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Read Terry ch 1-5

		Strategy intro	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1-page reflection on NT Theology discussed. Submit by Saturday, 11:59 pm Midterm (take home/essay) due date (TBD) Submit Goheen Book Critique by Saturday, 11:59 pm (See email attachment for template).
8	10/23	Fall Break- No Class	
9	10/30	<p>Crafting a Missions Strategy COA's</p> <p>Missiological Principles for Strategy Development</p> <p>Pitfalls to Strategy</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Read Terry ch 15-16 2. Continue reviewing external sources and draft your "Theological Chapter" of the final project. 3. Submit your COA ideas next week 4. Submit book review #2 of your chosen book
10	11/6	<p>Contextualizing strategies, cultural research</p> <p>Developing a People Group Profile/Mapping/Demographics</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Before class: Read Terry 17-18 2. In class, discuss possible COA's 3. Submit People Group mapping exercise by Saturday, 11:59. 4. Read Barnett, 377-434
11	11/13	<p>Communications Strategies</p> <p>Discern Need/Receptivity</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Before class: Read Barnett, 309-354; 370-376 2. In class- Now that you know your context begin discerning the needs and receptivity of your group. Answer what are the needs and why? What is the receptivity level, what is your plan for outreach? 3. Submit COA's by Saturday, 11:59
12	11/20	<p>Teams, Leadership, Goal Setting, and Visioning for the Future</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Barnett, 498-534 2. Before class read Terry ch 22-24 3. If needed, participate in a Q&A session with your professor regarding the final research paper. 4. Submit two or more reflection paragraphs on the importance of choosing the right team members. 5. Submit your Mapping exercise by Sunday, 11:59pm.

			6. Submit a statement of the percentage of reading completed by Saturday, 11:59pm.
13	11/27	No Class- Thanksgiving Break	
14	12/4	Presentations Execution/Evaluation	1. Read Barnett 466-497 2. Read Terry 26-27 In class, present your research and plan for execution. 3. Email % of required reading 4. Submit (by 12/11, 11:59 PM) the final project 5. Submit final book critique on your chosen missionary biography (by 12/11, 11:59 PM)

Attendance Policy

Students are expected to demonstrate punctuality and attend all class sessions. Any absences should be communicated to the professor beforehand. Students may miss up to three classes with impunity.

Class Policies and Procedures

- BTS highly recommends using handwritten note taking methods in class and keeping computer usage to a minimum.
- Other electronics should be used sparingly.
- All assignments must be submitted by email by 11:59 (CDT/CST) on the due date.
- Late assignments will incur a -3 point deduction per weekday after the due date, except in cases of emergency communicated to the professor.
- Missed assignments may only be made up with an excused absence, preferably in advance of class. Excused absence assignments must be made up before the final day of the semester.

Video Conference Policies and Procedures

- Please utilize the BTS “Best VC (Video Conference) Practices” information for the course.
- Laptops/Desktops are the preferred method of attending a video conference course. Information will be shared on the screen, so phones will be less useful.
- In Video Conference, it is preferable for the student to keep their video on (when possible) so that students and faculty may engage with one another. Extended periods of dark screen will result in follow-up and potential removal from class.
- Other electronics should be used sparingly.

Course Bibliography / Extended Bibliography

Allen, Roland. *The Spontaneous Expansion of the Church*. Eugene, Oregon: Wipf & Stock Publishers, 1962.

_____. *Missionary Methods: St. Paul's or Ours?* Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1962.

Bosch, David. 2018. *Transforming Mission: Paradigm Shifts in Theology of Mission*. New York: Orbis Books.

Englesviken, T. *Missio Dei: The understanding and misunderstanding of a theological concept in European churches and missiology*. *International Review of Mission* Vol. 92 Issue 367, 2003.

Gravette, C. Michael. *God's Plan to Reach the World: Acts 1:8 A Strategy for Individuals, Churches and Associations of Churches*. Columbus, GA: Brentwood Christian Press, 2005.

Habermas, Gary. 1990. *Dealing with Doubt*. Chicago: Moody Press.

_____. 2003. *The Risen Jesus and Future Hope*. New York: Rowman & Littlefield Publishers.

Hesselgrave, David J. *Paradigms in Conflict: 10 Key Questions in Christian Missions Today*. Grand Rapids, MI: Kregel Publications, 2005.

_____. *Communicating Christ Cross-Culturally*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1978.

_____. *Planting Churches Cross-Culturally: North America and Beyond*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2000.

Hiebert, Paul. *Anthropological Insights for Missionaries*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 1985.

_____. *Transforming Worldviews: An Anthropological Understanding of How People Change*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic. 2008.

Payne, J.D., *The Barnabas Factors: Eight Essential Practices of Church Planting Team Members*. CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform, 2012.

_____. *Discovering Church Planting: An Introduction to the Whats, Whys and Hows of Global Church Planting*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP Books, 2009.

_____. *Missional House Churches: Reaching Our Communities with the Gospel*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2007.

_____ and John Mark Terry. *Developing a Strategy for Missions: A Biblical, Historical, and Cultural Introduction*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2013.

_____. *Roland Allen: Pioneer of Spontaneous Expansion*. Lexington, KY: J.D. Payne, 2012

Piper, John. *Let The Nations Be Glad: The Supremacy of God in Missions*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2003.

Saucy, Robert. 1974. *The Church in God's Program*. Chicago: The Moody Bible Institute.

Schwarz, Gerold. 1984. Hartenstein, Karl (1894-1952). *International Bulletin of Missionary Research*. BU School of Theology: History of Missiology, July 1984.
<http://www.bu.edu/missiology/missionary-biography/g-h/hartenstein-karl-1894-1952/>.

Vicedom, Gerog. 1965. *The Mission of God: An Introduction to a Theology of Mission*. Missouri: Concordia Publishing House.

Wright, Christopher. 2006. *The Mission of God: Unlocking the Bible's Grand Narrative*. Downers Grove, Illinois: IVP Academic.

GRADING CRITERIA AND ASSESSMENT RUBRIC

A to A-	B to B-	C to C-	D to D-
Correct spelling and grammar/punctuation	Minor errors in spelling or grammar/punctuation	Multiple errors in spelling or grammar/punctuation per page	Difficult to read due to English writing errors
Smooth writing that provides for effective and efficient reading	Writing is acceptable, but not as organized and coherent	Writing is not smooth, sometimes confusing and inconsistent	Writing lacks clarity, focus, structure, and is incoherent
Person and format are proper for assignment	Person and format are inconsistent	Person and format are not appropriate	Person and format are totally inappropriate

<p>Scripture, paraphrases, quotes, and summaries are appropriately used, cited, and clearly supports main argument</p>	<p>Scripture, paraphrases, quotes, and summaries are appropriate but need more depth and use of critical thinking</p>	<p>Scripture, paraphrases, quotes, and summaries are inadequate for main argument and do not reflect understanding</p>	<p>Scripture, paraphrases, quotes, and summaries are improperly used, over used, under used, or cited in error</p>
<p>Paper completely conforms to Turabian's <i>Manual for Writers</i></p>	<p>Paper generally conforms to Turabian's <i>Manual for Writers</i></p>	<p>Paper somewhat conforms to Turabian's <i>Manual for Writers</i></p>	<p>Paper does not conform to Turabian's <i>Manual for Writers</i></p>

BTS Outcomes

1. Scripture: Students will effectively articulate the truth of Scripture and Scripture as truth, engaged with learning biblical knowledge and reformed principles of the supremacy of Scripture as God's word.
2. Reformed Theology: Students will be able to engage and reproduce the primary and essential elements of Reformed Theology.
3. Local Church: Students will be engaged in applied ministry projects in the local church
4. Wisdom: Students will grow in character; increasing in their demonstration of wisdom and its fruits.
5. Discipleship: Students will be able to understand and articulate the nature and importance of discipleship—both ordinary (means of grace) and extraordinary (biblical counseling).
6. Communication: Students will grow in the efficacy of their communication (articulation, teaching/speaking, and preaching—respective to various departments) both in content knowledge and rhetorical strategies
7. Worldview: Students will demonstrate a growing ability to apply God's word to all spheres of life, evidenced through class discussion and other assigned assessments.
8. Leadership: Students will grow in their understanding of godly leadership and ability to lead others in service of the local church.

Outcome	Rank	Rationale (one sentence)
Scripture	5	Throughout the course, in readings, lectures, and assignments, students will consider their research topics, such as intertextuality and literary analysis, in light of Scripture. Students will study the Missio Dei as God's "grand narrative" of Scripture from Genesis to Revelation.
Reformed Theology	4	The tradition of mission in Reformed churches has a long history. Students will be exposed to many historical quotes, readings, and prominent figures who are/were Reformed in their theology. Additionally, students may explore Reformed theology in their readings and assignments on their major research project.
Local Church	5	Students will be encouraged to apply a biblical theology of missions in the life of their local church through an upcoming Bible study, Sunday school class, mission trip, or sermon preparation. The final ministry project is intended to be a useful product in the student's context.
Wisdom	5	The study of "the nations" throughout Scripture and the major research project requires students to identify potential points of cultural bias and to write with missional objectivity. Additionally, students may explore the application of biblical wisdom in the modern Christian's life in the local church and/or around the world as it pertains to missions.
Discipleship	5	Students will study biblical theology and write a detailed ministry project which will bring Scripture to life in the

		<p>student's chosen context. As a result, students will write a detailed mission's strategy where he/she will explore the importance of discipleship both personally and missionally. Possible points of consideration may be discipleship in new church plants, discipleship on the short-term mission trip, and discipleship as a means for continuing growth of established churches.</p>
Communication	5	<p>Students will develop in both their written and oral communications through readings, lectures and assignments, in which they write a variety of reflection papers and present their research papers to the class. They also practice listening skills by providing feedback to each other.</p>
Worldview	5	<p>Students apply a biblical worldview through their weekly reflection papers. Additionally, their major missions project will require a biblical lens through which to look. Potential topics include various doctrines such as missiology, cultural contextualization, spiritual disciplines, social settings, etc.</p>
Leadership	5	<p>Students will explore leadership in their readings, lectures, and their writing assignments. The student will be required to study various effective leadership strategies of those on the mission field as well as key strategy team members in order to promote healthy relationships and empower people for ministry.</p>