

Mountain Theological Seminary

Graduate Course Syllabus

CM702 Missiology:

Theology, History, and Contemporary Practice in Global Mission

Summer 2026
MTS
Arvada, CO 80004

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course provides an integrated study of the biblical and theological foundations of Christian mission, the historical expansion of the church across cultures and eras, and the key strategies, challenges, and innovative practices shaping global mission engagement today.

COURSE RATIONALE

This course is essential because it prepares students for faithful participation in the *missio Dei*—the mission of God. Drawing on four decades of church planting and cross-cultural experience, the instructor will guide students in integrating three foundational pillars: solid biblical and theological foundations, critical lessons from two thousand years of mission history, and wise engagement with today's complex cultural, religious, and social contexts.

MTS MISSION

The mission of Mountain Theological Seminary is to equip followers of Jesus around the world to be spiritual leaders and servants in Christ's church by providing them with a transformative biblical distance education.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

As a result of this course, students will be able to:

1. **Critically evaluate** the biblical and theological foundations of *missio Dei*, explaining the church's role and responsibility in global mission within diverse contexts.
2. **Critically analyze and synthesize** key historical developments, movements, and significant figures in the expansion of Christianity across cultures and eras, formulating contextually relevant insights for contemporary mission practice.
3. **Construct and defend** informed evaluations of contemporary mission practices, challenges, and strategies by integrating and applying biblical, theological, and historical perspectives to complex cultural, religious, and social contexts.

COURSE TEXTBOOKS

Ott, C., Strauss, S., Tennent, T (2010). *Encountering Theology of Mission: Biblical Foundations, Historical Developments, and Contemporary Issues*. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Baker Academic. ISBN-13: 978-0-8010-2662-1

Bosch, D (2011). *Transforming Mission: Paradigm Shifts in Theology of Mission*, 20th Anniversary Edition. Maryknoll, New York: Orbis Books. ISBN-13: 978-1-57075-948-2

Fink, R. and Stark, R (1991). *The Churching of America, 1776–1990: Winners and Losers in our Religious Economy*. New Brunswick, New Jersey: Rutgers University Press. ISBN-13: 978-0-8135-1837-4

For writing papers please use *Turabian* style and format: The following link is available for reference:

http://www.press.uchicago.edu/books/turabian/turabian_citationguide.html

COURSE ASSIGNMENTS

1. **Reading.** A reading schedule for CM702 is given below. Students are to read the required textbooks in their entirety and answer questions based on the textbooks. Please purchase the textbooks as early as possible. The reading assignments are worth 10% of your final grade. Applies to objectives 1, 2, and 3.
2. **Classroom Lectures.** For this course, all lectures will be available online in previously taped videos and audios. They account for a total of some 20 hours of coursework and accounts for 10% of your final grade. Applies to objectives 1, 2, and 3.
3. **Online Discussion.** Students are expected to participate in our online discussion groups.
 - a. Each week, two discussion questions will be posted in the forum by Monday. Your initial posts to both questions are due the following Tuesday by midnight (Beijing Time). Your interaction posts with at least three classmates are due in 72 hours, i.e., Friday at midnight (Beijing Time). The forum is active for 10 of the 12 weeks. Late posts may be penalized.
 - b. Online posting and discussion provide unique ways of learning. You should endeavor to express yourself clearly and learn from others as well. This includes

disagreeing in ways that are scholarly, considerate, and edifying. (See Online Etiquette section.)

- c. Online posts per week should total at least 450 words (150-200 words each for the initial two postings and three 50-word responses). This is equivalent to 2.5 hours of coursework/week and altogether makes up 30% of your final grade. Your posts will be graded on timely submission, content, and word count, and should be concise and well-articulated. Applies to objectives 1, 2, and 3.
- d. Where possible, students will be organized into cohorts. These learning communities are designed to provide mutual encouragement and support, facilitate distance learning outcomes, and foster the "one-another" principles that are central to the school's ethos. This Cohort Project—graded by your cohort partners and requiring your interaction throughout the course—is worth 10% of your final grade. Applies to objectives 1, 2, and 3.

4. **Two Papers.** Students are to demonstrate their skills in theological and integrative research. **Paper 1: Theological Foundations Paper** and **Paper 2: Integrative Research Paper.**

- a. The title of Paper 1 is: *From Program to Identity: Recovering the Missio Dei as the Church's Fundamental Vocation*. (Questions: How does understanding *missio Dei* change the way we see the church's purpose and how can a local church practically reorder its life around being a sent people?)
- b. Choose one of the following titles for Paper 2: Option A: *Contextualization and Competition: Ecclesiology, Strategy, and Growth in the Theology and Sociology of Mission*. (Questions: How should churches theologically respond to religious competition and a plural marketplace, but at the same time contextualize for growth without becoming market-driven or compromising theology?) Option B: *The Gospel in Context: Caste, Ancestors, and the Debate over Inculturation*. (Questions: How did the Indian caste system and Chinese ancestor worship shape theological debates in their time, and what stance should the church take in today's postmodern context?)
- c. Your papers should include research into commentaries, journals, and other references. For each paper, use at least four scholarly secondary sources (not including the primary required reading for this course).
- d. When writing the paper:
 - Allocate your word count (or page length) strategically across the introduction, main body, and conclusion before you begin writing. Remember that a longer paper is not necessarily a better one.
 - Include a bibliography of all the sources you consulted (not just the ones cited in the paper) at the end of the paper.
 - Write the paper according to Turabian style and format (for this reference, see above under "Course Textbooks"), paying attention to spelling, grammar, and style.
- e. Keep your paper to 10-12 pages (min. 3,000 words). It must be documented with

footnotes and a list of works cited.

- f. Note the due dates for each paper. Late papers will be graded with 2% deduction per day late. The papers are worth 40% of your final grade. Applies to objectives 1, 2, 3, and 4.

COURSE GRADING

Below is the MTS grading scale for this class:

A	Excellent	94–100	4.00
A-		90–93	3.67
B+		87–89	3.33
B	Good	83-86	3.00
B-		80-82	2.67
C+		77-79	2.33
C	Average	73-76	2.00
C-		70-72	1.67
D+		67-69	1.33
D	Passing	63-66	1.00
D-		60-62	0.67
F*	Failing	0–59	0.00

COURSE GRADING RUBRICS

Paper Grading Rubric:

Minimum pages	20% of Paper Grade	100pts
Cogency of Arguments	20% of Paper Grade	100pts
Cogency of Applications	20% of Paper Grade	100pts
Citations and usage of Scholarly Sources	20% of Paper Grade	100pts
Grammar and Neatness	10% of Paper Grade	50pts
Bibliography	10% of Paper Grade	50pts

COURSE GRADING – FINAL GRADE DETERMINATION

Reading & Viewing Logs	20%
Online Posting & Response	30%
Papers (2)	40%
Cohort Project	<u>10%</u>

TOTAL

100%

COURSE SCHEDULE

Summary Course Schedule for CM702 Missiology					
Week	Session Topic	Assignments	Workload	Online Postings	Due Beijing Time (Mid-night)
1 May 24-30	Mission in Scripture and Missio Dei	Audio 1a-c Audio Ott Audio Bosch Audio F&S Lecture Video 1 Ott, <i>vii</i> -54 Bosch, <i>xiii</i> -55	7 hours reading 4.5 hours media 11.5 hours' work		2 Posts (Tue. 6/2/26) 3 Replies (Fri. 6/5/26)
2 May 31- June 6	Purpose, Nature, and Task of Mission	Audio 2a-b Lecture Video 2 Ott, 55-105 Bosch, 56-83 F&S, 1-21	5 hours reading 2 hours media 2.5 hours writing 9.5 hours' work	2 Discussion posts (150 words for each) Discussion Response post to 3 discussion submissions (min. 50 words each)	2 Posts (Tue. 6/9/26) 3 Replies (Fri. 6/12/26)
3 June 7- 13	Tasks of Mission and Early Paradigms	Audio 3 Lecture Video 3 Ott, 106-164 Bosch, 84-122 F&S, 22-53	6 hours reading 1.5 hours media 2.5 hours writing 10 hours' work	2 Discussion posts (150 words for each) Discussion Response post to 3 discussion submissions (min. 50 words each)	2 Posts (Tue. 6/16/26) 3 Replies (Fri. 6/19/26)
4 June 14-20	From Christendom to Modern Mission	Audio 4 Lecture Video 4 Ott, 165-191 Bosch, 123-213	6 hours reading 1.5 hours media 2.5 hours writing 10 hours' work	2 Discussion posts (150 words for each) Discussion Response post to 3 discussion submissions (min. 50 words each)	2 Posts (Tue. 6/23/26) 3 Replies (Fri. 6/26/26)
5 June 21-27	Mission and the Rise of American Religious Economy	Audio 5 Lecture Video 5 Ott, 192-216 Bosch, 214-261 F&S, 54-108	6 hours reading 1.5 hours media 2.5 hours writing 10 hours' work	2 Discussion posts (150 words for each) Discussion Response post to 3 discussion submissions (min. 50 words each)	2 Posts (Tue. 6/30/26) 3 Replies (Fri. 7/3/26)
6	Twentieth- Century	Audio 6 Lecture Video 6	8.5 hours reading 1.5 hours media	2 Discussion posts (150 words for each)	2 Posts (Tue. 7/7/26)

June 28-July 4	Paradigm Shifts	Ott, 217-264 Bosch, 262-348 F&S, 109-144	2.5 hours writing 12.5 hours' work	Discussion Response post to 3 discussion submissions (min. 50 words each)	3 Replies (Fri. 7/10/26)
7 July 5- 11	The Church as Missionary Community	Audio 7 Lecture Video 7 Ott, 265-291 Bosch, 349-367 F&S, 145-198	5 hours reading 1.5 hours media 2.5 hours writing 9 hours' work	2 Discussion posts (150 words for each) Discussion Response post to 3 discussion submissions (min. 50 words each)	2 Posts (Tue. 7/14/26) 3 Replies (Fri. 7/17/26)
8 July 12-18	Contextualization and Mission Strategy	Audio 8 Lecture Video 8 Bosch, 368-510	7 hours reading 1.5 hours media 2.5 hours writing 11 hours' work	2 Discussion posts (150 words for each) Discussion Response post to 3 discussion submissions (min. 50 words each)	2 Posts (Tue. 7/21/26) 3 Replies (Fri. 7/24/26)
9 July 19-25	Global South, Pluralism, and Religious Competition	Audio 9 Lecture Video 9 Ott, 292-338 F&S, 199-276	6 hours reading 1.5 hours media 2.5 hours writing 10 hours' work	2 Discussion posts (150 words for each) Discussion Response post to 3 discussion submissions (min. 50 words each)	2 Posts (Tue. 7/28/26) 3 Replies (Fri. 7/31/26)
10 July 26-Aug 1	Mission, Social Justice, and Public Witness	Audio 10 Lecture Video 10 Theological Foundations Paper	0 hours reading 1.5 hours media 2.5 hours writing 15 hours writing 19 hours' work	2 Discussion posts (150 words for each) Discussion Response post to 3 discussion submissions (min. 50 words each)	2 Posts (Tue. 8/4/26) 3 Replies (Fri. 8/7/26) Paper Due: 8/11/25
11 August 2-8	Missionaries, Vocation, and Spiritual Dynamics	Audio 11 Lecture Video 11 Ott, 217-264 Bosch, 511-520	3 hours reading 1.5 hours media 2.5 hours writing 7 hours' work	2 Discussion posts (150 words for each) Discussion Response post to 3 discussion submissions (min. 50 words each)	2 Posts (Tue. 8/11/26) 3 Replies (Fri. 8/14/26)
12 August 9-15	Toward an Integrated Theology and Practice of Mission	Audio 12 Lecture Video 12 Integrative Research Paper	0 hours reading 1.5 hours media 15 hours writing 16.5 hours' work Total Course Hours = 136		Paper Due: 8/25/26

COURSE BIBLIOGRAPHY [Optional]

Newbigin, L (1989). *The Gospel in a Pluralistic Society*. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Eerdmans. SBN-13: 978-0-8028-0426-6

McGavran, D. and Wagner, C (1990). *Understanding Church Growth*. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Eerdmans. ISBN-13: 978-0-8028-0463-1

POLICIES

ATTENDANCE POLICY

Students are expected to attend every class session. In the event that a student misses one class session, he/she must work with the instructor to determine what is needed to make up what was missed. If the student does not make up the work in a satisfactory manner, the student's final grade will be lowered one letter grade at the end of the course. If the student misses 3 class sessions, the student's final grade will be lowered one letter grade provided that he/she makes up work for both class sessions. If that make up work is not completed, then the final grade will be lowered by 3 letter grades. If the student misses three class sessions, he/she will be given an F for his/her final grade and not be allowed to finish the course.

At times students have legitimate extenuating circumstances for their absences from class. If this occurs and the student is doing well in class up to that point, the student can contact the professor of the class and the Dean of the appropriate MTS School and ask for a 30 day extension beyond the end of class to complete the work in the class. This request however must be made at least 2 weeks before the final class session. If a 30 day extension is approved beyond the end of class and the student fails to finish all the requirements of the class by the end of those 30 days, the student will be assigned an F for his/her final grade for that class. Appeals can be made to the MTS President.

LATE WORK POLICY

All work is due when listed in the course syllabus, unless otherwise stipulated by the instructor. Grading of any late work on any assignment during the semester will be done at the discretion

of the Instructor. (Note that instructors are not under obligation to accept any assignment that is late but may do so and grade it if they wish according to their discretion). No work may be accepted later than one week after the course concludes, since ***final grades for all classes are due 3 weeks after the last class session***. The only exception to this policy is for students who request and are granted an official course extension as noted in the above paragraph. All such extensions are granted only for extreme circumstances (extended illness, death in family, etc.), and the extension may not exceed 30 days from the last day of class. Only the appropriate MTS Dean may grant such requests, which must be made in writing at least 2 weeks before the last class session. Otherwise, the grade earned at the end of the class is the one granted.

ACADEMIC AND PERSONAL DISCIPLESHIP INTEGRITY POLICY

It is the policy of MTS that its students and faculty exhibit a high standard of honesty and integrity and a commitment to the Lordship of Jesus Christ. Students are expected to be committed to a living standard depicted in the Bible both academically and relationally both inside and outside of school. Incidents of lack of integrity, including such things as plagiarism, cheating, treating others with lack of respect will be taken seriously and offenders held accountable up to and including probation, suspension and/or removal from their academic program and MTS. All infractions should be reported to the appropriate Dean of MTS.

INSTRUCTOR/STUDENT COVENANT

As instructor of this course, I covenant with each student that I will model Christ-like behavior, value and respect each student as a fellow disciple/learner, be prepared for each class session, make appropriate assignments, grade all assignments fairly, return all graded assignments promptly, and be available for consultation outside of class. In return, I expect each student to model Christ-like behavior, value and respect fellow students and me as the instructor, be prepared for each class session, and complete assignments in ways that demonstrate your integrity.

ONLINE ETIQUETTE

Most of the online or hybrid courses in the graduate programs require students to interact with each other and with the instructor on a regular basis (per syllabus instructions). Most of that interaction is done through online comments posted on Canvas. Due to the constraints and unique nature of online communication, students should be aware of the tone or insinuations of any comments they post. Comments can often be misinterpreted when non-verbal cues such as facial expression and voice intonation are not present. Excessive punctuation, such as repeated exclamation points, could be construed as overly emotional or angry. Students need to consider how remarks might be interpreted by

someone who does not know them personally and can only take their words at face value. Students should compose their comments per instructions under the syllabus assignments, paying careful attention to proper grammar and spelling.

LIBRARY RESOURCES AND SERVICES

While MTS does not have an official Physical library onsite. However, we do have an online library for all students. Students can access this library with the link and User ID and Password noted below:

MTS Library link and access codes:

<https://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?authtype=ip,uid&custid=s9813984&profile=ehost&defaultdb=aph>

Username: rmsmt2016

Password: ICOC!YYYY (YYYY = Current Year)

There are also many theological school libraries which are available in the Denver area for students to use with the schools' permission. These include:

The Denver Seminary Library
6399 South Santa Fe Drive
Littleton, Colorado 80120

Colorado Christian University
8787 W. Alameda Ave.
Lakewood, CO 80226

Illiff School of Theology
2323 E. Illiff Ave.
Denver, CO 80021

In addition, there are several State University libraries in the Denver area which can be visited for research including the University of Colorado in Boulder, Regis University, University of Colorado in Colorado Springs, Colorado College in Colorado Springs, Naropa University in Boulder. The best search engine for biblical article research is EBSCO ATLA Religion with Serials database which can be found at all of the above libraries.

Please also visit any theological or university library in your area of the world to see if they have access to ATLAS Religion database or other religious/counseling search engines. In Colorado, you may also check with local libraries for the availability of EBSCO *Academic Search Premier* database. It searches many well respected academic religious journals.

