



Nazarene Theological Seminary

1700 E Meyer Blvd • Kansas City, MO 64131 • 816/268-5400

ICS615 — Theology of Mission Online Summer 2011

Essential Information

Please refer to the following resources for information essential for the successful completion of courses and degree programs at Nazarene Theological Seminary. Links to these resources are available in the Essential Information section at <http://support.nts.edu>.

- NTS Mission Statement & Purpose Degree Objectives
- Tips for online learning success
- NTS library services
- NTS textbook information
- Online technical requirements and Moodle support information
- NTS Student Handbook including statements on quality of work, plagiarism, and academic probation
- *Handbook for Inclusive Language*

Instructor Information

Professor: David Wesley
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Office Hours: Meetings with the instructor via Skype or phone can be arranged by sending an email to the instructor or faculty assistant.

Catalog Description

Theology of Mission explores a theological understanding of living into the *missio Dei* within the current global context. Special attention will be given to a Wesleyan theological perspective of the Trinity, the missionary mandate, call, methods, motives, Missional ecclesiology and the theological challenges of Christian mission in the current global context.

Course Narrative & Rationale

In contemporary society there is a growing need for mission praxis that is explicitly connected to a theological basis. For the missions practitioner who leaves their passport culture to minister in a new culture as well as the pastor of the local church who ministers in a changing culture, a ministry which is focused on theological and biblical understanding is essential.

Degree Objectives

MAICS (Please see the NTS Catalog page 52 for the full program objectives.)

1. Graduates will participate in God's mission and the ministries of the global Church from a Wesleyan/Holiness missiological perspective.

MDIV (Please see the NTS Catalog page 42 for the full program objectives.)

3. The development of wisdom and discernment through engagement with the intellectual challenge of the literature of the Christian faith, by the critical, scholarly study of the history and theology of Christianity, and of the literature and practices of Christian spirituality, ethics and ministry.

Course Outcomes

With the help of the Lord, at the end of this course students should:

1. Be able to articulate scriptural understanding of mission with an understanding of mission as central to the biblical narrative and which flows from the nature and action of the triune God. (Assignments A, B, D, E)
2. Gain an understanding or a clearer understanding of current issues in the theology of mission. (Assignments A, B, D, E)
3. Become familiar with authors and movements which have influenced current missiological thought. (Assignments A, B, C, D, E)
4. Acquire a deeper appreciation for the privilege of participation in God's mission and the centrality of this participation to the purpose of the church. (Assignments A, B, C, D, E)
5. Be able to articulate a theological understanding of mission which influences mission praxis for a missionary within the Wesleyan theological tradition. (Assignments B, C, E)

Required Texts & Course Materials

- Kirk, J. Andrew. 2000. *What Is Mission? Theological Explorations*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press.
- Tennent, Timothy C. 2010. *Invitation to World Missions: A Trinitarian Missiology for the Twenty-first Century*. Grand Rapids: Kregel Publications.
- Wright, Christopher J. H. 2010. *The Mission of God's People: A Biblical Theology of the Church's Mission*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan.

The following articles will also be required reading for this course (they will be provided for you on Moodle):

- Brownson, James. 1996. Speaking the Truth in Love: Elements of a Missional Hermeneutic. In *The Church between Gospel and culture: the emerging mission in North America*, ed. George R. Hunsberger and Craig Van Gelder. Grand Rapids: W.B. Eerdmans Pub. Co.
- Carson, D.A. 1995. Current Issues in Biblical Theology: A New Testament Perspective. *Bulletin for Biblical Research* 5: 17-41.
- DeCarvalho, Levi T. 2001. What's Wrong with the Label Managerial. *International Journal of Frontier Missions* 18, no. 3 (Fall): 141-146.

- Flemming, Dean. Theology of Mission and Mission Theologizing: A Paradigm from Paul. Unpublished paper.
- Goheen, Michael W. 2008. Continuing Steps towards a missional hermeneutic. *Fideles* 3: 49-99.
- _____. 2008. The Urgency of Reading the Bible as One Story. *Theology Today* 64, no. 4 (Jan): 469-483.
- Günther, Wolfgang. 2003. THE HISTORY AND SIGNIFICANCE OF WORLD MISSION CONFERENCES IN THE 20TH CENTURY. *International Review of Mission* 92, no. 367: 521-537.
- Piper, John. 1996. The Supremacy of God among All the Nations. *International Journal of Frontier Missions* 13, (Jan-Mar): 15-26.
http://www.ijfm.org/PDFs_IJFM/13_1_PDFs/04_Piper.pdf (accessed March 22, 2010).
- Roxborough, John. 2001. After Bosch: The Future of Missiology. Paper presented at Princeton Currents in World Christianity Seminar, Princeton, NJ. February 2.
- Shenk, Wilbert R. 1998. Lesslie Newbigin's Contribution to the Theology of Mission. *TransMission*, Special Edition: 3-6.
- Wesley, David. 2011. Congregational Mission in Context. Paper presented at Mission 2011 Conference, Louisville, KY. February 23.
- _____. 2011. The Church as Missionary. In *Missio Dei: A Wesleyan Perspective*, ed. Keith Schwanz and Joseph Coleson. Kansas City: Beacon Hill Press.

Additional articles may be assigned as need.

Course Outline

- **Unit 1: Introduction**
 - Towards definitions and understanding of mission theology
 - Historical development of theology of mission through World Mission Conferences
- **Unit 2: Scripture and Mission Theology**
 - Introduction to Scripture and Mission Theology
 - Biblical Basis for Mission: *Panta ta Ethne* as a basis for mission
 - Hermeneutic of a Biblical Basis for Mission
 - Missional Hermeneutic
- **Unit 3: Factors which shape Theology of Mission**
 - Scripture, Tradition, Globalization, Southern growth of Christianity, and Post modernity
- **Unit 4: Missional Theology**
 - The influence of Lesslie Newbigin and David Bosch
 - Missionary Ecclesiology
 - Trinitarian Missiology
- **Unit 5: Contemporary Issues in Mission**

Course Assignments & Requirements

A. Critical Review of *The Mission of God's People* by Christopher J.H. Wright and *What is Mission? Theological Explorations* by Andrew Kirk (Course Outcomes 1-4)

1. Write a 3-4 page Interaction paper.
 - a. This paper must be submitted on the day (or before the day) that it is due (see course map)
 - b. This paper should provide a thoughtful analysis of the book (3-4 pages). This is NOT a book report or simple summary. Neither is it your random reflections after reading the book.
 - c. The paper is to carefully analyze the book and provide critical evaluation.

Papers should include four parts:

1. A brief statement of the argument/thesis/main idea of the book (less than a half page).
2. An evaluation of the sources used for the study (half to one page) – ask the question, “What sources did the author draw from to form the thesis of this book?” and “is this valid to support their argument or main thesis?”
3. Several paragraphs tracing the development of the main idea throughout the book (one to one and a half pages).
4. The last section asks the question “so what?” What are the implications of this book? This last section should also include your personal reflection of the book-half to one page).

Note that I have also posted a sample book review on the course documents which uses this format. Please note that this is an example from a book which may be completely distinct from the book you will review, but it should give an idea of the format which you will need to use. See due date on the course calendar.

Wright Review due 6/20.

Kirk Review due 7/5.

B. Integrative paper (Course outcomes 1-5)

1. Students must submit in writing via email (dwwesley@nts.edu) a topic for their integrative paper and obtain the professor's approval in writing no later than **Friday of Week 2**. The topic may be selected from the list below (assigned on a first-come, first served basis). Please note that your selection should be a topic which you have not written about for prior or current classes. If you wish to explore other topics, I would encourage you to read through the two conference websites (j) and explore current topics related to theology and mission.
 - (a) How hermeneutic approaches influence mission practice.
 - (b) A biblical/theological assessment of the “frontier missions” (unreached peoples) approach to defining the task of mission.
 - (c) The goal of missions and the great commission as church planting.

- (d) The missionary “call”: How biblical is it?
- (e) Diaspora Mission.
- (f) Implications of the rise of the non-Western Church.
- (g) Can the book of Acts be used as a “handbook for mission”? Hermeneutical guidelines.
- (h) The Uniqueness of Christ in a Theology of Mission.
- (i) The relationship between Evangelism and Social Responsibility in missions.
- (j) Some other ideas can be found from information from the Edinburgh Conference or the Lausanne Conference, both held in 2010. See Youtube clips of Dana Robert discussing some key themes at: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tnA-YGa_ZrE&feature=related (click on the link “see all 18 videos” for all of the interviews with Dana Robert). Or for Lausanne papers go to: <http://www.lausanne.org/documents.html>

The paper is to be a concise and carefully written paper of 12-15 pages in length and must follow carefully the style and format found in Turabian, Kate L. *A Manual for Writers of Research papers, Theses, and Dissertations*. Revised by Wayne C. Booth, et al. 7th ed. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2007. See NTS student handbook, page 15 for further information:

<http://nts.edu/Websites/nts/Images/pdfs/handbooks/Student%20Handbook%20Final%202008-2009.pdf>

Be sure to read and understand the content and implications of the Plagiarism statement in the NTS Student Handbook as well. All assignments in this course are made with the expectation that the work you submit is your own work. Failure to adhere to these requirements will result in a failing grade for the course. The paper will be graded on the following basis:

- (a) Accurate summary of the current debate or issue
- (b) Use of relevant literature including journal articles
- (c) Thorough analysis of the issues involved. This will include more than one side of the issues presented in a fair and balanced manner.
- (d) Fair assessment and/or evaluation of the issue including theological and biblical argumentation.
- (e) Statement and argumentation of the student’s own position on the issue.

Give careful attention to the use of Internet sources. While the Internet provides easy access to a wealth of resources, as with all other resources, Internet resources must be carefully selected and properly cited and referenced. Make good use of NTS library sources which are available on-line through ATLA. If you are unfamiliar with this, contact the NTS library.

These papers will be posted on Moodle so that other students can read your work. Papers are to be posted by **Friday of Week 10**. See due date on course map.

C. Critique of a fellow student’s integrative paper (*Course outcomes 3-5*)

Each student will be assigned to provide a formal critique of the work of two other students. The critique will be posted on Moodle on the assigned date (to be determined as the class begins; will be the last few weeks of the course). The written critique should

be 3-5 pages (double spaced). The critique should address the paper's strengths and give suggestions for improvement (don't just summarize the paper). The reviewer should especially assess the argumentation and use of the literature. (Good reviews often check the author's sources and give suggestions for further research.) Due to the integrative nature of this assignment, it is crucial that this assignment is posted on time. A late critique will not be accepted.

D. Weekly reading log (*Course outcomes 1-4*)

On Friday of each week, each student will submit a brief reading log report which consists of:

- 1) I read ___% of the required reading for this week.
- 2) I read ___% of this carefully.
- 3) I skimmed ___% of what I read.

E. Class participation (*Course outcomes 1-5*)

Students are expected to demonstrate class attendance through thoughtful reflection of the reading of lectures and assigned reading which is reflected through interactive posts and positive contribution to the online learning environment.

Online postings and responses are required at least three times each week. This means that you must make your assigned posts over the span of at least three separate login times during the week. You cannot get by simply by logging in once on a Wednesday night, making your assigned original posts and then your assigned responses, all within the period of an hour, and then be done with the Forum for that week! You must spread out your assigned comments over at least three separate login occasions.

Good posted responses to discussion questions and other assignments should normally be at least 100 words in length, and it is preferable that these not exceed 150 words (please see weekly lectures for specifics). Responses to the comments, observations, suggestions – or written reading reviews – of fellow classmates should normally be at least 50 words in length, and preferably will not exceed 125 words. Generally speaking, you will not be penalized for making long posts unless it becomes a problem. However, as a courtesy to your classmates (since everyone has to read all of the posts), it is helpful to be as concise as possible. A good post will make substantive contributions to the dialogue.

It is expected that your posts will be written with good grammar and correct spelling, and you should proofread them for mistakes before submitting them. Avoid using abbreviations and codes that are sometimes used in other types of online communications, and always be polite and respectful in your comments.

It is expected that each student will read all of the posts made by each other student in the course. In a traditional classroom, students learn valuable information about the

subject both from the professor’s lecture as well as from classroom dialogue between students and instructor and between fellow students. The Forum on Moodle is the online counterpart to this valuable class interaction. It is often the case that valuable clarifications and insights come up during this online dialogue. Although you are only required to post a certain number of new threads and replies, as outlined in each week’s assignment, it is still expected that you will read all of the posts and comments in each week’s Forum. (Often this will mean checking at the end of the week or the beginning of the following week to read posts your classmates made after your last online login.) You are welcome to make additional brief comments to other posts, above and beyond the assigned requirement, if you wish – but this is not required.

Distribution of Student Learning Hours

	hours
Online Participation in forums, groups, etc.	42
Reading	47
Writing	48
Other Assignments and Learning Activities	1
Exams & Quizzes	0
TOTAL	138

Method for Submitting Assignments

All assignments for online courses will be submitted using the corresponding location within the Moodle course.

Form and Style Expectations

It is expected that writing assignments will be submitted in good style and format, and will be free from grammatical, spelling, and typographical errors. The quality of your written work will have an impact on the grade you receive. You may format your essays in accordance with the conventions of Kate Turabian’s *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*, or the *Chicago Manual of Style*. All written assignments should be double spaced and use a standard 12 point font.

Inclusive Language

NTS is committed to the equality of women and men. Recognizing that people have often used the English language in ways that imply the exclusion or inferiority of women, NTS urges students, faculty, and staff to avoid sexist language in public discourse, in classroom discussions, and in their writings. All written work presented to meet course requirements must use gender inclusive language.

Policy Regarding Late Work & Missed Exams

I do not accept late work except in cases of severe illness requiring extended hospitalization, a note from the dean, or a death in the family.

Course Grading

Assignment	Due Date	Weight for course grade
A. Wright Book Review Kirk Book Review	6/20 7/5	20% (10% each)
B. Integrative Paper	7/15	30%
C. Peer Critiques	TBD	10%
D. Reading Log	Weekly	10%
E. Class Participation	Weekly	30%
TOTAL		100%

100-91: A 90-81: B 80-71: C 70-60: D 59 or Below: F

Grade Descriptions

A. Excellent

A to A- This is work that is outstanding in every way, exceptional, marked by accuracy, creativity, scholarship, and/ or integrative thinking combined with good style.

B. Good to Very Good

B+ to B: This is work that is very good, accurately done, reflecting a proper grasp of the material, and done with interesting style.

B to B-: This is work that is good, but tends towards inaccuracy and imbalance, is written in a flat and unengaging style, ideas are present, but not developed.

C. Fair

C+ to C: This is work that is marginally satisfactory because it is deficient in identifiable areas of accuracy, clarity, balance; ideas are vague and disorganized.

C to C-: This is work that is not far from being unacceptable, reflecting serious inadequacies in dealing with the material.

D. Unsatisfactory; Just Passable

This is work that has been submitted, but is not satisfactory. It has dealt with the material, but in such an inaccurate or incomplete way that it cannot be judged as acceptable work.

F. Failure

This is a grade assigned to a paper, exam, or course in which the student has not submitted the required work or who has so completely distorted the assignment that it bears no resemblance to what was required.

If a student does not meet class participation standards in an online environment for four or more weeks, the professor may automatically fail the student.

In accordance with the provisions of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, NTS is committed to providing students with disabilities the opportunity to participate and benefit from its programs and activities. Accordingly NTS will make reasonable modifications to its programs and activities to accommodate otherwise qualified students with disabilities, unless such modifications would impose an undue burden on the operation of the particular program or activity or would

fundamentally alter the nature or purpose of the program or activity. Students needing accommodations should contact the Office of the Registrar. They also should contact the instructor no later than the end of the first class session to discuss learning needs and adaptive strategies that have been beneficial for the student in the past.

Class Attendance

Attendance at classes is essential for realizing the maximum benefit of your education. Since the professor in each course is best acquainted with the importance of consistent attendance, he or she will determine the rules for attendance.

If a student does not meet class participation standards in an online environment for four or more weeks, the professor may automatically fail the student.

Course Calendar

Date	Week	Assignment
5/9	1	Each student will submit a personal introduction in the forum.
5/16	2	Topic: What is Theology of Mission? Read: Kirk pp. 1-55, Wright pp.19-32, Tennent pp. 15-52 Assignment: Submit integrative paper topic for approval (due 5/20)
5/23	3	Topic: Historical Development Read: Günther article: The History and Significance of World Mission Conferences in the 20th Century. Read: Tennent, 229-321 Video clips of Christopher Wright and Dana Robert
5/30	4	Topic: Scripture and Mission Theology Read: Carson Article, on current issues in Biblical Theology Read: Tennent pp.105-158, Wright pp.35-95
6/6	5	Topic: Biblical Basis for Mission Read: Panta ta ethne lecture and John Piper’s article: “The Supremacy of God among all the Nations.” Read: Christopher Wright pp.96-221
6/13	6	Topic: Biblical Basis for Mission Read: Christopher Wright pp. 222-287 Read: DeCarvalho article: “What’s Wrong with the Label Managerial”
6/20	7	Topic: A Missional Hermeneutic Read: Goheen article: Continuing Steps... Read: Goheen article: The Urgency of Reading the Bible as One Story Read: Fleming article: A Paradigm from Paul Read: Brownson article: Speaking the Truth in Love Assignment: Review of Wright’s book (due 6/20)
6/27	8	Topic: Contextual factors which shape a theology of mission Read: D. Wesley article: Congregational Mission in Context
7/5	9	The influence of Lesslie Newbigin and David Bosch on Mission Theology

		Read: Shenk article Read: Roxborough article: After Bosch: The Future of Missiology Assignment: Review of Kirk's book (due 7/5)
7/11	10	Missionary Ecclesiology Read: D. Wesley article: The Church as Missionary Assignment: Integrative Paper (due 7/15)
7/18	11	Trinitarian focused mission: Read: Tennent pp. 53-101 Student integrative work
7/25	12	Student integrative work
8/1	13	Student Integrative work

Bibliography Cited in Lectures

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- Beyerhaus, Peter. 1973. The Theology of Salvation at Bangkok. *Evangelical Missions Quarterly* 9, no. 3: 150-161.
- Bosch, David J. 1991. *Transforming Mission: Paradigm Shifts in Theology of Mission*. Mary Knoll, NY: Orbis Books.
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- Brownson, James. 1996. Speaking the Truth in Love: Elements of a Missional Hermeneutic. In *The Church between Gospel and culture: the emerging mission in North America*, ed. George R. Hunsberger and Craig Van Gelder. Grand Rapids: W.B. Eerdmans Pub. Co.
- _____. "A Response at AAR to Hunsberger's 'Proposals...' Essay"
(<http://www.gocn.org/resources/articles/response-aar-hunsberger-s-proposals-essay>).
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- _____. 1980. *Planting Churches Cross-Culturally: A Guide for Home and Foreign Missions*. Grand Rapids, Mich.: Baker Book House, 47-48.
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