

Wesley Theological Seminary
Course of Study
Winter Hybrid Session
January On-line and February 23-24, 2018

COS 423 – Mission
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Please read this study guide in its entirety before beginning your work.

This course introduces the theology and scope of mission, and the pastor's role in leading congregations in their mission as agents of God's transforming redemption.

Students will be able to:

1. Articulate a biblical and theological framework for Christian mission.
2. Explain the Wesleyan relationship of personal piety and social holiness.
3. Examine and reflect on unjust social realities and the response of the church locally and globally.
4. Analyze their ministry context and develop strategies for transforming mission.

Required Texts:

- Robert, Dana L. *Christian Mission: How Christianity Became a World Religion*
- Volf, Miroslav. *A Public Faith: How Followers of Christ Should Serve the Common Good*
- Daniels, Joe, Jr. *Walking with Nehemiah: Your Community is Your Congregation*

Supplemental Texts:

- Bandy, Thomas. *See, Know & Serve the People Within Your Reach*

Other Tools:

Use MissionInsite (check with your conference for free access and instructions), U.S. Census Data, Experian, or another reputable resource to run the demographic report for the 10-page writing assignment.

Assignments:

One paper of 10 pages, written in size 12 font, Times New Roman, double spaced. Follow the *MLA Style Manual and Guide to Scholarly Publishing* for in-text citations, endnotes/footnotes and works cited.

A. DISCUSSION QUESTIONS: SUBMITTED TO BLACKBOARD

Using *Christian Mission* and *A Public Faith* as a basis, articulate your understanding of what it means to be a church on mission, answer the following questions respectively in Blackboard:

1. What three things have you learned about mission? Why are they important to you and your ministry? **Due: January 8, 2018**
2. Identify at least three important questions that were raised for you in the course of your reading and why these are important questions to be answered from a practical perspective. These questions should be things you don't understand, things you disagree with and/or need further explanation or clarity about given other things you have read/observed. **Due: January 15, 2018**
3. Read your classmates' responses to Question 2. Respond to at least one question each from three different persons, adding your own dialogue, insights, and questions in light of what you took from the reading. **Due: January 22, 2018**
4. How is the Wesleyan relationship of personal piety and social holiness related to these texts? **Due: January 22, 2018**
5. What applications do you see to your ministry and the mission of your congregation? How will the concepts articulated make an impact on your ministry? **Due: January 29, 2018**

B. NEHEMIAH EXERCISE AND REPORT DUE: February 20, 2018

Read *Walking with Nehemiah*. Run a demographic report on a one- to ten-mile radius of your church based on your context. (For example, an urban church may need a smaller radius than a rural church. Use your best judgement based on your context to best represent your neighborhood.) Spend some time driving and/or walking this neighborhood. Have at least 12 Relational 1:1 conversations, answer the questions at the end of steps 1-6 in the text, and then reflect on implementation implications raised in steps 7-9.

1. For whom or what does your heart break? In your answer, reflect on the unjust social reality this points to and the response of the church locally and/or globally.
2. For what do you need to pray? How will what you observed shape the nature of your prayers?
3. Are you "all-in"? If not, which of the three steps in the chapter challenge you?
4. What risk is God asking you to take so that your position can be used for good? Answer the congregational questions on page 46.
5. What does your community inspection reveal? In addition to relational 1:1s, demographic analysis, and identifying "mayors," also include:
 - a. The needs for justice, advocacy, reconciliation, and compassion you discovered in your community.
 - b. Community organizations that are currently operating in those arenas.
 - c. Ideas you have for how needs could be met—including what you see as things your congregation is uniquely positioned to address.
6. What needs to be shared to gain the commitment of others in your congregation and community?
7. As you reflect on the implementation aspects described in steps 7-9, what will you be most mindful of as you lead your congregation to rebuild lives, congregations, and communities?

NOTE: Submit your paper to Blackboard. The above paper will be duplicated and distributed to class members for purposes of consultation and discussion during the course.

Additional information:

1. All written work shall be submitted via Blackboard. You should have received a login to the Wesley system either with your confirmation packet if this is your first time to Wesley, or in previous mailings. **If you do not know your log on, please contact Sara Sheppard.** ssheppard@wesleyseminary.edu
2. Please be sure **to include the date, your name and conference on each paper** you submit via Blackboard.
3. Be aware of the Seminary policy on plagiarism. If you do not know what plagiarism is, please go to the website and find the policy in the student handbook. Plagiarism will not be tolerated and will result in a failing grade.
4. If you need help with writing, you can contact the Writing Center at Wesley. Their contact information is 202-885-8671. The staff there is happy to assist you with writing inquiries, *but it not their job to write the paper for you.*

Attendance:

Attendance is mandatory for the on-campus session.

Grading:

Wesley grades on a standard A through C- scale. Late papers will receive a grade reduction. Discussion questions in Blackboard that are received after the deadline will receive a reduction of a half letter grade (ex. A to A-). Assignments received after the first day of class will receive whole letter grade reduction (ex. B to C). ALL course work must be received before the end of the last day of class for each term. Failure to do so will result in a failing grade and the student will have to repeat the course.

Final grades will be mailed out to the student, the GBHEM in Nashville and the student's conference representative by the end of March. Grades are not submitted on-line.