

Wesley Theological Seminary Weekend Course of Study School at Wesley Seminary

August (on-line) and September 11-12, 2020

CS-423 Mission

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Course Description

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.

Texts:

Jennings Jr., Theodore W., *Good News to the Poor*, Nashville: Abingdon 1990.

Lupton, Robert D., *Toxic Charity*, New York: HarperCollins, 2011. (Paperback 2012)

Robert, Dana, *Christian Mission*. Malden, MA: Wiley-Blackwell, 2009.

Selected articles to be provided

Assignments

Due August 12, 2020

Part 1: Book Summaries (30% of grade) For each of the books, write a two-page response as outlined below. Please start your reflection on each book on a new page. You must cite the page numbers of references for mentions of the books in parentheses. Write your responses in paragraphs; bullet points or outlines are not acceptable. Each response should speak to the learnings, questions, and applications you gained from the reading.

- Describe at least three things about mission you have learned from this reading—new knowledge, insights, understandings, perspectives, and/or analysis of issues.
- Pose at least three questions related to mission that you have about the reading—things you don't understand, disagree with, or need further explanation or clarification about.

- Identify at least three applications to the ministry and mission of your congregation. How can the concepts written in each book make an impact on your ministry?

Part 2: Community Analysis (15% of grade) Write a 4-page analysis of your church(es) and local community as context for mission. What does the demographic makeup of your church(es) and community, its history and culture mean for ministry in your context? In particular, what are the needs in your community for justice, reconciliation, healing, and hospitality? What attempts have been made to address those needs to date? What obstacles have prevented addressing them in the past?

Due September 10, 2020

Personal statement of mission (45% of grade) Drawing on the work and readings of the course and prior education in the COS program, write a 10 page personal statement of mission. This statement should be divided into four sections:

1. How do you define mission?
2. How do you understand God's mission in the world?
3. What is the church and how does it relate to God's mission?
4. What is your personal sense of mission?

For the first three sections, you must cite biblical, historical, and theological resources help inform your sense of mission. In other words, quote Bible passages and other things you have read in this course and in other courses in the Course of Study to support your argument. All sources must be cited.

Part of the purpose of this assignment is to encourage you to synthesize your learning from other courses and this one, but students found reproducing sections of papers produced for other courses will receive a failing grade on this assignment.

All papers will be evaluated by the standards of the assignment, clarity of writing, accuracy, consistency, the ability to make a coherent argument, and fidelity to proper academic standards, including accurate quotation and citation of sources. Papers must include complete references. Proper citation of all sources is expected. Please submit all papers double spaced in Times New Roman, 12 point font, with 1 inch margins. Papers more than 1 page shorter or longer than the page requirements will be marked down accordingly.

Class Participation (10% of grade) All students are expected to be present and engaged during class time. A few, short additional readings will be provided for use in class in September. Students will be expected to demonstrate they have read and engaged with that material.