

**Wesley Theological Seminary**  
**Course of Study Online Sessions**  
**CS-423 Mission**  
July 15-19, 2024

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**Course Objective**

This course will provide an introduction to the theology and breadth of mission, as well as the responsibilities of pastors in guiding congregations as active participants in God's transformative redemption. Upon completion, students will have the ability to:

- Clearly articulate a biblical and theological basis for Christian mission.
- Describe the connection between personal piety and social holiness in the Wesleyan tradition.
- Investigate and contemplate unjust social conditions and how the church reacts to them on both local and global scales.
- Assess their ministry environment and create plans for mission transformation.

**Required Books**

*Robert, Dana, Christian Mission. Malden, MA: Wiley-Blackwell, 2009.*  
*Volf, Miroslav, A Public Faith. Grand Rapids, MI: Brazos Press, 2011*  
*Warner, Lacey and Gaston Warner, From Relief to Empowerment. Nashville, TN: General Board of Higher Education and Ministry, 2018.*

**Pre-Class Introductory Zoom**

Introduction to the class via Zoom will be held on *June 5, 2025 from 7:00 pm-8:00 pm*. This session is intended to review the syllabus and establish clear expectations for the classwork. This session is not required. However, it will be highly beneficial to our work together. For this session, please watch: Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie "The Power of A Single Story," <https://youtu.be/D9Ihs241zeg?feature=shared>.

**Course Meeting Times**

The course will begin asynchronously in June with synchronous Zoom sessions from Monday, July 14, 2025 - Friday, July 18, 2025, 8 am - 10:45 am.

## **Assignments**

### **Due: June 20, 2025**

#### Part 1: Book Summaries (20% of grade)

For each of the books, write a 1–2-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 two 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 two applications to the ministry and mission of your congregation. How can the concepts written in each book make an impact on your ministry?

### **Due June 30, 2025**

#### Part 2: Community Analysis (15% of grade)

Write a 2–4-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 July 3, 2024**

#### Feature Films (20% of grade)

From the list of movies below, select two. After watching the movies write a 2-3 page reflection, one each movie, focused on how the movie speaks to Christian missions. Use the texts for the class guide your reflection, however, this is intended to be your thoughts not a series of quotes from the movies, or the authors. Be sure to highlight points of resonance and dissonance with your understanding of mission. Finally, include how you would apply your reflections of the movie to the ministry context you are serving.

- DuVernay, A. (2014). *Selma*. Paramount Pictures.
- Joffe, R. (1986). *The Mission*. Warner Brothers.
- Raul, J. (1989). *Romero*. Warner Brothers.  
(<https://youtu.be/zEAUxgkb7Ac?feature=shared>)
- Ridley, J. (2024). *Shirley*. Royal Ties Production (Netflix) [About [Shirley Chisholm](#)]

## **Due July 18, 2025**

Personal statement of mission (30% of grade) Drawing on the work and readings of the course and prior education in the COS program, write a 8-10 page personal statement of mission. This statement should be divided into four sections:

- Section I: How do you define mission?
- Section II: How do you understand God's mission in the world?
- Section III: What is the church and how does it relate to God's mission?
- Section IV: What is your personal sense of mission?

For the first three sections, you must cite biblical, historical, and theological resources that inform your sense of mission from this and other COS courses to support your suppositions. All sources must be cited. Part of the purpose of this assignment is to demonstrate integrative learning. 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 (15% of grade)

**All students are expected to be present and engaged during class time. A few, short additional readings may be provided for use during Zoom sessions in July. Students will be expected to demonstrate they have read and engaged with that material.**

### Zoom Sessions

All Zoom sessions will be from 8:00 am -10:45 am (EST) with a break in the middle. It is expected students will attend each session in its entirety. Limited exceptions can be made in consultation with the instructor.

Here is an outline of the material that will be primary to each day.

<b>Monday (7/14)</b>	<b>Tuesday (7/15)</b>	<b>Wednesday (7/16)</b>	<b>Thursday (7/17)</b>	<b>Friday (7/18)</b>
History of Christian Mission	Foundations of Mission	Purpose of Mission	Mission vs. Charity	Wrap-up

