Instructor
Dr. Michael Goheen, Professor of Missional Theology
Email: michaelwgoheen@gmail.com
Webpage: www.missionworldview.com

Course Description
This course will begin by analyzing the fourfold dynamic of gospel, biblical story, mission, and missionary encounter with culture. Then we will reflect on the church’s missional vocation in the world and congregational practices that sustain the vocation. Finally, we will attempt to grasp our changing Western cultural context.

Course Objectives
• To analyze the dynamic of gospel, biblical story, mission, and missionary encounter
• To investigate the vocation of the church in the world
• To probe the congregational life of a missional church
• To reflect on our changing cultural context in the West

Course Outline
• Laying the Foundation: Gospel, biblical story, missional church, and missionary encounter with culture
  • Vocation of the church in the world
    o Missionary dimension and intention
    o Life together: A distinct community
    o Life scattered: Vocational mission
    o Justice and mercy
    o Evangelism
  • Congregational life
    o Gathered and scattered church
    o Worship
    o Ecclesial structures
    o Leadership
• A Missionary Encounter with Western Culture
  o What is a missionary encounter?
  o Understanding the nature of culture
  o Missionary analysis of Western culture
  o Contextualization

Course Requirements
1. All students are expected to attend and participate in all class periods. You will be asked to write the following (10% of final grade):
I pledge my honor that I have attended all the classes. OR
I pledge my honor that I have attended all the classes except for . . .

2. All assigned readings should be completed. You will be asked to write one of the following at the end of the course (15% of final grade):

I pledge my honor that I have completed all the assigned readings. OR
I pledge my honor that I have completed all the assigned readings except for . . .
[Canadian spellings of honour will be looked upon favourably! ☺]

3. Reflection paper on mission and areas of congregational life (25% of final grade)
4. Reflection paper on Foolishness to the Greeks (20% of final grade)
5. Assessment paper on your church (30% of final grade)

**Required Reading**


Choose any additional 500 pages from bibliography below. (If there are other books you’d like to read that you believe fall within the content of this course you can clear that with me.).

**Church and Mission**


C. John Miller, Outgrowing the Ingrown Church (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1986).


Charles Van Engen, God’s Missionary People: Rethinking the Purpose of the Local Church (Grand Rapids: Baker, 1991).


CULTURE AND MISSION


David Bosch, Believing in the Future: Toward a Missiology of Western Culture (Valley Forge: Trinity, 1995).


Dean Flemming, Contextualization in the New Testament: Patterns for Theology and Mission (Downers Grove, IL: IVP, 2005.)


Bob Goudzwaard, Capitalism and Progress: A Diagnosis of Western Society (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1979). Can be found online.


Richard Middleton and Brian Walsh, Truth is Stranger Than it Used to Be: Biblical Faith in a Postmodern Age (Downers Grove, IL: IVP, 2006).


N. T. Wright, *Bringing the Church to the World: Renewing the Church to Confront the Paganism Entrenched in Western Culture* (Minneapolis, MN: Bethany House, 1992).

**Assignments**

1. **Reflection paper (25% of grade)**

   *Before January class:* Read two required texts *A Light to the Nations* and *The Church and Its Vocation* and ask the following question: How does a missional ecclesiology reshape … (Pick two from the following: preaching, sacraments, worship, leadership, congregational structures). Due week of January class.

   Much of our church practice was developed during Christendom when the church had little sense of its missionary vocation. I was a church planter and pastor in the 1980s. Then I wrote a doctoral dissertation on Lesslie Newbigin’s missionary ecclesiology in the 1990s. I then asked what would be different if I pastored again. The fruit of that reflection is found in the last chapter of *A Light to the Nations*. I am asking you to do something similar. I have given five areas of congregational life. If there are other areas you would like to explore that is fine. This is meant to ‘prime the pump’ and get you thinking about a missional ecclesiology and the life of the congregation. The paper is to be 2500 words, or about 1250 or 1500 words per item. There is no need for other references other than the reading in preparation for the course. It is not a research paper but a reflection paper.

2. **Reflection paper (20% of grade)**

   *Before January class:* Read required text *Foolishness to the Greeks* and write a 2000-word reflection paper interacting with the significance of this book for the church today. Due: Week of January class.

3. **Assessment paper (30% of grade)**

   *After January class:* Write 3000-word assessment of your church. Discuss areas of strength and weakness, and articulate the next steps your congregation must take toward a faithful missional ecclesiology. The paper should be in three parts: 1) Assessment of life of congregation; 2) Assessment of vocation of church in world; 3) Next steps toward growing faithfulness. Discuss areas of strength and weakness.

4. **Further comments on writing assignments.**

   - First two papers due week of January class.
   - Final paper due 10 May 2019. (Submit reading and attendance pledges with this paper)
   - I prefer to receive them by email electronically (michaelwgoheen@gmail.com)
   - I grade based on the unity and coherence of writing, depth of insight into issues discussed in the book, ability to analyze in light of gospel and of the relevance for the missional calling of the church today.
**Personal Notes**

**Contact**

You can reach me easiest by email. You may call me as well (480.717.0099). You may also make an appointment to meet with me during my few days in St Louis. But be warned I am only there for a very short period of time.

**Academic Honesty**

As part of our purpose to train servants of the triune God to walk with God in all of life, we expect godly integrity in the academic work done at Covenant. At the heart of this members of Covenant’s community will not engage in presenting the ideas of others as their own (plagiarism) or in violating the rules under which papers, projects, and examinations are to be completed (cheating). Please refer to the Student Handbook for a complete explanation of this policy. The first violation of academic honesty standards will result in failure of the assignment or test in question and could, depending on the assignment, result in failure of the class. A second violation will result in dismissal from the institution.

**Electronics in the Classroom**

Students may use computers in class, but only as devices dedicated to accessing the course materials and taking notes. Students may not go online, email, text, tweet, google, or otherwise engage in electronic communication during class time. This includes both sending and receiving information, both of which are detrimental to primary course aims. The instructor will lower the grade of students who violate this policy. Basically, “unplugged” is the word. During class time, students need to connect with the instructor, the course material, and issues the material raises. I will reduce a grade if this policy is not followed.

**Course Evaluations**

Course evaluations function as crucial feedback loops for the courses offered at Covenant Seminary. The administration reads the evaluations carefully, and the evaluations help students discern their personal progress toward Covenant’s missional outcomes. Course evaluations are administered through the Portal and are confidential unless the student chooses to disclose his or her name. Students should complete a course evaluation at the end of each course he or she takes. Because completion of course evaluations are required, students will not be able to see the final course grade on the Portal until that course’s evaluation has been completed.

**Writing Center**

For tutorial help with your writing, contact The Scribe (Covenant’s Writing Resource Center) in the library. Go to the front desk of the library or email scribe@covenantseminary.edu.