

MISS5330 INTRODUCTION TO CHRISTIAN MISSIONS
New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary

Disclaimer: This syllabus is intended to give the student a general idea of the content, format, and textbooks used for this class. The professor will submit a full syllabus at the beginning of the class which will contain a course schedule and the instructor's information.

Mission Statement

The mission of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary is to equip leaders to fulfill the Great Commission and the Great Commandments through the local church and its ministries.

Course Purpose, Core Value Focus, and Curriculum Competencies Addressed

The purpose of this course is to carry out the mission of NOBTS as is reflected through the core values and the core competencies in the following ways:

Core Values

1. Doctrinal Integrity- The course will follow the confessional commitments that are outlined in the Articles of Religious Belief and the Baptist Faith and Message 2000
2. Spiritual Vitality- The professor will teach that missions without spiritual vitality is ineffective for the Kingdom of God.
3. Mission focus- The core of this course related to the mission focus of the seminary.
4. Characteristic Excellence- The professor will teach that missions is a service to Christ and therefore should be rendered with characteristic excellence.
5. Servant Leadership- The professor will teach that servant leadership is a crucial aspect of those involved in missions

Core Competencies- The seminar will address six of the seven competencies:

1. Biblical Exposition- The biblical foundations of missions will be examined..
2. Christian Theological Heritage- The history of Christian missions will be examined.
3. Disciple Making- Disciple making in a mission context will be explored..
4. Interpersonal Skills- Students will be challenged to see the vital connection between interpersonal skills and missions.
5. Servant Leadership- The servant leadership nature of missions will be explored..
6. Spiritual and Character Formation-Students will be exposed, through reading and contact, with those who model Christian character and devotion in mission settings.

Course Description

In this course students are introduced to Christian missions through a brief examination of biblical and theological foundations and a historical overview. Attention is given to the International and North American Mission Boards of the Southern Baptist Convention, including their administration and programs. Particular attention is given to strategic concerns affecting the future of the mission enterprise.

Student Course Objectives

In order to help fulfill the Great Commission, the students, by the end of the course, should:

1. Be able to apply their knowledge and comprehension of the biblical, theological, historical, and cultural foundations of Christian Missions to the process of mobilizing the church for missions.
2. Develop a church missions strategy based on partnership with SBC missions organizations.
3. Value strategic concerns affecting the future of missions.
4. Be able to accomplish the following:
 - a) Participate in a volunteer missions experience.
 - b) Advocate missions among Southern Baptists.

Course Teaching Methodology

A variety of teaching methods will be utilized such as online presentations by the professor, PowerPoint presentations, readings, and online handouts. There will be frequent brief audio lectures. Students will spend time with online mission resources. Other teaching methods include discussions on Blackboard forums.

Textbook

Barnett, Mike and Robin Martin, eds. *Discovering the Mission of God: Best Missional Practices for the 21st Century*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP Academic, 2012.

Course Requirements

1. Once each student has completed the registration procedures and had cleared the business office, he or she will be automatically enrolled in the Blackboard portion of the course during the week of Aug. 23-27 (Do not be surprised if it is toward the end of that week). The class will begin on Aug. 30. The first thing each student should do is go through “Unit 1: Getting Started”. This will explain course procedures. The work in this unit (not a big unit) is due on Aug. 31.
2. Students should proceed through the learning units in numerical order beginning with “Unit 1: Getting Started.” New units will be released weekly so students should not expect to work ahead too far. With the exception of the shorter Unit One, all units should be completed by Sat. of each week. For the first week of the class the first unit is due on Tues., Aug. 31 and the second unit is due on Sat. Sept. 4. All units must be completed along with required readings. At the end of each section of a unit students will indicate completion of that section of the unit by clicking on the “Reviewed” button. Orderly completion of the weekly Units along with attention to the specific assignments given in this syllabus will keep the student on track for successful completion of the course.
3. Reading, review, and completion of unit materials. Mark each item as reviewed when you have completed it. A quiz may be given on any materials in or assigned in the unit.
4. Outside Projects (Assignments not found in Blackboard Units but to be submitted on Blackboard as noted below):
 - a. **Reflection Paper.** Write a 3-4 page reflection paper on how you sense God’s leadership to be involved in missions? Describe how you have examined the missionary call to determine whether or not God has or is calling you to service as a long-term missionary at this

point in time. Include how you will be available for possible short term missionary service in your ministry if not called to long-term missionary service. Discuss further aspects of how you will be involved in missions. Chapter twenty of the text, *Missiology*, provides helpful insights for exploring a missionary call in one's life and should be consulted for this reflection paper. The paper should include appropriate references to Bible verses and passages and other sources as needed. It may be written using first person. The reflection paper will be graded for clarity, content, creative expression, and proper grammatical expression and form. This assignment is due on Nov. 6.

b. **Acts 1:8 Plan.** Develop a plan for enlisting your church as an Acts 1:8 Church.

Make sure that you have adequately addressed each of the requirements for a church to become an Acts 1:8 Church. If your church is already an Acts 1:8 Church develop your plan for another church. Your plan should be given to several key leaders of the church for actual consideration. Your church does not have to act on the proposal. The plan is due on Oct. 16. Helps for the Acts 1:8 Plan can be found on the External Links site.

c. **Volunteer service.** Spend 4 hours in volunteer mission work. Report on the experience in the Blackboard Discussion Board. Clear the volunteer experience with the professor before you commit to the volunteer placement. The volunteer work must be completed Nov. 2 and the discussion entered in Blackboard by Nov.6.

d. **Missionary Biography.** After reading your missionary biography (from a list supplied by the instructor) post a discussion of the missionary to this discussion board. Your discussion should be three or four substantial paragraphs in which you discuss the missionary and the ministry of that missionary. Evaluate the life and work of the missionary and point out major contributions. After posting your discussion read and respond to at least 10 other posts. The post on your missionary biography should be entered by Nov. 11 and your response to 10 other posts should be completed by Nov. 14.

e. **Research Project.** Do **one of** the following projects:

A. Develop a people profile for an unreached people group (to be selected in consultation with the professor). This will be in the form of a research paper.

B. Write a research paper on a topic approved by the professor.

By Sept. 25 each student will submit the topic of the project in the appropriate discussion forum. By Oct. 16 each student will turn in a preliminary outline of his or her project with at least 6 of the 14 sources that will be used. By Oct. 30 a detailed outline with at least 12 sources should be submitted. The final project is due on Dec. 6 and should be submitted on the appropriate discussion board so that all students will have access to papers. The paper should be at least 12-14 pages in length (the text portion) and use at least 14 sources. All papers should be in Turabian format. Use footnotes to show your sources. Extreme care should be taken to avoid plagiarism. Students will also be responsible for reviewing other research papers as assigned at the end of the semester by Dec. 11. Failure to review the assigned research papers of fellow students will negatively impact your research paper grade.

Unless otherwise noted all assignments will be uploaded into the appropriate assignment section through Blackboard. It is the student's responsibility to keep a backup copy of ALL assignments.

NOTE:. Assignments turned in late will receive an automatic 15 point deduction for the first day, and a 10 point deduction for each additional weekday late.

ALL ASSIGNMENTS MUST BE COMPLETED IN ORDER TO PASS THE COURSE.

Netiquette Statement on Appropriate Online Behavior

Each student is expected to demonstrate appropriate Christian behavior when working online on the Discussion Board. The student is expected to interact with other students in a fashion that will promote learning and respect for the opinions of others in the course. A spirit of Christian charity will be expected at all times in the online environment.

Course Evaluation

Final Exam 10%
Unit Quizzes 15%
Acts 1:8 Church Plan 10%
Research Project Preliminaries 5%
Research Project 20%
Reflection Paper 5%
Volunteer Hours 5%
Missionary Biography 10%
Completion of Unit Assignments
including Discussion Forums 20%

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Remainder of NOBTS Bible Bible Reading (begun last academic year)

August 23-31, 2010

AUGUST

23 Micah 5:1-7:20, Revelation 14:1-20, Psalm 145:14-21, Proverbs 31:10-12

24 Nahum 1:1-3:19, Revelation 15:1-16:11, Psalm 146:1-10, Proverbs 31:13-14

25 Habakkuk 1:1-3:19, Revelation 16:12-17:8, Psalm 147:1-6, Proverbs 31:15-17

26 Zeph 1:1-3:20, Revelation 17:9-18:8, Psalm 147:7-14, Proverbs 31:18-19

27 Haggai 1:1- Zechariah 1:21, Revelation 18:9-24, Psalm 147:15-20, Proverbs 31:20-22

28 Zech 2:1-6:15, Revelation 19:1-21, Psalm 148:1-6, Proverbs 31:23-25

29 Zech 7:1-10:12, Revelation 20:1-21:4, Psalm 148:7-14, Proverbs 31:26-27

30 Zech 11:1-14:21, Revelation 21:5-27, Psalm 149:1-9, Proverbs 31:28-29

31 Malachi 1:1-4:6, Revelation 22:1-21, Psalm 150:1-6, Proverbs 31:30-31