



**Christian Missions MISS5330 (Mentoring)**  
**New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary**  
**Church Ministries Division**  
**Fall 2022**

Dr. Greg Mathias  
Associate Professor Global Missions  
Office: Global Mission Center  
Phone:(504) 816-8063  
Email: gmathias@nobts.edu

**Mission Statement**

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary and Leavell College prepare servants to walk with Christ, proclaim His truth, and fulfill His mission.

**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 Learning Outcomes**

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.

**Textbook**

In addition to the Bible, the course text will be as follows:

Akin, Daniel L., Benjamin L. Merkle, and George G. Robinson. *40 Questions About The Great Commission* (Grand Rapids, Kregel, 2020).

Moreau, Scott A., Gary R. Corwin, and Gary B. McGee. *Introducing World Missions: A Biblical, Historical, and Practical Theology*. 2<sup>nd</sup> edition. (Grand Rapids, Baker Academic, 2015).

Spitters, Denny and Matthew Ellison. *When Everything Is Missions*. (BottomLine Media, 2017).

## Course Teaching Methodology

The course will involve the following methodologies:

The course will emphasize a learning experience through the practical application of principles of missions under the guidance of an on-site mentor. The one hour per week meeting of the student with his or her mentor is an absolutely essential component of this learning experience. Lecture presentations and online resources will be utilized to teach course concepts.

## Course Requirements

### 1. Mentorship Hours, Meetings, and Reports

- A. The student will be required to fulfill the requirements of the mentorship, including the minimum of 45 hours working in the ministry setting during the semester. These specified hours do not include the weekly scheduled times for worship and Bible study.
- B. The student will meet with the mentor for at least an hour EACH week to discuss personal and ministry issues, mission issues, and hours worked. The student will submit weekly reports of the mentorship and ministry experiences by **each Saturday at 11:55 p.m.** in the assignment folder of Canvas. **The first report is due on Sat., Aug. 27.** Additional mission items for discussion with your mentor will be given in each unit. The reports should be at least two to three paragraphs long with at least one paragraph devoted to discussing the topics discussed during the mentor meeting and one paragraph devoted to the ministry experiences of the week. Touch on each assigned discussion topic in your weekly report. **IMPORTANT:** You will need to have done the assigned reading for the week's assigned unit **BEFORE** you have your weekly meeting with your mentor.

### 2. Required Reading, Reactions, and Journal

The student will read assigned sections in the course textbooks and turn in reading reactions each week (**for Moreau and Spitters texts**). The assignment should be between 350-500 words single spaced per text if multiple course text readings for that week. These reactions can include a brief summary and key insights about the reading. Students will lose points if the paper is merely a summary of the reading. The discipline of writing will help clarify thinking and deepen the understanding of the subject.

*For the 40 Questions and Acts Journal* (25%): Students will read *40 Questions About The Great Commission* along with the *Book of Acts*. Students will keep a journal composed of the following: Answering at least 1 of the questions at the end of each chapter in *40 Questions*, reflect on one insight/challenge/thought from *Acts* (1-2 per chapter), and insights/thoughts on how you might communicate this topic to those in your churches (congregation, small group, children, etc.). The professor desires for these reflections to be used as part of your weekly mentorship discussions. **Due via Canvas by 11:55 p.m. on Dec 3, 2022.**

Each paper should begin with a simple declarative statement affirming the approximate percentage of the readings completed each week (see below). If the entire readings were not completed, then the grade will be lowered to correspond with the amount not read.

I, \_\_\_\_\_[insert name]\_\_\_\_\_, read \_\_\_\_\_[100, 90, etc.]\_ % of this week's course readings.

### 3. Canvas Units

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. The week’s assigned unit should be completed by Sat. of each week. All units must be completed along with required readings. Students will indicate completion of each item in a 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.

### 4. Missionary Biography

Choose a Christian missions biography and get approval from the professor. Each student will then read the chosen biography and prepare a 6-8 paragraph discussion of the book in the “Discussion” folder in Canvas. The discussion should be a brief summary of the person, context, and work along with key lessons (positive and negative) learned about missions/evangelism strategies.

**This discussion is due on Oct. 22.** Selection of the biographies will be on a first come, first serve basis with choices entered in the appropriate discussion forum by Sept. 17. After submission of final discussions, each student will also read the reports of others in the class.

### 5. Missional Reflection Paper

Write an 10-12 paragraph discussion 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. The paper should include appropriate references to Bible verses and passages and other sources as needed.

#### **Some guiding questions for the paper:**

- “What is my understanding of the biblical/theological basis for missions?”
- “What is present status of my life’s practice when it comes to praying for and sharing the gospel with my neighbors and the nations?”
- “What motivates me to engage personally the nations locally and globally?”
- “What hinders me from going to the nations?”

This assignment is an introspective paper. It can be written in first person. No title page is needed. The discussion will be graded for clarity, content, creative expression, and proper grammatical expression and form. Be sure to include your name and student ID on the first page. **Due by 11:55pm on Nov. 19, 2022 and should be posted in the discussion board.**

### 6. Volunteer Service (Optional Assignment)

This is an optional assignment. Three points will be added to your final average for completion of this assignment. Spend 4 hours in volunteer work outside your normal work hours in a mission setting. Report on the experience in the Canvas Discussion Board. **Clear the volunteer experience with the professor before you commit to the volunteer placement.** If you chose to do this assignment the experience must be completed and the discussion entered in Canvas by Nov 6.

## Evaluation of Grade

The student's grade will be computed as follows:

Mentorship Meetings and Reports	35%
Completion of Canvas Units/Reading Reflections/Journal	35%
Missionary Biography Paper	15%
Missional Reflection Paper	15%

Late assignments will be penalized 10 points per day late.

## Attendance Policy

Students are expected to engage regularly with course content through the learning management system and other course delivery methods. Students who fail to participate consistently in course activities may receive a grade of “F” for the course.

## Technical Assistance

For assistance regarding technology, consult ITC (504-816-8180) or the following websites:

1. [Selfserve@nobts.edu](mailto:Selfserve@nobts.edu) - Email for technical questions/support requests with the [Selfserve.nobts.edu](http://Selfserve.nobts.edu) site (Access to online registration, financial account, online transcript, etc.)
2. [Canvas.NOBTS.com](http://Canvas.NOBTS.com) Click on the “Help” button for technical questions/support requests regarding the NOBTS Canvas System. You can also email questions to [Canvas@nobts.edu](mailto:Canvas@nobts.edu).
3. [ITCSupport@nobts.edu](mailto:ITCSupport@nobts.edu) - Email for general technical questions/support requests.
4. [www.NOBTS.edu/itc/](http://www.NOBTS.edu/itc/) - General NOBTS technical help information is provided on this website.

## Writing Style Guide

A copy of the approved NOBTS Style Guide can be found in the course Canvas shell, or can be located online at the Writing Center’s page on the seminary website at:

<https://www.nobts.edu/resources/pdf/writing/StyleGuide.pdf>

## Help for Writing Papers at “The Write Stuff”

NOBTS maintains a Writing Center designed to improve English writing at the graduate level. Students can receive writing guides, tips, and valuable information to help in becoming a better writer. A copy of the approved NOBTS Style Guide can be found in the course Canvas shell, or can be located online at the Writing Center’s page on the seminary website at:

<https://www.nobts.edu/resources/pdf/writing/StyleGuide.pdf>.

## Plagiarism on Written Assignments

NOBTS has a no tolerance policy for plagiarism. Plagiarism in certain cases may result in expulsion from the seminary. See the NOBTS Student Handbook for definition, penalties, and policies associated with plagiarism.

## Course Reading and Assignment Schedule\*

\*changes in course schedule at professor's discretion

- Unit 1 Aug. 15- Introductory Unit  
Unit 2 Aug. 22- What Is Missions? Definitions  
Moreau, pp. 13-25; 69-84
- Unit 3 Aug 29- Definitions Cont'd.  
Become familiar with IMB website: [www.imb.org](http://www.imb.org)
- Unit 4 Sept. 5- Biblical Theological Foundations  
Moreau, pp. 27-39; Spitters, chs 1-2.
- Unit 5 Sept. 12- Biblical Theological Foundations  
Moreau, pp. 41-67; Spitters, chs. 3-4
- Unit 6 Sept. 19- Biblical Theological Foundations  
Spitters, chs. 5-7
- Unit 7 Sept 26- History of Missions  
Moreau, pp. 85-146
- Oct. 3-7 Fall Break**
- Unit 8 Oct. 10- History of Missions  
Unit 9 Oct. 17- The World Around Us  
*Missionary Biography Reports Due*
- Unit 10 Oct. 24- Practice of Missions/Current Topics  
Moreau, pp. 249-298
- Unit 11 Oct 31- Practice of Missions/Current Topics  
Moreau, pp. 191-247
- Unit 12 Nov. 7- Practice of Missions/Current Topics  
Moreau, 147-190
- Unit 13 Nov. 14- The Local Church/Missions and You  
*Missional Reflection Due*
- Nov. 21-26 Thanksgiving Break**
- Unit 14 Nov 28- NAMB, Disaster Relief, Christian Community Development, etc.  
Become familiar with NAMB website: [www.namb.net](http://www.namb.net)  
*40 Questions/Acts Journal Due*
- Final ExamWeek