



**MISS5344 Theology and Philosophy of Missions**  
**New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary**  
**Division of Church Ministry**  
**Fall 2023 (Wed 8-10:50a) Flex Option**

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**Course Grader**

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**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**

The theology and philosophy of missions are examined from the perspectives of biblical foundations, historical development, contemporary discussions, and future directions. Special attention is given to major missiological motifs, the impact of significant missiological movements, and the interaction between theology and missiology.

**Student Learning Outcomes**

In order to help prepare servants, the students, by the end of the course, should:

1. The student will understand and articulate a biblical theology of missions that traces and interacts with the *missio Dei* as found in the Scriptures.
2. The student will formulate key implications from theology and philosophy of missions for missionary practice in contemporary contexts.
3. The student will develop theological discourse skills through critical interaction with the works of prominent theologies of mission and in writing and presenting a scholarly research paper.

**Course Teaching Methodology**

A variety of teaching methods will be utilized such as class presentations by the professor using PowerPoint and handouts. Other teaching methods include small and large group discussions, multi-media presentations, utilization of missions-related websites, and other communication mediums. A Canvas shell for the class will be utilized extensively as a resource for students. Students will be expected to be thoroughly prepared for class discussions through readings and the Canvas weekly unit supplements.

**Textbooks**

In addition to the Bible as a course text, the following are required:

Ott, Craig. *The Church on Mission: A Biblical Vision for Transformation Among All People*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2019.

Ott, Craig, et al. *Encountering Theology of Mission: Biblical Foundations, Historical Developments, and Contemporary Issues*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2010.

Payne, J.D. *Theology of Mission: A Concise Biblical Theology*. Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press, 2021.

Wright, Christopher J.H. *The Mission of God: Unlocking the Bible's Grand Narrative*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP Academic, 2006.

Various articles as provided via Canvas.

## COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. **Course Lectures** – Each student is expected to attend and participate in all course lectures. Discussion and interaction will be a high value and common teaching technique.
2. **Required Reading and Reactions** – Each student is responsible to have completed assigned course texts and/or articles as required according to the course schedule. For the books *Encountering Theology of Mission* and *The Mission of God*, students will submit a reading reaction of 400-600 words single-spaced. Papers failing to meet the minimum word count will not be accepted. These reaction needs to include both insights and lingering questions about the reading. These are not critical reviews or simple summaries of the reading. The discipline of writing helps clarify thinking as well as deepens understanding of the subject matter.

Each reaction should begin with a simple declarative statement affirming the percentage of reading completed for the week. If the entire reading for that week is not completed, the grade will be lowered to reflect the amount read.

3. **Scripture Memory** - A key component of theological development is immersion in Scripture. The verses memorized during this course address the basic elements of a theology of mission. Students will memorize and reproduce from memory 30 scripture passages—15 as part of the midterm exam and all 30 for the final exam.
4. **Research Paper and Presentation** - Each student will write a **12-15 page double-spaced research paper** on a topic related to the theology and philosophy of missions. At the end of the semester, each student will present their research paper to the class and be prepared to engage in Q & A on the topic presented. Students will be placed in peer critique groups to help one another strengthen their papers.

In order to help students write the best paper possible, students will follow the deadlines set in the Course Schedule:

- Topic and Research Question in Canvas
- Outline and Beginning Bibliography sent to PCG

- First Draft (NOT rough draft) to PCG
  - Final Draft in Canvas
  - Presentation to class (in class, via Bluejeans, or via video link as needed)
5. **Exams** - Students will take two (2) exams during the semester. Exams will be taken from course lectures and readings. A primary aspect of each exam will be scripture memory. See Course Schedule for dates and details.

## EXAMPLE FOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL ENTRY & DECLARATIVE SENTENCE

### Bibliographical Entry

Wright, Christopher J.H. *The Mission of God: Unlocking the Bible's Grand Narrative*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP Academic, 2006.

### Declarative Sentence Entry

On my honor and with a clear conscience, I read (number) % of the assigned book for the book review. (include name after)

### EVALUATION/GRADING:

Assignments for this course will be evaluated according to the following criteria. However, please refer to the grading rubrics for each assignment, posted on Canvas.

1. Does the work illustrate the student's grasp of basic concepts, definitions, and principles related to...?
2. Does the student demonstrate clear and specific interaction with the assigned reading material and class discussion?
3. Is there evidence of the student's personal reflection on the topics discussed? Does the work illustrate the student's independent research and learning?
4. Does the work reflect the student's responsibility to prepare both academically and practically (i.e., has the student attempted to apply the material to his/her ministry setting or to the local church in general)?
5. Does the work fulfill the assignment by the required date? Because ministry itself demands discipline, students are expected to meet established deadlines for submitted work.
6. Is the assignment written at a level appropriate for master's level work? Does the work follow proper style?

### COURSE GRADING WEIGHT:

|                               |     |
|-------------------------------|-----|
| Course Lectures/Participation | 10% |
| Reading Reactions             | 15% |
| Scripture Memory/Exams        | 40% |
| Research Paper/Presentation   | 35% |

### COURSE GRADING:

Grading for the course will follow the guidelines in the NOBTS Academic Policies: A = 93-100; B = 85-92; C = 77-84; D = 70-76; F = below 70.

### Technical Assistance

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

1. [www.NOBTS.edu/itc/](http://www.NOBTS.edu/itc/)- Email for general technical questions/support requests.

2. [Selfserve@nobts.edu](mailto:Selfserve@nobts.edu)- Email technical questions/support requests with the [Selfserve.nobts.edu](http://Selfserve.nobts.edu) or [My.nobts.edu](http://My.nobts.edu) site (Access to online registration, financial account, online transcript, Faculty portal, etc.)
3. [Canvas@nobts.edu](mailto:Canvas@nobts.edu) Click on the “Help” button for technical questions/support requests regarding the NOBTS Canvas System. You can also email questions to [Canvas.nobts.edu](http://Canvas.nobts.edu) / [nobts.instructure.com](http://nobts.instructure.com).
4. [Bluejeanshelpdesk@nobts.edu](mailto:Bluejeanshelpdesk@nobts.edu) - Email technical questions/support requests with Bluejeans and NOBTS Bluejeans classrooms (On and Off-Campus).
5. [TelephoneHelpDesk@nobts.edu](mailto:TelephoneHelpDesk@nobts.edu)- Email technical questions/support requests with the NOBTS Nextiva Phone system.
6. [504.816.8180](tel:504.816.8180) - Call for any technical questions/support requests. (Currently available Mon-Thurs 7:00am-9:00pm & Fri 7:00-7:00pm Central Time).

**If you are taking this course as a NOLA2U Flex student, please note the following attendance policies:**

1. You are required to be in class either through viewing the lectures live or viewing the recorded lectures on Canvas. When you view the recorded lecture, you will be considered present for that class. Regardless of if you watch the class live or recorded, you are only allowed to miss the amount of class time specified in the NOBTS attendance policy as stated in the graduate catalog. (See “Absences” category in the website catalog at: <https://catalog.nobts.edu/generalinfo/academicpolicies>.)
2. You will be asked to certify that you have been present for the live session or have viewed the recorded session. This certification will be done through a brief 1 word or phrase quiz after having watched the class live or viewing the recorded session.
3. All **video lectures are available for 7 days after the video is posted**. If you are unable to view the video within that time frame, you will be considered absent for that class session.
4. Technical issues will not be considered a valid reason for missing a lecture.

**Attendance**

Students are expected to attend all classes. Absence of more than 9 hours will result in a failing grade. Any student missing 6 or more hours of class will receive a one letter grade reduction in his or her grade. Tardiness will impact grades. Three tardies will be considered as one hour's absence. In the event that the normal NOBTS schedule is impacted due to a natural event or epidemic go to the seminary website for information. Our class will continue through our Canvas site. Please note announcements and assignments on the Canvas site in the event one or more of our classes is canceled.

## **Academic Integrity**

Each student is responsible for the academic integrity of his/her work. The following are examples of violations of academic integrity: cheating on an exam, plagiarism, turning in work done by someone else, and submitting a paper that has been submitted in another class. These and other violations of academic integrity may result in failure of the course.

## **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.

## **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 definitions, penalties, and policies associated with plagiarism.

## **Writing Style Guide**

Writing assignments should follow the NOBTS/Leavell College Manual of Form and Style (revised August 2019). A copy of the approved NOBTS Style Guide can be found in the course Blackboard 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>

## **Reading and Assignment Schedule (subject to change at professor’s discretion)**

| <u>Class Meeting Week</u> | <u>Reading/Assignments</u>  |
|---------------------------|---|
| Aug 16                    | Course Introduction   |
| Aug 23                    | Ott & Strauss chs. 1-2; Payne chs. 1-2<br><b>Review 1 Due</b>   |
| Aug 30                    | Ott & Strauss chs. 3; Payne chs. 3-5<br><b>Topic &amp; Research Question to Dr. Mathias (Canvas)</b><br><b>Review 2 Due</b> |
| Sept 6                    | Ott & Strauss, chs. 4-6; Wright Part 1<br><b>Review 3 Due</b>   |
| Sept 13                   | <b>Outline &amp; Bibliography Outline to PCG</b>  |
| Sept 20                   | Wright Part 2; Payne chs. 6-8<br><b>Review 4 Due</b>  |
| Sept 27                   | Payne chs 9-11  |
| Oct 4                     | <b><i>Fall Break</i></b>  |

|        |  |
|--------|--|
| Oct 11 | Midterm Exam   |
| Oct 18 | Ott & Strauss chs. 7-8; Wright chs. 6-8<br><b>Review 5 Due</b>                                   |
| Oct 25 | Ott & Strauss chs 9-10; Ott chs 1-3<br><b>Final Draft of Paper to PCG</b><br><b>Review 6 Due</b> |
| Nov 1  | Ott & Strauss chs 11-13; Wright chs 9-11<br><b>Review 7 Due</b>                                  |
| Nov 8  | Ott chs 4-6; Payne conclusion<br><b>Final Draft of Paper Due to Dr. Mathias (Canvas)</b>         |
| Nov 15 | <b>Paper Presentations*</b>  |
| Nov 22 | <i>Thanksgiving Break</i>  |
| Nov 29 | <b>Paper Presentations</b>   |
| Dec 6  | <b>Final Exam (9-11a)</b>  |

**See next page for**

### **Scripture Memory**

*(Note: passages marked (M) will be on the mid-term exam)*

**REVELATION**

- (M) - Isaiah 40:4
- (M) - 1 Timothy 3:16-17
- Hebrews 4:14

**GOD**

- (M) - Leviticus 19:2
- Revelation 4:11
- (M) - Deuteronomy 5:6-7

**JESUS**

- (M) - Genesis 3:15
- 1 Peter 3:18
- (M) - 2 Corinthians 5:21

**HOLY SPIRIT**

- (M) - Acts 1:8
- John 16:7
- Galatians 5:22-23

**MAN**

- Genesis 1:27
- Isaiah 53:6
- (M) - 1 John 1:9

**SIN**

- (M) - James 1:14-15
- Colossians 1:21-22
- Titus 1:16

**SALVATION**

- Isaiah 53:5
- (M) - Romans 5:8
- John 3:16

**CHURCH**

- Ephesians 3:10
- (M) - 1 Thessalonians 5:16-19
- 2 John 6

**END TIMES**

- (M) - Philippians 1:27
- 2 Timothy 3:1
- (M) - Mark 8:35-36

**MISSION**

- (M) - Matthew 28:18-20
- (M) - Luke 24:46-47
- 2 Peter 3:9