

**North Park Theological Seminary**  
**MNST 6151 CULTURAL DIMENSIONS OF MISSION:**  
**THE IMPACT OF GLOBALIZATION'S TRENDS**

**Course Syllabus**

3 credit hours. Fulfills requirements for Cultural Diversity elective  
Synchronous Online Sessions May 18, 26, June 1, 8<sup>th</sup> 7-9:00 pm CST  
With additional asynchronous online modules

**COURSE INSTRUCTOR**

Dr. Jonathan Ro, Adjunct Professor of Missiology and Intercultural Studies

E-Mail: [jro2@northpark.edu](mailto:jro2@northpark.edu)

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

In an era of globalization and urbanization (glurbanization), the missionary task of the church faces many new challenges. The course will explore various underlying sociological frameworks that drive globalization's impact. From there, we will define culture, the task of mission (*missio Dei*), and develop a robust biblical theology of culture based on the cultural mandate (Gen. 1:26-28). Hence, we will explore how globalization theory is a game-changer for contextualization theory. Using PowerPoint teaching lessons, articles, and video clips, through an online discussion board format, we will interact on how the new global realities pose significant challenges and opportunities for society and the church. Students will explore how the church should practically live out and communicate the gospel through a theology of culture in an age of globalization. We worship a global God who calls His global citizens (the global church) to accomplish His global mission. Thus, students will be challenged to see themselves as God's global citizens. They will be able to analyze global and local phenomenon and to take appropriate action. Each student will write a research paper on a global/urban (glurban) phenomenon taking place today, and reflect on how the church needs a theological and missiological response.

**HYBRID COURSE FORMAT**

This course will combine the convenient learning advantages of a normal online distance learning course with the addition of one session each week of live time online together from 7 to 9:00 pm each Tuesday night starting May 18<sup>th</sup> and ending with our final session June 8<sup>th</sup>. Optional online sessions with the professor will be available weekly for additional question and answer time.

**PARTICIPANT LEARNING OBJECTIVES FOR THE COURSE:**

1. Identify the key challenges the church faces in light of globalization.
2. Define culture and the task of mission, *missio Dei*.
3. Develop a biblical theology of culture based on the cultural mandate (Gen. 1:26-28).
4. Outline the key influencing sociological frameworks of globalization theory.
5. Describe how globalization is a game-changer in contextualization theory.
6. Learn about many glurban (global/urban) phenomenon taking place in our world today and discern the underlying social forces of globalization in culture and the church.
7. Develop a global citizenship identity and responsibility.

8. Research and analyze a recent glurban (global/urban) phenomenon impacting society and/or local context.

### REQUIRED TEXTS

- Appadurai, Arjun. *Modernity at Large: Cultural Dimensions of Globalization*. MN: University of Minnesota Press. 1996. (Part One: Global Flows. P. 27-47).  
[https://is.muni.cz/el/fss/jaro2017/SAN106/Arjun\\_Appadurai\\_ModernityatLarge1996.pdf?lang=en](https://is.muni.cz/el/fss/jaro2017/SAN106/Arjun_Appadurai_ModernityatLarge1996.pdf?lang=en)
- Edgar, William. *Created and Creating: A Biblical Theology of Culture*. Intervarsity Press. 2016.
- Ritzer, George. *McDonaldization of Society: Into the Digital Age*. Sage. 2021. (Older editions acceptable but they won't have the latest chapter on Covid 19)
- Ro, Jonathan. *Globalization's Impact on the Church in China: A Case-study of Four churches in a Major Urban Center*. PhD Dissertation. Trinity International University. 2013. Posted online.
- Steger, Manfred B. *Globalization: A Very Short Introduction*. 4<sup>th</sup> edition. Oxford Press. 2017.  
[https://www.academia.edu/36165803/Globalization\\_A\\_Very\\_Short\\_Introduction\\_Manfred\\_Steger](https://www.academia.edu/36165803/Globalization_A_Very_Short_Introduction_Manfred_Steger)

### REQUIRED ARTICLES

- Cheong, John and Jonathan Ro. Chapter 1: Globalization as contextualization: A new emplacing missional framework. In an upcoming book to be publish. *Emplacing Globalization. Mission in Contexts of People, Processes and Places*. Posted Online
- Paul H. De Neu. "Christian *Communitas* In the *Missio Dei*: Living Faithfully in the Tension between Cultural Osmosis and Alienation." Posted Online.
- Ro, Jonathan. Glurbanization: The Social Intersect between Globalization and Urbanization and its Revolutionary Implications. In *A City Not Forsaken: Biblical Themes and Mission Practice in Asia*, eds. Michael D. Crane and Teh Yong Yuan. (forthcoming). Posted Online.
- Ro, Jonathan. Globalization, Urbanization and the Urban Churches of China: Four Big Leadership Challenges amidst Changing Worldviews. In *Urbanization: Impacts on Church, Mission and Society Today*, eds. Chen Lip Siong and Cheong Weng Kit, 199-215. Kota Kinabalu, Malaysia: Sabah Theological Seminary/Asian Centre for Mission, 2018. Posted Online.
- Sassen, Saskia. *The Global City: Introducing a Concept*. 2005. Rise of the Niche Global City. 2015.  
<https://understandingsociety.blogspot.com/2013/09/the-global-city-saskia-sassen.html>  
<https://www.straitstimes.com/opinion/rise-of-the-niche-global-city>

### REQUIRED VIDEOS

Culture: Symbols, Values, Beliefs & Norms  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kGrVhM\\_Gi8k](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kGrVhM_Gi8k)

Cultural Globalization  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZirXnc5P20E>

Max Weber - Sociology – Rationalism – Protestantism - Capitalism  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ICppFQ6Tabw>

Max Weber & Modernity: Crash Course Sociology  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=69VF7mT4nRU>

Max Weber - Characteristics of an ideal bureaucracy  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2BIFnNT69yU>

What Was the Enlightenment?  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nly9r\\_xYyPA](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nly9r_xYyPA)

The Enlightenment.  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YfUX66SDBgw>

Understanding Worldviews: Determinism  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FVzMiu8KoW0>

### **COURSE ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING SCALE**

More details for each assignment provided online. Initial postings from the professor's questions are due by midnight of the Saturday following class. Response postings to other students' postings are due by the Tuesday before class.

### **GRADING SCALE**

Item	Points	% of Course Grade
4 Reflections	10 (each)	40%
Weekly Postings	15	15%
YouTube posting with PPT presentation	15	15%
Research paper on a glurban phenomenon	30	30%
Total	100 points	100%

Course grading follows the policy in the Seminary Academic Catalog, p. 21. Late work will be marked down 1/3 grade per day

#### **1. Reflections.**

(Individual work) 10% for each reflection paper 40% of grade  
One 500+ word reflection for each book (1. Steger, 2. Ritzer, 3. Edgar: Part Three-The Cultural Mandate, 4. Ro-selected chapters) listed. Each of the 4 reflections is due by midnight of the Saturday before class.  
In each reflection, the first part (1/3) should be a summary in your own words of the main thesis/argument of the author. In the second part (1/3), evaluate key strengths (contributions) and weaknesses (limitations). In the last part (1/3), share some implications for life and/or mission. The grade rubric will be posted online.

- Since the reading requirements and other assignments are heavy each week, it is recommended for students to do a cursory reading through all the required textbooks

before the course begins on May 18th. That way, when each book reflection is due for that week, you can re-read and review that book before you write your reflection paper.

## 2. Online Discussion board.

(Individual work)

15% of grade

The professor will post several questions each week on the online discussion board. From the weekly required reading materials, watching the PPT Teaching videos and YouTube videos, students can respond with comments and questions. From each student's initial posting (average 2-3 sentence long per post), students are encouraged to interact with other students' responses. Ask deeper questions and comment on deeper analysis and implications. Be respectful in your answers. Try to respond to most of the others in the class each week (a minimum of 5 other students weekly). The best postings will spontaneously flow and have multiple follow-up discussions going back and forth, much like a Facebook comment thread. The professor will interject his comments at times to spur on additional thinking. An online discussion shouldn't be argumentative or take disagreements personally.

A grade will be given based on the quality (deep analysis) of responses showing the student has read the required reading materials and contributed deep penetrating insights with real-life implications for society and the church.

## 3. PPT Presentation.

(Couple work)

15% of grade

Watch all the YouTube videos below and one video will be assigned to you as your group project.

Email your top three choices of video and I will assign you a video and who will be your partner(s). Don't be upset if you don't get your top video choices. Learning about a global phenomenon that you are not familiar with will be a benefit to you.

Work with your partner(s) on a PPT presentation (approximately 20+ slides).

Present the PPT as if you are teaching a class/seminar on globalization and mission, using this video as a case study.

Summarize all the important elements of globalization (especially hidden or not obvious).

Research the internet to add supplemental insightful content and visual pictures.

Connect the content to historical and Western cultural influencing factors, sociological or globalization theories, and its' implications that impact society and/or the church.

Address how society and/or the church should respond biblically (how is it connected to the cultural mandate?).

Post your PPT presentation online, due midnight Sunday, June 6<sup>th</sup>. Respond to each other's video and PPT presentations with compliments, comments, and/or question(s) before class on June 8<sup>th</sup>.

YouTube videos.

How Did KPop Become A Billion Dollar Industry?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lsXo16Bqunk>

Nigerians first time BLACKPINK reaction

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ASZ57EIg-\\_o](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ASZ57EIg-_o)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LBgXgVWRKE8>

Appropriation in K-Pop?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RGSJlkDpQyI>

Sophia's Korean Cosmetic Surgery Experience at Gyalumhan Plastic Surgery

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RhXbXPLEpfU>

Behind the plastic surgery boom in South Korea

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZSAoETxubSI>

North Korean Moranbong (All female) Band - Tansume

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FUjqYfyvynQ>

The Complete History of Martial Arts in Movies

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YMdyHxkryto>

Colorism in the Latin Community!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WZsY1kYHT8A>

Body Image Documentary: on the globalization of beauty

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ak22UNcDa1k>

How Women's Perfect Body Types Changed Throughout History

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y4ipUdS8Td4>

"Nollywood": Nigeria's booming film industry competing globally

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Lze27PeYNO8>

Effects of Globalization on Indian Society

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n7dG64-5FD4>

What's Driving China's Influence in Africa?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BF3XUrviPYk>

4. Research paper on a particular glurban phenomenon.

10+ page paper, rubric to be provided online.

Due August 8<sup>th</sup>, 2021.

30% of grade

While your PPT presentation introduces you to a general category/area phenomenon (KPop, Plastic surgery, Colorism, body image, and beauty...etc.), your research paper can utilize and include the PPT content as background information, but then go deeper and analyze a particular issue or a specific context.

For example, you may choose one of the YouTube videos: "How did KPop become a Billion Dollar Business?", "Nigerians first time BLACKPINK reaction" or

“Appropriation in KPop?” for your PPT presentation, but in your paper choose BTS or Black Pink to write in-depth focused research on the group.

Or, you may choose “Colorism in the Latin Community” as your PPT presentation, but research and write on how Colorism is impacting a particular company/institution’s (even your own company’s) hiring practices and promotions.

Or, you may choose “Body Image Documentary: on the globalization of beauty” or “How Women's Perfect Body Types Changed Throughout History” as your PPT presentation, and research and write about how body image has become a global phenomenon and is impacting people in a specific way: (choose one or create your own research focus).

-joining fitness classes and dieting programs and how it has become a global phenomenon.

-the sexualization of clothing fashions globally: bikinis, mini-skirts, crop-tops, lingerie, and yoga pants...etc.

-who is chosen to be on stage on the worship team at church (on online worship services, or Hillsong and Passion worship videos).

## **ADDITIONAL COURSE GUIDELINES**

### **CANVAS**

For any questions or concerns about Canvas please open an online Helpdesk ticket.

### **WRITING FORMAT**

Use the Turabian style for references in your writing. Refer to the NPTS writing handbook for questions regarding formatting: <https://assets.northpark.edu/wp-content/uploads/20200717101927/Writing-Handbook-2020-2021.pdf>

### **INCLUSIVE LANGUAGE**

Course participants are encouraged to follow the Statement of Inclusive Language from the Board of Publication Policy of the Evangelical Covenant Church which states, “We are committed to being inclusive in language and imagery in an effort to eliminate prejudice, whether gender, racial, ethnic, national, religious, denominational, cultural, or physical. This way of proceeding in no manner seeks to deny personal identity; rather, it guards against any use of word or phrase that tends to exclude people.” Consider how you can best incorporate inclusive language into all of your communication (written and oral) during the course particularly in your references to God and to humanity.

### **ONLINE ETIQUETTE**

While online in class students are required to keep cameras on. This gives all in the class the ability to connect at least visually, if not in audibly. When not speaking please mute microphones unless asked to do otherwise. When necessary, course participants may send chat messages to instructors during the class time. All programs such as internet use, solitaire and other games, email, and any others not related to the course should not be open during class time.

### **ACADEMIC HONESTY AND PLAGIARISM**

In keeping with our Christian heritage and commitment, North Park University is committed to the highest possible ethical and moral standards. Just as we will constantly strive to live up to these

high standards, we expect our students to do the same. To that end, cheating of any sort will not be tolerated. Students who are discovered cheating will receive a failing grade on the assignment and are subject to discipline up to and including failure of a course and expulsion. Our definition of cheating includes but is not limited to:

1. Plagiarism – the use of another’s work as one’s own without giving credit to the individual. This includes using materials from the internet.
2. Copying another’s answers on an examination.
3. Deliberately allowing another to copy one’s answers or work.
4. Signing an attendance roster for another who is not present.

For additional information, see the Seminary Academic Handbook, pp. 25–27.

### **INCOMPLETE GRADES**

If, due to extenuating circumstances (specifically, pregnancy, illness, personal and family issues, military assignment, etc.), a student anticipates they will be unable to complete course work within the allotted time, that student may request a grade of incomplete from the course instructor before the last week of class clearly stating the reason(s) for this request.

Overscheduling and/or lack of self-discipline are not considered extenuating circumstances. If the request is timely and meets the criteria, student and instructor will submit the incomplete grade form and the grade for that class will be listed as “I” until the last day of the following semester. If coursework is not submitted by the last day of the following semester the listing of “I” will automatically be changed to “F.” For the full policy, see page 15 of the Seminary Academic Catalog.

### **ACCOMODATIONS**

North Park is committed to creating an inclusive learning environment. If you anticipate or experience any barriers to learning in this class related to a disability, contact the Center for Student Engagement by email [ada@northpark.edu](mailto:ada@northpark.edu) or phone at 773-244-5737 to schedule an appointment with the Learning Specialist. You can also stop by The Center for Student Engagement, located on the first floor of the Johnson Center.

### **HARASSMENT POLICY AND TITLE IX**

Students who believe they have been harassed, discriminated against, or involved in sexual violence should contact the Dean of Students (773-244-6222) or Director of Human Resources (773-244-5601) for information about campus resources and support services, including confidential counseling services. As members of the North Park faculty, we are concerned about the well-being and development of our students and are available to discuss any concerns. Faculty are legally obligated to share information with the University’s Title IX coordinator in certain situations to help ensure that the student’s safety and welfare is being addressed, consistent with the requirements of the law. These disclosures include but are not limited to reports of sexual assault, relational/domestic violence, and stalking. Please refer to North Park’s Safe Community site (<http://www.northpark.edu/Campus-Life-and-Services/Safe-Community>) for contact information and further details.

### **COURSE SCHEDULE**

Extra readings, PPT Video teaching and assigned YouTube videos should be completed on a schedule that allows adequate time for thoughtful completion of corresponding reading responses/assignments submitted as specified below.

	<b>Content Subject</b>	<b>Readings, Videos and Assessments to Submit</b>
<b>Week 1</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. What are key challenges the church and society face in light of globalization?</li> <li>2. What is culture?</li> <li>3. What is <i>missio Dei</i>?</li> <li>4. What is globalization?</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Read through the list of key challenges the church face in light of globalization. Read through the list of Glurban issues impacting culture and the church. Posted online. Begin watching YouTube videos and send in top 3 choices. Consider one glurban phenomenon (Ex. BTS, BlackPink) to research for your final homework assignment.</li> <li>2. Edgar, <i>Created and Creating</i>, Part One: Parameters of culture. (Read p. 1-82). Watch Video: Culture: Symbols, Values, Beliefs &amp; Norms.</li> <li>3. De Neui, <i>Christian Communitas In The Missio Dei: Living Faithfully in the Tension between Cultural Osmosis and Alienation</i>. (Read)</li> <li>4. Steger, <i>Globalization: A Very Short Introduction</i> (Reflection 1 due May 15) Watch Video: Cultural globalization Appadurai, <i>Modernity at Large</i>. (Read Part 1: Global Flows p. 27-47) Watch all PPT teaching videos posted Post comments and respond to others on online board</li> </ol>
<b>Week 2</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5. What is globalization as contextualization?</li> <li>6. What is the modern worldview? (Rational/bureaucracy)</li> <li>7. What is McDonaldization?</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5. Cheong, John and Jonathan Ro. Chapter 1: Globalization as contextualization: A new emplacing missional framework. (Read)</li> <li>6. Ro. Globalization, Urbanization and the Urban Churches of China: Four Big Leadership Challenges amidst Changing Worldviews. (Read)</li> <li>7. Ritzer. <i>McDonaldization of Society: Into the Digital Age</i> (Reflection 2 due May 22)</li> </ol>



		<p>Watch Videos:  3 on Max Weber  2 on Enlightenment  1 on Understanding Worldview  Work on PPT presentation (partner)  Watch all PPT teaching videos posted  Post comments and respond to others</p>
<b>Week 3</b>	<p>8. What is glurbanization?  9. What is a biblical theology of culture?</p>	<p>8. Ro. Glurbanization: The Social Intersect between Globalization and Urbanization and its Revolutionary Implications. (Read)  Sassen, Saskia. The Global City: Introducing a Concept. Rise of the Niche Global City. (Read)  9. Edgar, <i>Created and Creating</i>, Part Three: The Cultural Mandate. (p. 155-229) (Reflection 3 due May 29).  Work on PPT presentation (partner)  Watch all PPT teaching videos posted  Post comments and respond to others on online board</p>
<b>Week 4</b>	<p>10. How is the church in China impacted by globalization?  11. PPT Presentation  12. Research paper on a glurban phenomenon</p>	<p>10. Ro. <i>Globalization's Impact on the Church in China: A Case-study of Four churches in a Major Urban Center</i> (Chapters 1,4,5,6,7,9) (Reflection 4 due June 5)  11. Work on PPT presentation and post June 6<sup>th</sup>. Comment on other students PPT presentations on online board (June 8<sup>th</sup>)  Watch all PPT teaching videos posted  Post comments and respond to others on online board  12. Final homework due August 8<sup>th</sup>.</p>