

MNST 7190 Missional Opportunities and Challenges Facing the Church Today

North Park Theological Seminary

Spring, 2022

3 credit hours

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION: Rev. Dr. Mary Hendrickson, Interim Director of Missional Vitality, mlhendrickson@northpark.edu.

COURSE DESCRIPTION: The onset of COVID-19 shifted church ministry and mission, requiring agile and creative leadership. In person gatherings were eliminated or reduced in many cases, events were cancelled, social distancing was emphasized, and many ministries were shut down. However, those churches that were able to pivot, found new ways of reaching people for Christ and for participating in mission and outreach. Rather than only surviving, these churches thrived, continuing to make the good news of the kingdom a reality in their communities. In this course, we will identify the practices that thriving churches developed, critique the new norms of mission that have replaced those of the past, analyze the current state of church mission, discover new opportunities that exist and develop strategies for reframing mission in one's current congregation. This course is the first of two foundational courses required for the Certificate of Missional Health. Registration priority will be given to those enrolled in the Certificate.

COURSE OBJECTIVES: As a result of taking this course, you will be able to:

1. Articulate an understanding of church missiology.
2. Recognize the differences in the practices of church mission/outreach pre-Covid, during Covid, and in the new normal.
3. After developing criteria for assessing success, analyze the effectiveness of missional practices.
4. Contrast missional praxis in multiple socio-economic and multi-ethnic contexts.
5. Exegete the new norms for mission in our society.
6. Design a reframed missions strategy for the local church.

REQUIRED TEXTS: *Leading in Uncertain Times* by Dr. Don Brawley III/Sam Chand; *The Post-Quarantine Church: Six Urgent Challenges and Opportunities That Will Determine the Future of Your Congregation* by Thom Rainer; *Global Transmission, Global Mission: The Impact and Implications of the CoVid-19 Pandemic* by Jason Mandryk; *Reframation* by Alan Hirsh and Mark Nelson; *Navigating Pastoral Leadership In The Transition Zone* by D. Darrell Griffin; Choice of (choose ONE): *Canoeing the Mountains* by Tod Bolsinger; *Radiant Church* by Tara Beth Leach ; Articles as found on CANVAS.

ASSESSMENTS AND GRADING SCALE: Project assignments will be given after each module. These projects will consist of putting into practice at least one concept from the module within a congregational or missional setting. Students are to submit a 3-page reflection paper as part of each assignment, noting observations and results of the project. At the next in-person module, students will give a presentation on the project and paper to the class. In addition, students are to submit a reading log, and will be graded on course participation. A final reflection paper (8 pages) will be assigned after the final module.

- Reading log (10 %)
- Module Papers (15% each=45%)
- Class Presentation (15%)

- Final Paper (20%)
- Class Participation (10%)

GRADING SCALE:

<u>Total Points Earned:</u>	<u>Final Grade:</u>
95-100	A
93-94	A-
91-92	B+
88-90	B
86-87	B-
84-85	C+
80-83	C
78-79	C-
76-77	D+
72-75	D
70-71	D-
69 and below	F

ADDITIONAL COURSE GUIDELINES

Attendance will be recorded and will be reflected in the course participation grade. Unless negotiated with professor prior to deadline, late submission of papers will automatically result in a grade no higher than a “B.”. Also please note the inclusive language policy in the Student Writing Handbook.

ACADEMIC HONESTY¹

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 POLICY

If, due to extenuating circumstances (specifically, illness, personal and family issues, or military assignment), a student anticipates she will be unable to complete course work within the allotted time, that student must submit the request form for a grade of incomplete to the course instructor before the last week of class clearly stating the reason(s) for this request. If the request is timely and meets the criteria, the grade for that class will be listed as “I” until the last day of the following semester. If

¹ Institutional policies. Syllabus includes standard text for policies on academic honesty, accommodations, and Title IX.

coursework is not submitted by the last day of the following semester the listing of “I” will automatically be changed to “F.”

ACCOMMODATIONS

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 SRA program director.

COURSE SCHEDULE²

The first three modules will be held online with the following schedule: Friday evening 7-9 PM CT- Saturday morning 9-11 AM CT, Saturday afternoon 1-3:30 CT. The final module will be in person, following the same schedule, location TBA. Readings should be completed on a schedule that allows adequate time for thoughtful completion of corresponding reading responses/assignments submitted 3 days before each module begins. Assignments are due at 9 PM CT.

	Reading	Assessments to submit
Module 1 Fri. Jan. 28/Sat. Jan. 29	<i>Leading in Uncertain Times</i> by Dr. Don Brawley III/Sam Chand; Articles for Module One in CANVAS.	Reading log number one due by Tues., Jan. 25; Pre-Course Assignment found on CANVAS due by Fri. Jan. 28.
Module 2 Fri. Feb. 25/Sat. Feb. 26	<i>The Post-Quarantine Church</i> by Thom Rainer; <i>Global Transmission, Global Mission: The Impact and Implications of the CoVid-19 Pandemic</i> by Jason Mandryk; <i>Radiant Church</i> by Tara Beth Leach OR <i>Canoeing the Mountains</i> by Tod Bolsinger	Project one reflection paper and reading log due on Tues. Feb. 22.
Module 3 Fri. Mar. 25/Sat. Mar. 26	<i>Navigating Pastoral Leadership In The Transition Zone</i> by D. Darrell Griffin; Articles for Module Three in CANVAS.	Project two reflection paper and reading log due on Tues. Mar. 22.
Module 4 Fri. Apr. 29/Sat. Apr. 30 (Location TBA)	<i>Reframation</i> by Alan Hirsh and Mark Nelson; Articles for Module Four in CANVAS.	Project three reflection paper and reading log due on Tues. Apr. 26.

² Schedule. Course schedule should include dates in which course will meet, reading assignments and topics, and due dates for all assessments.

Missional Opportunities and Challenges Facing the Church Today
Reading Log
 Fall 2021
 3 credit hours

Book Name	Date Due	Pages Read	Date Completed
<i>Leading in Uncertain Times</i> (133 pages)	January 25, 2022		
<i>Post-Quarantine Church</i> (111 Pages)	February 22, 2022		
<i>Global Transmission/Global Mission</i> (64 Pages)	February 22, 2022		
<i>Canoeing the Mountains</i> (250 Pages) OR	February 22, 2022		
<i>Radiant Church</i> (216 Pages)	February 22, 2022		
<i>Navigating Pastoral Leadership In The Transition Zone</i> (134 Pages)	March 22, 2022		
<i>Reframation</i> (296 Pages)	April 26, 2022		