



**MNST 6152 ART OF MISSION: LESSONS FROM CHRISTIAN ART, HISTORY, AND PRACTICE**

Fall 2023, Hybrid online and travel course with optional synchronous live meetings

3 seminary credit hours

Draft Syllabus

**COURSE INSTRUCTORS**

Dr. David Bjorlin, Assistant Professor of Worship

Office: Nyvall Hall 005, Email: [dbjorlin@northpark.edu](mailto:dbjorlin@northpark.edu)

Office phone : 773-244-5238

Rev. Dr. Paul H. de Neui, Professor of Missiology and Intercultural Studies

Office: Nyvall Hall #316, Email: [pdeneui@northpark.edu](mailto:pdeneui@northpark.edu)

Office phone: 773-244-6230

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

God's mission began by making creation visible and declaring it very good. Christ became the visible image of God (the eikon) for all humanity. Those who claim to be Christ-followers are called to participate in this same mission using not only oral and written but also visible forms in that calling. This course focuses on the process of rethinking how we are called to participate in God's mission using the visual arts and music through the lenses of scripture, the study of historical models, and analysis of current practices. Ultimately, the goal is to expand student thinking missiologically incorporating visual art in ministry wherever God's call may lead. This course includes a ten day trip to France with scholarships for non-tuition expenses for students taking it for credit. MNST 6125 meets the requirements of a cultural diversity elective.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES**

Upon completion of the course participants will be able to:

1. Recognize and remember biblical, and historic thematic uses of visual art in mission, ministry, and worship illustrating examples of each.
2. Understand and interpret how various uses of visual art connected and continue to connect with the practices of gospel communication in the contexts of mission, ministry, and worship.
3. Analyze, evaluate, and provide responses to arguments and issues related to the use or prohibition of using visual art in various mission, ministry, and worship settings.
4. Create and apply a personally developed theological grid that can lead others in the effective use of visual art in gospel communication in mission, ministry, and worship.

This course contributes toward the following MDiv learning outcomes:

- Demonstrate vision and growing capacity to excel in leadership for God's mission.
- Communicates the whole gospel of Jesus Christ in contextually appropriate and effective ways.
- Engage diversity and exhibit growth towards inter-cultural competence for ministry reflective of God's global redemptive work.

## REQUIRED TEXTS AND LEARNING MATERIALS

Bustard, Ned, ed. *It Was Good: Making Art to the Glory of God*. Baltimore, MD: Square Halo Books, 2006. <https://www.squarehalobooks.com/store/it-was-good-making-art-to-the-glory-of-god>.

Pre-publication Art in Mission manuscript – provided online, students will give input throughout semester on each chapter and interact with guest speakers on their material in each chapter.

Articles and learning materials posted in each module online in Canvas.

Participants will also select two additional texts from a list provided online in an area of personal interest relevant to their own context and ministry focus.

## COURSE FORMAT

The teaching approach of this course is based on the concept of the flipped classroom where all learning materials are made available online beforehand and participants are asked to review these materials and follow instructions as to what is expected each week. The course is divided into two main sections before and after the travel component. The first half will focus on, historic uses of art in mission and the second half on contemporary examples. Dates and times for the live sessions will be arranged according to availability of all course participants.

Opportunities for discussion, question and answer, and sharing comments will be provided both online and during the live sessions. Email interaction with instructor is available anytime and live chats or phone calls can be arranged by appointment. assessments and grading scale.

## ASSESSMENTS

- 1. Online Interactions:** Participants are asked to review learning materials in each module before the due date and post online according to instructions given. You are asked to respond to the postings of *at least two* other class participants in each week of these ten modules using the artistic critique model explained online. Follow the rubric provided in Canvas. Due dates for online interactions are listed in Canvas. 30% of grade
- 2. Live Session Participation:** Instructors will send out a Doodle poll to find a day and time for two live online session during the semester, one before and one follow travel time. Participants will bring assignments to each to share as described in Canvas. 20% of grade
- 3. Experiential Learning:** The travel component to France is not optional for this course. It is a major part of the entire learning experience. Details on the trip and assignments during travel will be given in Canvas and in the first live session. 20% of total grade
- 4. Final Personal Project.** Choose *one* of the options below integrating time in France.  
**Option A:** *Create an original work of visual art* during this semester based on a theme from the course. A digital photograph of the art with accompanying written description must be posted in Canvas by the deadline listed in the course schedule. The written description should be no less than 2500 words describing the origin of the idea for this work, how the work expresses learning from the course, the artist's intended primary function for this art, and how this piece links with student's personal theology of visual art in mission, ministry and worship. Follow the rubric posted in Canvas. Post online in the appropriate Canvas forum by deadline listed in Canvas.



**Option B:** *Develop a community event around the use of visual art in an area of justice mission.* Determine and describe the context and issue(s) addressed. This may be an outreach event, a communal march, a spontaneous communal art creation legally allowed in the context described but it must include the visual arts in a communal activity in some creative way. This could be a one-day event or a weekend retreat. A complete written description of no less than 2500 words should include details of the actual context, a brief overview of historic issues leading up to the event, the creation process of the communal piece, the activities and steps involved, materials used, a time frame and schedule, goals of the particular event, and a way of evaluating success of the event. This event should demonstrate mastery of missiological methods, and integrate insights from course material and other sources. Illustrations or maps should be included. Use the rubric provided in Canvas. Post online in the appropriate Canvas forum by deadline listed in Canvas.

**Option C:** *Design a detailed worship service that utilizes visual art.* This project should include:

- A 2500 word write-up of the service describing your theology of the visual art in worship demonstrating integration of learnings from class and the following components:
- A complete annotated order of worship for the event described. This could be a Sunday congregational service, a special worship event, online or in person or hybrid of both. The written order of worship should include scriptural texts, songs, prayers, sermon or homily summary, and any rites/liturgies you would use in the service. For each element in worship, explain why you chose it and how it relates to the scripture or theme for the day;
- Integration of a form of visual art (icon, painting, sculpture or other visual depictions) and describe how it is to be used in the service. Explain why you are using it in the context of this service (i.e., its fit with the theme, scripture, and/or element in worship), and how the use of the piece fits with your stated theology of visual art in worship.

Follow the rubric posted in Canvas for grading. Post online in the appropriate Canvas forum by deadline listed in Canvas. 30% of course grade.

**GRADING**

Weight of course components will figure into the grade as follows:

Online Interactions	30% of total grade
Live Session Participation	20% of total grade
Experiential Learning	20% of total grade
Final Personal Project	30% of total grade

Final course grades follow the grading policy found in the NPTS catalog:

- Superior work (A = 95–100; A- = 93–94)
- B: Above average (B+ = 91-92; B = 88-90; B- = 86-87)
- C: Average (C+ = 84-85; C = 80-83; C – = 78-79)
- D: Unsatisfactory (D+ = 76-77; D = 72-75; D – = 70-71)
- F: Failure (69 and below)

Late work will result in lowering of grade. Participation in class online for credit earning students is mandatory. Auditors are encouraged to participate as much as possible. Unexcused absences will result in a lowered course grade.

## **ADDITIONAL COURSE NOTES**

### **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. Here is a link to writing handbook for NPTS. Refer to it for your questions regarding formatting:

<https://assets.northpark.edu/wp-content/uploads/20200717101927/Writing-Handbook-2020-2021.pdf>

### **NETIQUETTE**

Use proper online “netiquette” when posting online. Use your best academic writing skills and avoid sarcasm, emoticons, abbreviations or writing in CAPITAL LETTERS.

### **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.

### **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](#).

**ACADEMIC DISHONESTY AND PLAGIARISM**

- The community at North Park University promotes a commitment to integrity in all areas of life. In the case of breaches of academic honesty such as plagiarism or cheating on examinations, the matter will be reported to the Dean of Faculty/Academic Dean.
- Students should be advised that normally in cases of academic dishonesty or plagiarism the penalty can range from receiving a failing grade for the assignment to expulsion from the seminary. For the full policy, please see the seminary academic catalog.

**STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES**

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.

**TENTATIVE COURSE SCHEDULE**

Pre-Travel Online Schedule

Week 1. 28 Aug	Thinking Missiologically through the Arts: Biblical Foundations
Week 2. 4 Sep	The First Christian Graffiti: Art of the Roman Catacombs
Week 3. 11 Sep	Visual Arts in Nestorian Mission
Week 4. 18 Sept	Art in Celtic Mission
Week 5. 25 Sep	The Breaking of Images: Icons, Iconoclasmand the Triumph of Orthodoxy
Week 6. 2 Oct	The Virgin of Guadalupe, Mission in the Americas
Week 7. 9 Oct	Indigenous Non-Western Visual Art in Mission

Travel to France Schedule (details to follow)

13-18 Oct	Paris and environs hosted by Le Pavé D’Orsay of Le Fonderié, Chartres
18-22 Oct	Taizé Community, Visit to Cluny
23 Oct	Final night in Paris

Post-Travel Online Schedule

Week 8. 23 Oct	Controversial Christ in Art: Sallman's Head of Christ	
Week 9. 30 Oct	Art in the Mission of Health and Healing	
Week 10. 6 Nov	Art Making as Reconciliation	
Week 11. 13 Nov	Propaganda or Protest? Photographic Arts in Justice Mission	
20 Nov	Thanksgiving week, no classes	
Week 12. 27 Nov	Art in Mission in Post-Modern, Post-Christian Society	
Week 13. 4 Dec	Final Personal Project Sharing - Live Session TBA	
	Written Project Summary	Due Dec 8

Revised 17 March 2023