

**MNST 5120-J1 Gospel Communication in Context**  
North Park Theological Seminary  
2024 J-Term  
Monday thru Friday, January 8-12, 8am-5pm  
3 Credit Hours

**INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION**

Dr. Al Tizon

[fatizon@northpark.edu](mailto:fatizon@northpark.edu)

510-499-1194

Remote office: email to make an appointment

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

Gracious and effective communication of the good news of the Christian faith involves the complex interplay of many factors. Drawing from studies in holistic missiology and contemporary culture, participants in this course will engage in an exegesis of culture, an exploration of the mandate and means of gospel communication, and the development of skills in both speaking and embodying the gospel message.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES**

- Formulate a theology of evangelism/mission that is biblical, holistic, and contextual;
- Identify global trends and paradigm shifts in understanding the world today;
- Lead the church in bearing witness to the gospel effectively in an ever-changing world.

**REQUIRED TEXTS**

CARDOZA-ORLANDI, Carlos and Justo GONZALEZ, *To All Nations from All Nations* (Nashville, TN: Abingdon, 2013).

HADDIS, Mekdes, *A Just Mission: Laying Down Power and Embracing Mutuality* (Downers Grove, IL: IVP, 2022)

MAGGAY, Melba. *Global Kingdom, Global People* (Carlisle, Cumbria, UK: Langham Global, 2017).

MOON, Jay and Bud SIMON, *Effective Intercultural Evangelism: Good News in a Diverse World* (Downers Grove, IL: IVP, 2021).

TIZON, Al. *Whole & Reconciled: Gospel, Church, and Mission in a Fractured World* (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2018).

## ASSESSMENTS AND GRADING SCALE

Pre-Residency Work	Due Date	Weight or % of Course Grade
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Get acquainted with course syllabus</li> <li>• Cardoza-Orlandi/Gonzalez book review</li> </ul>	Mon., Jan. 8 <sup>th</sup>	10%
During Residency Work	Due Date	Weight or % of Course Grade
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Class participation</li> <li>• Group Presentations</li> </ul>	M-F, Jan. 8-12 Thu-Fri., Jan. 11 <sup>th</sup> and 12 <sup>th</sup>	5% 25%
Post-Residency Work	Due Date	Weight or % of Course Grade
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reading Log</li> <li>• _____ book review</li> <li>• Research Paper</li> </ul>	Friday, Feb. 2 <sup>nd</sup> Friday, Feb. 9 <sup>th</sup> Wednesday, Feb. 21 <sup>st</sup>	15% 10% 35%

**Book Reviews:** You will write two 3-4pp., double-spaced book reviews from the required readings. The review for the Cardoza-Orlandi/Gonzalez text is due on Monday, **January 8<sup>th</sup>**. The second review of one of your choice from the required readings is due **February 9<sup>th</sup>**. A book review is a way to reflect upon a reading that accomplishes the following:

- a summary of the book (no more than a third of the paper);
- strengths and weaknesses of the book; and
- whether you recommend it or not to other potential readers: why or why not?

**Class participation:** Your participation is integral to the success of this class—hence, why it is part of your grade. This class will be highly interactive; whether in whole class discussions or in small groups, come prepared to contribute, ask questions, give input, argue! In addition, some of you will have an opportunity to share a meditation and/or a prayer to help begin each class.

**Integrated Group Presentations:** Church profile group presentations will be given on **January 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>**, the last two days of residency. These presentations seek creatively to integrate the theological and strategic aspects of evangelism/mission discussed throughout the semester. They are strategic proposals that will not only have implications for the community, but also for the missional renewal of the church itself. The particulars of this assignment are as follows:

- On **Monday, January 8<sup>th</sup>**, the first day of class, church profiles will be introduced, and the class will be divided into groups of 4-6 according to these profiles. Once broken up into groups, introduce yourselves as the new members of the simulated church outreach committee of your particular church.

- You will be given “committee time” at the beginning of each class session. These times will likely NOT be sufficient for you to jell as a group, so you are strongly urged to figure out how frequently you should meet throughout the week.
- On **Thursday, January 11<sup>th</sup>** or **Friday, January 12<sup>th</sup>**, your group will give a 30-minute presentation of your outreach plan to the rest of the class, which will serve as simulated church members. You are free as a group to be creative with the presentation, making use of visual aids, Power Point, drama, etc.

**Reading Log:** A Reading Log, indicating that you have read the required texts is due on **Friday, February 2<sup>nd</sup>**. This log is on an integrity-basis, so check off the readings with your character in mind! The Reading Log form is on p. 6 of the syllabus.

**Research Paper:** A research paper is due **Wednesday, February 21<sup>st</sup>**. The research paper gives you the opportunity to probe deeper into an aspect of contextual gospel communication that has particularly intrigued you. The paper should be double-spaced, 8-10 pp. in length, and it needs to reflect interaction with at least 5 sources—at least one of them being a journal article and another being a credible Internet source.

<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**

- Late assignments are accepted, albeit with penalty, up to one-week of the due date.
- For any questions or concerns about Canvas please open a helpdesk ticket online.
- Use proper online “netiquette” when posting online. Remember there are people on the other end of your communication. Use your best academic writing skills and avoid sarcasm, emoticons, abbreviations or writing in CAPS. Use inclusive language whenever possible.
- February 9<sup>th</sup> - Final date to withdraw from a course (with a W)
- February 23<sup>rd</sup> - Deadline for submission of Incomplete Agreement

## ACADEMIC HONESTY<sup>1</sup>

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.
5. Use of ChatGPT or other AI composition software to impersonate individual assignments.

For additional information, see the [Seminary Academic Catalog](#), pp. 25–26.

## ACCOMMODATIONS

Your experience in this class is important to me. North Park is committed to creating inclusive and accessible learning environments consistent with federal and state law. If you have already established your accommodations, please share your accommodation letter with me so we can discuss how your accommodations will be implemented in this course. If you have not yet established services and have a temporary health condition or permanent disability that requires accommodations, please email the Disability Access Specialist or contact by phone (773-244-5737). Student Engagement facilitates the interactive process that establishes reasonable accommodations.

## TITLE IX

Students who believe they may have experienced sexual misconduct, sexual harassment, domestic violence, dating violence, or stalking should contact the Title IX Coordinator (773) 244-5664 or [TitleIX@northpark.edu](mailto:TitleIX@northpark.edu) to learn more about reporting options, resources, and support 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 members are private resources meaning we are legally obligated to share information about the behavior reported above with the University’s Title IX coordinator. If you are unsure whether you want your concerns disclosed to the Title IX Coordinator, we encourage you to contact Counseling Support Services at (773) 244-4897 or [counseling@northpark.edu](mailto:counseling@northpark.edu).

Please refer to North Park’s [Safe Community](#) site for reporting, contact information, and further details.

## 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

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

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](#).

## **COURSE SCHEDULE**

### **Monday, Jan 8<sup>th</sup>:**

Meditation/Opening Prayer/Personal Introductions  
 Syllabus Review  
 Intro to Church Profiles/Initial Group Work on Church Profiles  
**Your Story**  
**Gospel of the Kingdom and the Ministry of Evangelism**

### **Tuesday, Jan 9<sup>th</sup>:**

Meditation/Prayer/Announcements  
 Group Work on Church Profile  
**On Half and False Gospels**  
**Contextual Theology: Gospel, Church and Culture**  
**Globalization and the Gospel**  
**Postmodernism and the Gospel**  
**Post-Christendom and the Gospel**

### **Wednesday, Jan. 10<sup>th</sup>:**

Meditation/Prayer/Announcements  
 Group Work on Church Profiles  
**Post-Colonialism and the Gospel**  
**Church as Reconciler**  
**Church Planting (Guest Lecturer: Dr. Rob Fairbanks)**

### **Thursday, Jan. 11<sup>th</sup>:**

Meditation/Prayer/Announcements  
**Contemporary Strategies and Models**  
**The Role of Faith in Faith-Based Development Work**  
 Group Presentations

### **Friday, Jan. 12<sup>th</sup>:**

Devotions/prayer (volunteer)  
**Power of Story**  
 Group Presentations  
 Unfinished Business  
 Debrief

**MNST 5120-J1**  
**Gospel Communication in Context**  
**Reading Log**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

<b>Date Completed</b>	<b>Required Readings</b>	<b>✓ when done</b>	<b>If not, # of pages completed</b>
	Cardoza-Orlandi/Gonzalez		
	Moon/Simon		
	Haddis		
	Tizon		
	Maggay		