



MNST 6145 Mission of God: Insights for Service
Summer 2025 Online Asynchronous Course
3 seminary credit hours
Draft Course Syllabus

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course presents a practical biblical survey of the *missio dei* with implication for practitioners. Each participant will engage in critical reflection on biblical foundations, cultural dimensions, and historic mission practices related to a personally selected area of interest in global service. Through reading and viewing, online exercises, experiential activities, and written reflections, participants will gain missiological insights in preparation for their own participation with God's mission wherever that call may take them. No pre-requisite required. MNST 6145 meets the requirements for cultural diversity courses in all degree programs and can contribute to the NPTS certification in intercultural ministry.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Upon complete of this course participants will be able to:

1. Define the holistic nature of the *missio dei*, identifying evidence of it in scripture, historic practices, and current cultural contexts
2. Interpret scriptural, cultural, and strategic insights relevant to participation with the *missio dei*
3. Evaluate mission practice in light of scripture, church tradition, and cultural contexts
4. Critique power dynamics and suggest ways that privilege and position can be leveraged towards equity as part of God's mission
5. Create a project modeling personal participation with the *missio dei* applying principles learned from the course to a specific context of intercultural ministry

REQUIRED TEXTS

Cardoza-Orlandi, Carlos F. *Mission: An Essential Guide*. Abingdon, 2002.

Hertig, Paul, Young Lee Hertig, Sarita Gallagher Edwards, and Robert Gallagher.

Breaking Through the Boundaries: Biblical Perspectives on Mission from the Outside In. Orbis, 2019.

Martínez, Juan Francisco and Jamie Pitts. *What is God's Mission in the World and How Do We Join it?* Herald Press, 2021.

Montgomery, Helen. *The Bible and Mission (Chap.1 &2)*. Provided online in Canvas

Okoye, James Chukwuma. *Israel and the Nations*. Orbis, 2006.

Pachau, Lalsangkima. *God at Work in the World: Theology and Mission in the Global Church*. Baker Academic, 2022.

Additional learning materials provided for each weekly module online.



RECOMMENDED TEXTS

- Briscoe, Jill. *Jonah and the Worm*. Brookfield, WI: Briscoe Ministries, 1983
- Daniélou, Jean. *Holy Pagans of the Old Testament*. Longmans, 1956.
- Fleming, Dean. *Contextualization in the New Testament: Patterns for Theology and Mission*. IVP, 2005.
- Glasser, Arthur. *Announcing the Kingdom*, Baker, 2003. ISBN 0801026261.
- Goheen, Michael W. *A Light to the Nations: The Missional Church and the Biblical Story*. Baker, 2011.
- Kaiser, Walter C. *Mission in the Old Testament*. Grand Rapids, Baker, 2000.
- Maggay, Melba Padilla, editor. *The Gospel in Culture: Contextualization Through Asian Eyes*. OMF Literature, 2016. (Kindle version only)
<https://www.amazon.com/Gospel-Culture-Contextualization-Issues-through-ebook/dp/B01M0C6V8N>
- Nissen, Johannes. *New Testament and Mission: Historical and Hermeneutical Perspectives*. NY: Peter Lang, 1999.
- Wright, Christopher. *The Mission of God*. IVP, 2006.

COURSE FORMAT

Learning materials for each module are included online. Course participants review the learning materials and respond to assignments as listed in Canvas. Each module will include online learning opportunities, a choice of experiential activities, and written reflections to be posted in Canvas. Opportunities for discussion, inquiry, and sharing comments will be provided in each module.

ASSESSMENTS

Online Participation: Missiology is not done alone. Learning occurs when participants share with each other and with the instructor as a reflective community. For each module students will post insights of approximately 500 words and respond to two other classmates by the due dates listed in Canvas. The rubric found on the course Canvas Home Page details requirements for online postings and responding. Each online participation is worth 5% of the total course grade for a total of 35% of course grade.

Experiential Activities: Involvement in the missio dei means interacting with people. A variety of intercultural options will be presented with each module. Students will select one, participate as described, and post a 1000 word reflection online by the due date described in Canvas. Each experiential activity is worth 5% of the course grade for a total of 15% of the course grade.

Final Personal Project: Integrating knowledge and learning materials from the course, participants will choose an area of mission studies of most interest and application to their present or future participation in missio dei. Using the rubric provided in Canvas students will post a written summary drawing from course learning materials including an interpretive essay of no less than 2500 words explaining their proposed participation practices with the missio dei in their chosen context. Due date listed in Canvas below. The final personal project is worth 30% of the total course grade.

Written Outcome Evaluation: Drawing from the questions and discussions presented by participants throughout the semester, the instructor will create a series of topical reflection questions from which participants will be asked to select and respond in writing online. The goals of this evaluation are to ascertain how well participants have achieved the stated learning outcomes of the course. Due date listed in Canvas. The written outcome evaluation is worth 20% of the course grade.

GRADING SCALE: The weight of assignments is as follows:

Online Participation (7 wks x 5% each)	35% of course grade
Experiential Activities (3 x 5% each)	15% of course grade
Final Personal Project	30% of course grade
Written Outcome Evaluation	20% of course grade

Letter grading for credit follows the scale outlined in the seminary catalog. Unexcused late work will be marked down one letter grade per day.

ADDITIONAL COURSE GUIDELINES

Academic Accommodation: NPTS provides services for students with documented disabilities to ensure equal access to programs, services, facilities, and activities. Students with a disability who believe that they may need accommodations in this class are encouraged to contact Seminary Academic Services as soon as possible. If desired or necessary, discussion pertaining to documentation and accommodation can take place at another suitable location or by telephone. Further information about the American Disabilities Act Services is found at <https://www.northpark.edu/campus-life-and-services/student-success-and-wellness/disability-resources/>.

Academic Honesty: 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 are subject to discipline up to and including failure of a course and expulsion. Our definition of cheating includes but is not limited to:

- Plagiarism - the use of another's work as one's own without giving credit to the individual. This includes using materials from the internet.
- Copying another's answers on an examination.
- Deliberately allowing another to copy one's answers or work.
- Signing an attendance roster for another who is not present.
- Use of ChatGPT or other AI composition software to impersonate individual assignments.

For a fuller discussion of academic dishonesty, see the Seminary Academic Catalog.

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

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 on the NPU website for further details.

Inclusive Language: NPTS encourages all students to follow the Statement of Inclusive Language of the ECC which explains, "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 the Seminary Academic Catalog.

NETiquette: Use proper online "netiquette" when posting online. Use your best academic writing skills and avoid sarcasm, emoticons, abbreviations or writing in CAPITAL LETTERS. Quality reflective writing is respectful, comprehensive, and clear.

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>

COURSE SCHEDULE – to be completed in final version