

**FIFTH YEAR**  
PRE-CLASS WRITTEN ASSIGNMENT  
Perkins School of Theology  
COURSE OF STUDY SCHOOL – 2014  
**(513) Our Mission from God: Transforming Agent**  
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This course will explore what it means for contemporary Christian congregations to be engaged in Christian mission that is scripturally based, ecumenically responsible, and integrated into resources and strategies of the United Methodist church as a whole.

1. Required Reading:

- i. *In Good and Generous Faith* – Kenneth Cracknell, Epworth Press (UK)
- ii. *Models of Contextual Theology* – Stephen B. Bevans, Revised, expanded ed. Maryknoll: Orbis 2002.
- iii. *Mission: An Essential Guide* – Carlos F. Cardoza-Orlandi

2. Recommended Reading:

- i. *Mission in Today's World* – Donal Dorr, Orbis Press
- ii. *The Gospel Among the Nations: A Documentary History of Inculturation*, Robert Hunt, Orbis Press.
- iii. *The Next Christendom: the Coming of Global Christianity* – Philip Jenkin

3. Pre-Class Assignments.

- i. Complete all the required reading.
- ii. Based on your own reading of scripture write one page on each of the following:
  1. The mission of Jesus (See Luke 4:14 – 30, John 1:1 – 18 and any other passages you think relevant.)
  2. The mission of the twelve apostles. (see Matthew 28:16 – 20, Mark 6:7 – 13, Acts 1:1 – 11, and any other passages you think relevant.)
  3. Paul's mission.
- iii. When Christians engage non-Christians with the gospel what specific kinds of transformation can be expected to occur? Please make four *lists*:
  1. The transformations undergone by *those individuals who receive* the gospel.
  2. Societies influenced by the gospel.
  3. The individual missionaries or evangelists.
  4. The churches which they serve.

- iv. In a three page essay, based on your reading and personal reflection, tell what you think God desires for all humans. Tell what role you think the church plays in fulfilling God’s desire for both individual humans and their societies.
- v. Write a three to four page paper (double-spaced) on Stephen B. Bevans’ Models of Contextual Theology. The following is the structure and instructions for this paper:
  - 1) Introduction: The first paragraph articulates the chief issues raised by the reading
  - 2) Learning Points: One or two paragraphs that articulates what you learned that you did not know before.
  - 3) Remaining Questions: Three questions that you need for clarification after reading the text.
  - 4) Relevance for Ministry: One or two paragraphs that relate what you have learned, or the questions you have about the text, with your ministry or with your anticipated context of ministry.
  - 5) Theological Preference: A final paragraph or two about which model you are most comfortable with. Explain why.

Schedule of Classes

After each class please write a one to two page reflection reviewing the most important insights you have had during the class session and how they apply to your pastoral ministry. This should take no more than 1 hour and will be graded complete/incomplete. Turn this reflection in at the beginning of the next class.

- 1 The Scriptural Basis of Mission – The Mission of Christ
- 2 The Scriptural Context of Mission – God and Israel, The Missio Dei
- 3 The Apostolic Mission (See Acts 8:12), The Mission of the Church – A Missional Ecclesiology.
- 4 Contextualization – “How do we sing the songs of Zion in a strange land?”
- 5 The Historical Context of Mission – The problems of colonialism, neo-colonialism, and imperialism.
- 6 The Social and Cultural Context of Mission – tools for analysis and understanding.
- 7 The Management of Missions in the Local Church, Finding and implementing local missions.
- 8 Persons in mission – the missionary calling to partnership in Christ, fostering the missionary calling.
- 9 The Management of Missions in the Local Church, Finding and organizing short term missions.
- 10 The Management of Missions in the Local Church, Integrating mission into the worship life and teaching of the local church.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

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The completed pre-class work for courses 211-514 must be sent to the Course of Study School office **postmarked on or before May 15, 2014** OR submitted electronically through the Locker system (see information below) **no later than May 15, 2014 at 11:59.59 p.m.** Pre-class work submitted after May 15 will have grading penalties assessed as follows: (grades are expressed alphabetically from A to F, with F being the lowest grade)

- Submissions dated May 16 - May 31 will receive a one letter grade reduction
- Submissions dated June 1 - June 14 will receive a two letter grade reduction.
- Submissions dated June 16 or later, the student will be dropped from that course registration with no refund (of registration, fees or housing)

A request for an extension requires the following:

- It must be submitted in writing to the director of the Course of Study School. Via e-mail, send to Jeannie Trevino-Teddle at [COSSExt@smu.edu](mailto:COSSExt@smu.edu). Via regular mail, send to COSS Extension, P.O. Box 750133, Dallas, TX 75275-0133. By fax, send to 214-768-1042). **Make sure that you notify the COSS office of any transmission.**
- It must be received by May 1
- It must state valid reason(s) for needing an extension
- It must state the course name(s) and number(s) for which the extension(s) is/are requested
- It must state the amount of time being requested (not beyond June 14)

**In order for an extension request to be considered, the student must be fully registered (i.e., fees paid, signatures acquired, Release of Liability and Course Registration and Housing forms filled out and submitted). Before a decision can be made regarding an extension, the Director will consult with the student's district superintendent, local pastor registrar and instructor.**

### **Optional Electronic Submission for Pre Class Assignments**

Course of Study School Lockers

We are offering an alternate method for the submission of pre-class assignments. The Course of Study School is using a "Locker System", Locker.SMU. This system allows COSS students to submit their pre-class assignments electronically. Please remember that we will continue to accept mailed in paper pre-class assignments. Electronic submissions and the use of Locker.SMU is optional.

A Locker will be assigned to each student for each class they are taking. For example, if you are taking Hebrew Bible I (211) and Formation Discipleship (213) you will be assigned two different Lockers. The instructor for each course will then be able to log in to the Locker System and retrieve your submitted assignments for each particular class.

When your registration is received, the Course of Study School staff will be creating your private Locker(s) and informing you via e-mail when your Locker(s) has been successfully created. In this email, you will receive specific instructions on how to access your Locker(s) and how to upload your assignments.

If you have not registered by May 15th, you will not be guaranteed a locker and you will need to submit your pre-class assignments via postal service.

The Locker System will automatically date and time stamp your submitted assignments to inform the instructor and the Course of Study School staff when the assignment was submitted.

The pre-class assignments should be submitted to the Locker System **ONLY in .doc format.**

When you are ready to submit your pre-class assignments online, but have not received an e-mail with information on how to access your private Locker(s), please contact the Course of Study School staff at [COSS@smu.edu](mailto:COSS@smu.edu) with the subject line: Locker Access. The Course of Study School staff will then reply with specific instructions on how to access your Locker(s) and how to upload your assignments.

The completed pre-class work for courses 211-514 must be submitted to the Locker System **no later than May 15<sup>th</sup> at 11:59:59 p.m.** Pre-class work submitted to the Locker System after May 15 will incur grading penalties as mentioned above on the grading guidelines. The same deadline restrictions apply whether you are submitting pre-class assignments electronically or via postal service.

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**Students should keep a printed copy of each assignment and bring a copy of each assignment to class regardless of how the assignment was submitted.**

In addition, students should include a one-page autobiography for each instructor.

Each assignment should be typed, double-spaced, or legibly handwritten, with pagination numbers, and be accompanied by a completed cover sheet. A copy of the cover sheet can be found in the Course of Study School Catalogue and can be photocopied, it will also appear as a preloaded file when you access your locker.

Guidelines for writing pre-class assignments and information on academic dishonesty are provided in the Course of Study School catalog, available on the website. Students are expected to understand what constitutes plagiarism. Students who are found to plagiarize are subject to grading penalties, which may include dismissal from the school.