

Perkins Regional Course of Study School 2022  
423 Mission  
First Session: June 27-July 15, 2022  
4:00-5:55 p.m.

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405-306-8330

### **Course Description**

This course introduces the theology and scope of mission, and the pastor's role in leading congregations in their mission as agents of God's transforming redemption.

### **Course Overview**

This course will explore the many facets of mission in the local church and community and will help us to discover new ideas about how we understand missions in the current context. Students will learn in the classroom, online classroom and a field trip during our time together. We will also explore the history of missions and how that has evolved over the years.

### **Course Objectives**

By the end of this course, candidates will be able to

1. Articulate a biblical and theological framework for Christian mission.
2. Explain the Wesleyan relationship of personal piety and social holiness.
3. Examine and reflect on unjust social realities and the response of the church both locally and globally.
4. Analyze their ministry context and develop strategies for transforming mission

### **Required Course Text Books:**

- Jennings, Theodore, *Good News to the Poor*, Abingdon, Nashville, 1990, ISBN 0-68715528-2
- Robert, Dana, *Christian Mission: How Christianity Became a World Religion*, Wiley Blackwell, 2009, ISBN 978-0-631-23610-1
- Volk, Miroslav, *A Public Faith: How Followers of Christ Should Serve the Common Good*, Brazos, 2016, ISBN 978-1-58743-343-6

## **Pre-Class Assignments – due June 10**

*Assignments received late will be marked down 10 points each day they are late. Pre- class assignments are worth 30 percent of your grade.*

**There are three sections to the pre-class assignments. Each section is worth ten points each.**

### **Pre-class Assignment #1 - Sermons from John Wesley**

1. Choose a **sermon from John Wesley’s Sermons** that relate to missions. They can be found in the text, *John Wesley’s Sermons, An Anthology by Albert C. Outler and Richard P. Heitzenrater*, or online here: [GodOnThe.Net/wesley](http://GodOnThe.Net/wesley) (Links to an external site.)

After reading the sermon, answer the following questions in a *three-page paper, double spaced, typed.*

1. Why did you choose this sermon?
2. How does this sermon relate to mission?
3. What similarities did you find with thought and practice around mission today?
4. Can you relate a personal experience with missions or ministry with this sermon and if so, include an example?
5. What message(s) did Wesley attempt to hit home?
6. What was his primary concern with those he was addressing in the sermon?
7. What opportunities do you have to share about missions in your church setting?
8. How did Wesley use scripture to back up his message? What observations did you note about his use of scripture? Give examples.

### **Pre-class Assignment #2**

After reading Miroslav Volk’s book, “The Public Faith,” answer the following questions. Please be sure to note his remarks in the book. Your responses can be in essay form or listed under each question. *The paper should be no less than three pages, double-spaced.*

1. In chapter one, Volk writes about malfunctions of faith. Summarize his writings on malfunctions, ascent malfunctions, and return malfunctions.
2. Volk writes in chapter five about three terse propositions. Summarize each of those propositions.

3. Why is public engagement so important to Volf? What does he write about exchanging gifts?
4. Share an experience in your ministry regarding the malfunctions of faith.

### **Pre-class Assignment #3**

In her book, “Christian Mission,” author Dana Robert gives detailed history of the evolution of missions in the world. After reading the book, answer the following questions. Please be sure to note her remarks in the book. Your responses can be in essay form or listed under each question. *The paper should be no less than three pages, double-spaced.*

1. What stands out for you in the timeline of the history of missions? Why? What does she include about the role of women in missions?
2. Robert includes a good piece about St. Patrick in her book. She writes about his importance to the missionary effort. Summarize his story. What role did his personal life play in his role as a missionary? What does she write about his crossing boundaries or culture? What did you learn from his story?
3. What contemporary mission endeavor should be included in a timeline of significant mission efforts in the world today that is not included in her book. Why?

I look forward to the class. One of the joys in teaching is reminding one another of our place in the world as people of God. We all have gifts and talents to share with the world and I look forward to experiencing those in the classroom. One of the beautiful pieces of The United Methodist Church is that we are a connectional church and we do much together and offer much to the world together.

*“Humankind has not woven the web of life. We are but one thread within it. Whatever we do to the web, we do to ourselves. All things are bound together. All things connect”. – Chief Seattle, Duwamish*

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### **COSS Writing Style**

All Perkins Course of Study School courses use the same style of writing, known as the Chicago/Turabian style of writing. Basic examples of citations for written assignments are available for reference in the COSS Student Policies and on the COSS web site.

All students are encouraged to purchase the following book that is the basis for submitting written work using the required formats for citations/footnotes.

Turabian, Kate L. *A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations, Ninth Edition: Chicago Style for Students and Researchers* (Chicago Guides to Writing, Editing, and Publishing) Ninth Edition.

ISBN-10: 022643057X

ISBN-13: 978-0226430577

The Academic Services Coordinator, who provides students with support for writing and study skills, is available to assist students with their pre-class assignments via email and phone support beginning April 1.

**Pre-class Assignments Policy:**

Pre-class assignments for the first session are due **June 12 and for the second session on June 26.**

Instructors have discretion to lower a student's grade for the pre-class assignments and their overall course grade for late submission of pre-class assignments. Submission of all pre-class assignments by the first day of class is required to attend the class. Students who do not have pre-class assignments completed by the first day of class will be required to withdraw from the course without a refund.