

Perkins School of Theology- Course of Study School

COURSE 423

July 6, 2026 -July 24, 2026

Zoom Synchronous: July 6-10– 4:00 pm-5:55 pm

INSTRUCTOR- Dr. Janet Bell Odom Email: drodomjb@gmail.com

SYLLABUS

COURSE GOALS

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 be able to:

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

TEXTBOOKS

We will use the following readings:

REQUIRED:

Dana L. Robert, Christian Mission: How Christianity Became A World Religion.

Miroslav Volf, A Public Faith: How Followers of Christ Should Serve the Common Good.

SUPPLEMENTARY:

Theodore W. Jennings, Jr. Good News to the Poor: John Wesley's Evangelical Economics

PRE-CLASS ASSIGNMENTS

There are three essays included in the pre-class assignments, i.e., three essays based on required books. The three essays need to be 3-4 pages, 12-point font, and double spaced. Must cite the sources and references in each essay.

EXPLANATION OF GRADING SYSTEM

30% - 15% for each three pre-assignments

All pre-class assignments will be evaluated:

- Fulfillment of the requirements of assignments.
- Personal creativity and thinking.
- All pre-class assignments are due on **July 6, 2026**. Pre-class assignments turned in after the deadline date will be marked down two points for each day late.

70%- Daily reading and preparation for face-to-face class and participation in online coursework, including online discussions and posts, responses to fellow students, and participation in synchronous discussions.

EVALUATION CRITERIA FOR ASSIGNMENTS

- The essays are the required length.
- The essays answer the questions in each assignment.
- The essays do not have personal commentary unless assigned in the questions.
- Instructions are to be followed by students for each essay.
- Students use appropriate format, grammar, and syntax where needed.
- Essays received on time.

PRE-CLASS ASSIGNMENTS

Pre-Class Assignments – Due July 6, 2026 - Each assignment is worth ten points each. It must be three pages and double-spaced.

Pre-class Assignment 1- Sermons from John Wesley

Choose a sermon from John Wesley's Sermons that relates 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: **GodOnThe.Net/Wesley** (Link to an external site).

After reading the sermon, answer the following questions:

1. What is your reason for selecting 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 Wesley's 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

Miroslav Volk, The Public Faith

1. How does Miroslav Volk describe "Malfunctions of Faith," Chapter One. Summarize his writings on these malfunctions.
2. Share an experience in your ministry regarding the malfunctions of faith.
3. Why is public engagement so important to Volk? What does he say about exchanging gifts.

Pre-class Assignment 3

Dana L. Robert, Christian Mission, gives detailed history of the evolution of missions in the world. After reading the book, answer the following questions.

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. Dana Robert includes information about St. Patrick. There is also discussion about the importance of missionary effort. Summarize her story, i.e., role as missionary, crossing boundaries and cultures?
3. What contemporary mission endeavor should be included in a timeline of significant missions' efforts in the world today that is not mentioned in her book. Why?

SCHEDULE OF CLASS READING ASSIGNMENTS

July 6-10, 2026

SYNCHRONOUS

Two Hours per Day for the first week of COSS

MONDAY – July 6, 2026

Welcome and Class Introduction

(Pre-class Assignments are due)

TUESDAY – WEDNESDAY -July 7-8, 2026

Miroslav Volk, The Public Faith, Chapter 3: “Coerciveness,” Chapter 4: “Human Flourishing.”

THURSDAY-FRIDAY – July 9-10, 2026

Dana L. Robert, Christian Mission, Chapter 5: “Women in World Mission: Purity, Motherhood, and Women’s Well-Being, Chapter 6: “Conversion and Christian Community: The Missionary from St. Patrick to Bernard Mizeki.

ASYNCHRONOUS

Theodore W. Jennings, Jr. Good News to the Poor: John Wesley’s Evangelical Economics