



IN520: God's Redemptive Mission

University of Dubuque Theological Seminary

4 credits/letter grade only

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Course Description

This four credit introductory course for all incoming students will help to prepare students for their seminary experience and ministry vocations. It will provide an orientation and overview of the mission of God down through the ages and what it means for the church to participate in God's redemption of the world through Christ. It will focus on the Triune God as a missionary God, the worshipping community as hermeneutic of the Gospel, and all Christians as apostolic members of the body of Christ. Furthermore, it will equip students with patterns and practices for nurturing a life of discipleship, intimacy with Jesus Christ, and attentive listening to the Holy Spirit that will serve to unify a life of prayer, study, and service as disciples of Christ Jesus in today's post-modern, post Christendom, pluralistic world.

Course Objectives

1. Integrate theological learning, discipleship and formation.
2. Build a sense of spiritual community needed to sustain pastoral ministry for years to come.
3. Identify methods of cross-cultural transmission and transformation of Christian faith in the history of the missionary movement.
4. Recognize the changing context of world mission and its implications for mission structures and strategies today and live out the Gospel in wise and winsome ways.

M.Div. Student Learning Outcomes

1. Nurture habits and disciplines of study, prayer, and reflection that increase their love of God and neighbor and shape their personal and professional lives.
2. Be formed by, live in, and minister out of Scripture and the historical and theological tradition of the Church.
3. Educate and equip individuals and congregations to live and minister joyfully and faithfully as part of their own denomination and the ecumenical church.
4. Lead and nurture congregations to promote peace and justice in the public arena and encourage the witness and service of the church in mission to the world
5. Integrate theology and practice in all areas of life and ministry.

MAMC Student Learning Outcomes

1. Articulate and reflect critically and constructively on the biblical and theological foundations of God's mission to the world.
2. Adopt spiritual practices that nurture their personal lives as faithful disciples and witnesses.
3. Develop skills and capacities for faithful and competent Christian witness.

MACL Student Learning Outcomes

1. Identify and interpret key themes from the Christian scriptures.
2. Articulate key theological affirmations of the church's theological tradition.
3. Apply a coherent philosophy of Christian leadership to a particular context.

Course Requirements

In order to receive a passing grade, students must meet the following criteria:

1. Attendance and active participation in class, and in chapel, is required in order to build a habit of consistent personal and communal formation.
2. Students must adequately demonstrate their understanding of the assigned reading materials by completing reading assignments before class and submitting written responses as assigned.
3. Completing pre-load and post-load assignments as assigned.

Required Texts

- Bible (NRSV)
- Miller, Donald. *A Million Miles in a Thousand Years*
- Newbigin, Lesslie. *A Walk through the Bible*
- Newbigin, Lesslie. *The Gospel in a Pluralist Society*
- Postema, Don. *Space for God: Study and Practice of Spirituality and Prayer*
- Robert, Dana. *Christian Mission: How Christianity Became a World Religion*
- Wright, Christopher. *The Mission of God's People: A Biblical Theology of the Church's Mission*