

# Missional Studies in Biblical Theology (2ON709)

Fall 2010

*If you are viewing this syllabus on a computer, the blue underlined text provides internal and external hyperlinks which may be used by holding down the "Ctrl" key and clicking on the link.*

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Administrative Assistant: Joyce Sisler ([jsisler@rts.edu](mailto:jsisler@rts.edu))

**Office hours:** Mondays 1:00-2:00 p.m.; Tuesdays 11:00 a.m.-noon; Wednesdays 11:00 a.m.-noon; Thursdays 10:00 a.m.-noon.

During these times I will be in my office or one of the public spaces on campus (Library, Student Commons, book store or seated outside). If I am not in my office, please see Joyce Sisler to find out where I am. My hours in the public spaces are so that I am more accessible, so please do not hesitate to approach me there.

I am also available by appointment at other times. Please see Joyce or e-mail me at [mglodo@rts.edu](mailto:mglodo@rts.edu).

I am glad to communicate with you in person, on the phone or through email. I'm glad to be your Facebook friend, but don't use Facebook messaging to correspond with me.

**Class meeting:** Mondays 10:00 a.m.-noon, August 30-December 6, 2010 (excluding September 6 and October 11 during fall break).

**Course web page:** [Click here.](#)

## **Course Description.**

This course will survey the entire scope of scripture from the standpoint of God as a missional God. Based on this survey, students will be challenged to develop a missional hermeneutic derived from scripture, to assess other approaches to Biblical theology in its light, to assess contemporary calls for a missional view of the church and to develop their own convictions regarding a missional ecclesiology. (2 hours)

This course will provide students the opportunity to pursue a research topic of interest to them and relevant to potential future ministry. For some suggestions of potential topics, see "[Final Project](#)" below.

*But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy. Beloved, I urge you as sojourners and exiles to abstain from the passions of the flesh, which wage war against your soul. Keep your conduct among the Gentiles honorable, so that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day of visitation*

-1 Peter 2:9-12

## **Course Objectives.**

Students meeting the course objectives will have attained...

**Knowing.**

- The foundations of a comprehensive biblical theology from the perspective of God’s mission.
- Awareness of how cultural/contextual factors affect application of biblical norms.
- A biblical assessment of a variety of contemporary movements which claim a missional purpose or foundation.

**Being.**

- A conviction that all of the Bible can legitimately be read from the standpoint of God’s mission.
- A commitment to an ongoing lifelong formation of a biblical view of God’s mission.
- A conviction that missional efforts and movements must be subject to biblical scrutiny.

**Doing.**

- The ability to assess future paradigms and movements from the standpoint of a biblical theology of God’s mission.
- Skills to contextualize faithfully a missional biblical theology in the varied circumstances in which God may call you to serve Him.

**Course Requirements.**

<a href="#">Class participation &amp; contribution</a>	10%
<a href="#">Assigned readings</a>	25
<a href="#">Class presentation or executive summary</a>	20
<a href="#">Presentation responses</a>	10
<a href="#">Research paper</a>	35
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Total	100%

**Class Participation & Contribution.**

Each student is expected to remain current with the assigned readings and to contribute to the corporate learning experience by participating in class discussions. Attendance is a prerequisite to participation, so students are expected to attend class unless providentially hindered.

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**Assigned Readings.**

Readings are to be completed according to the course schedule provided and will be discussed in class on the day due. Reading questions distributed at the start of class are to be completed and submitted on the dates indicated.

*Required reading:*

Guder, Darrell, *et al.* *The Missional Church: A Vision for the Sending of the Church in North America*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1998. 280pp. ISBN-10 0802843506, ISBN 978-0802843500.

Keller, Timothy J. "The Missional Church." June 2001.

[http://download.redeemer.com/pdf/learn/resources/Missional\\_Church-Keller.pdf](http://download.redeemer.com/pdf/learn/resources/Missional_Church-Keller.pdf).

Peskett, Howard and Vinoth Ramachandra. *The Message of Mission: The Glory of Christ in All Time and Space*. Downer's Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2010. 288pp. ISBN 978-0830824076.

Roxburgh, Alan J. "The Missional Church." *Theology Matters* 10.4 (Sep/Oct 2004): 1-5. Available at <http://www.theologymatters.com/SepOct04.pdf>.

Wright, Christopher J. H. *The Mission of God: Unlocking the Bible's Grand Narrative*. Downer's Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2006. 581 pp. ISBN-10 0830825711, ISBN-13 978-0830825714.

*Recommended reading:*

Newbigin, Lesslie. *The Gospel in a Pluralist Society* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1989), 244pp. ISBN-10: 0802804268, ISBN-13: 978-0802804266.

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### **Class Presentation or Executive Summary.**

Students will make either a presentation in class or provide an executive summary for a research topic. The topic will be chosen in consultation with the professor and provide the basis for the research paper described below.

Since the number of class presentations are limited by the number of weeks in the semester and since some students may prefer to do one or the other, the specific assignment of presentation or summary will be made by the professor in consultation with the student.

Class presentation – students making a class presentation on his/her research topic will do so with the goal of providing the rest of the class an overview of the topic followed by critical analysis based upon the overall course content. Each presentation will be 20-30 minutes and will be followed by discussion. Presenters are encouraged to use any presentation tools which will enhance the learning experience.

Executive summary – students providing an executive summary instead of a class presentation which have the same goals, but will accomplish them through printed rather than oral means. This will include a single-spaced 3-5 page written summary plus bibliography.

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### **Research Paper.**

Each student will submit a research paper of approximately 20-25 double-spaced pages not including bibliography. The goal of this paper will be to evaluate a subject, movement, corpus, etc. chosen in consultation with the professor, such evaluation to be made in light of the course content.

Potential topics include analysis of a particular biblical theme or passage, particular expressions of the missional church (e.g. emergent church movement or a particular church network), bodies of literature or a particular author (e.g. Lesslie Newbigin, Brian McLaren, etc.), particular

philosophical topics (e.g. biblical epistemology in pluralistic contexts, contextualization versus accommodation), case studies of particular missional church efforts, globalization (e.g. Philip Jenkins' "next Christendom"), missional ecclesiology or a sub-topic therein (e.g. sacraments in a missional church plant).

Students must meet with the professor regarding their initial proposals and must submit written proposals according to the schedule below.

All papers are to develop the approved topic in terms of the course content.

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### **Presentation Responses.**

For five of the presentations in class, you will provide a one page response for the benefit of the presenter (handwritten or typed). This response is to a) highlight the most helpful points of the presentation and b) express additional questions or raise questions about what was presented. These are to be turned in to the professor within three days of the presentation. The presenting student will receive a copy from the professor. You will be assigned which five presentations to which you are to respond. Once the topics are announced, if you have a preference you may let me know.

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### **Computers in class.**

Multitasking undermines learning, not to mention its deleterious effects on memory and productivity that recent studies have indicated. Performing non-class functions on a computer distracts our neighbors behind and beside us in class. There are other adverse effects which are not as apparent. Computers impede interpersonal non-verbal communication with the professor (e.g. eye contact, quizzical expressions, epiphany gestures, sleepy eyelids). The ability to capture more data with the speed of typing circumvents the process by which we sort out and prioritize information. Learning is not capturing information, it is comprehension. The kinetics of writing are in some respects more conducive to learning than those of typing – to pause, underline, correct, etc.

If you choose to use a computer to take notes in class, I ask that you turn off your wireless transmitter, unless if for some class, professional or urgent personal reason you need to be accessible.

Course Schedule.

<i>Date</i>	<i>Topics (subject to change)</i>	<i>Assignment(s) due</i>
Aug. 30		
Sept. 6	No class – Labor Day Holiday	Keller article Peskestt & Ramachandra 17-32 Wright, chs. 1-5 (188 pp.)
13		Peskestt & Ramachandra 33-52 Wright, chs. 6-10 (169 pp.) Proposed research topics due
20		Peskestt & Ramachandra 53-68 Wright, chs 11-15 (179 pp.)
27		Peskestt & Ramachandra 69-88
Oct. 4		Peskestt & Ramachandra 89-106 Final research proposals due.
11	<i>No class – fall break week</i>	Peskestt & Ramachandra 107-123
18		Peskestt & Ramachandra 124-39 Roxburgh article Guder, chs. 1-3
25	Presentations & discussion	Peskestt & Ramachandra 140-156 Guder, chs. 4-7
Nov. 1	Presentations & discussion	Peskestt & Ramachandra 157-171 Guder, chs. 8-9
8	Presentations & discussion	Peskestt & Ramachandra 172-90
15	Presentations & discussion	Peskestt & Ramachandra 191-207
22	Presentations & discussion	Peskestt & Ramachandra 208-24
29	<i>No class</i>	Peskestt & Ramachandra 225-42
Dec. 6	Presentations & discussion	Peskestt & Ramachandra 243-60
Dec. 8		Term paper due @ 11:00 a.m.