COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course examines issues in the world mission enterprise in light of today’s challenges, opportunities, and obligations. An introduction to anthropological theory and tools is presented in order to develop an appreciation and understanding of the task of bringing the Gospel across cultural and ethnic boundaries. The call to mission service is examined, the theological mandate for missions is clarified, the historical advance of the Church through missions is reviewed, and strategies for effective contemporary missions are considered.

COURSE OBJECTIVES: Students will demonstrate the following understandings, motivations, and skills:

1. Students will be able to trace biblical and theological foundations for missions.

2. Students will be able to identify key historical events, personalities, and trajectories of the missionary enterprise.

3. Students will show a practical understanding of cultural anthropology as it relates to missionary life and ministry.

3. Students will show a grasp of basic tools for intercultural communication and cross-cultural ministry.

4. Students will demonstrate an understanding of important missiological theories, strategies and practices that are currently influencing missions.

REQUIRED TEXTS: (1347 pp) *Reading Kane and Wright before the first weekend is suggested.


(298 pp)


**RECOMMENDED READING:**


COURSE ASSESSMENT:

1. Class participation (includes attendance and contribution to class discussions). (20%)

2. Read a biography of a missionary of your choice (150-200 pp). Write a 3 page paper. Describe who, what, when, where and why of their life and ministry and their impact on world missions. Also explain the impact of their life and ministry on your knowledge, vision and passion for world missions. (10%) (Due Saturday, 10 October)

3. Research paper (8-10 pages) on a topic previously approved by the professor. (25%) (Due Saturday, 14 November)

4. Elenetics paper (8-10 pages) on a people group of your choice approved by the professor. (25%) Your paper should include: (Due Saturday, 14 November)
   a. Brief description of the culture of the people group from your research.
   b. Description of the world view of the people from your people group. Include their country and culture. Use your class notes on world view for information and, use your notes on the five magnetic points of religion as an outline.
   c. Prepare a list of 15 – 20 stories (text and title only) which are designed to lead a person from this people group to Christ. Explain why each story was chosen as it relates to the worldview and the gospel.
   d. Evaluation of your approach and the process of evangelization explaining how your set of stories have dealt with the issues of contextualization and syncretism.

5. Take-home final examination (open book preparation only, closed book written essays – no collaboration permitted). (20%)

NOTE: Spelling and grammar of written submissions (other than the take-home final examination, which cannot be checked by another person to edit it) must be accurate and will be taken into account in course assessment. Format must comply with the standards of Reformed Theological Seminary.

Extension Policy
All assignments and exams are to be completed by the deadlines announced in this syllabus or in class.

Extensions for assignments and exams due within the normal duration of the course must be approved beforehand by the Professor. Extensions of two weeks or less beyond the date of the
last deadline for the course must be approved beforehand by the Professor. A grade penalty may be assessed.

Extensions of greater than two weeks but not more than six weeks beyond the last deadline for the course may be granted in extenuating circumstances (i.e. illness, family emergency). For an extension of more than two weeks the student must request an Extension Request Form from the Student Services Office. The request must be approved by the Professor and the Academic Dean. A grade penalty may be assessed. (RTS Catalog p. 42 and RTS Atlanta Student Handbook p. 14)

Any incompletes not cleared six weeks after the last published due date for course work will be converted to a failing grade. Professors may have the failing grade changed to a passing grade by request. (RTS Catalog p. 42)

OFFICE HOURS:

Dr. Austin is available before or after class by appointment and may also be contacted by e-mail (tom.austin@mtw.org).

COURSE SCHEDULE:
The course is structured in a bloc format. Classes meet for 3 weekends during the 2015 Fall semester as scheduled, at the RTS/Atlanta campus: 11 & 12 September, 9 & 10 October, 13 & 14 November. Sessions will be held from 6 pm to 9 pm on Friday evenings and from 9 am to 4 pm on Saturdays. (Students are encouraged to interact with one another and with the professor during class breaks.)

(Note: This course is taught on a graduate level. Readings are supplemental to the lectures and provide either background or amplifying viewpoints or information. Lectures do not necessarily reprise all the readings, nor are they scheduled with a corresponding list of particular pages in assigned texts. Required Reading must be completed by the end of the course.)

**Intended Class Lecture Schedule** (may be adjusted):

| Sept 11 | God’s Mission - An Overview |
| Sept 12 | The Changing Face of World Missions |
| Sept 12 | Key Terms in Missions |
| Sept 12 | World View |
| Oct 9 | Contextualization and Syncretism |
| Oct 10 | Christianity’s Encounter with Islam |
| Oct 10 | Elenetics |
| Oct 10 | Current Strategies in Missions |
| Nov 13 | Current Strategies in Missions |
| Nov 14 | Current Trends in Missions |
Nov 14  Church/Mission Relations
# Course Objectives Related to MDiv* Student Learning Outcomes

**Course:** 04MS518 Missions  
**Professor:** Dr. Thomas L. Austin  
**Campus:** Atlanta  
**Date:** Fall 2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MDiv* Student Learning Outcomes</th>
<th>Rubric</th>
<th>Mini-Justification</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><em>In order to measure the success of the MDiv curriculum, RTS has defined the following as the intended outcomes of the student learning process. Each course contributes to these overall outcomes. This rubric shows the contribution of this course to the MDiv outcomes.</em></td>
<td>&gt; Strong</td>
<td>Requires class interaction and a major course paper that demonstrate the student’s mastery of biblical, historical, theological, and global information.</td>
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<td><em>As the MDiv is the core degree at RTS, the MDiv rubric will be used in this course.</em></td>
<td>&gt; Moderate</td>
<td>Some key passages and terms in the original languages are dealt with to provide a biblical ontology for a theology of missions and redemptive history.</td>
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<td>&gt; Minimal</td>
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<td><strong>Articulation (oral &amp; written)</strong></td>
<td>Broadly understands and articulates knowledge, both oral and written, of essential biblical, theological, historical, and cultural/global information, including details, concepts, and frameworks.</td>
<td>Strong</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Scripture</strong></td>
<td>Significant knowledge of the original meaning of Scripture. Also, the concepts for and skill to research further into the original meaning of Scripture and to apply Scripture to a variety of modern circumstances. (Includes appropriate use of original languages and hermeneutics; and integrates theological, historical, and cultural/global perspectives.)</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Reformed Theology</strong></td>
<td>Significant knowledge of Reformed theology and practice, with emphasis on the Westminster Standards.</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
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<td><strong>Sanctification</strong></td>
<td>Demonstrates a love for the Triune God that aids the student’s sanctification.</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
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<td><strong>Desire for Worldview</strong></td>
<td>Burning desire to conform all of life to the Word of God.</td>
<td>Strong</td>
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<td><strong>Winsomely Reformed</strong></td>
<td>Embraces a winsomely Reformed ethos. (Includes an appropriate ecumenical spirit with other Christians, especially Evangelicals; a concern to present the Gospel in a God-honoring manner to non-Christians; and a truth-in-love attitude in disagreements.)</td>
<td>Strong</td>
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<tr>
<td>Preach</td>
<td>Ability to preach and teach the meaning of Scripture to both heart and mind with clarity and enthusiasm.</td>
<td>Minimal</td>
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<tr>
<td>Worship</td>
<td>Knowledgeable of historic and modern Christian-worship forms; and ability to construct and skill to lead a worship service.</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
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<td>Shepherd</td>
<td>Ability to shepherd the local congregation: aiding in spiritual maturity; promoting use of gifts and callings; and encouraging a concern for non-Christians, both in America and worldwide.</td>
<td>Minimal</td>
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<tr>
<td>Church/World</td>
<td>Ability to interact within a denominational context, within the broader worldwide church, and with significant public issues.</td>
<td>Strong</td>
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