

RECU 70970  
Course Title: Mission Today - Justice, Mutuality and Partnership  
Dates: July 29-August 2, 2019  
(3 Credit Hours)

Instructor: Jonathan Barnes, Ph.D.

Prerequisites: There are no prerequisites for this course.

Description of Content:

Despite our rapidly changing context, both locally and globally, many Christians continue to use inherited and antiquated understandings and practices when engaging in cross-cultural mission. This course will explore the changing perceptions of the church's nature and mission, and the implications for ecumenicism, interfaith dialogue, evangelism, and justice work. Through exposure to a variety of voices and perspectives, including those from the Global South, students will better understand their own theological/ethical presuppositions around mission as well as gain knowledge and skills to assist local churches in approaching both domestic and international mission through a lens of partnership, mutuality and justice centered relationships.

Class Procedures:

The format is week-long intensive class. Class time will include lectures (including possible guest participation via Zoom), viewing documentaries, class and small group discussion of assigned texts, lectures and documentaries, discussion of case studies, and brief in-class writing assignments.

Requirements:

- 1) All students will read the assigned texts (as listed on the Course Schedule) prior to meeting each work.
- 2) All students will bring issues and questions arising out of the readings to class for discussion.
- 3) All students will prepare a reflection of 4 to 5 pages that shares your understanding and experience of mission prior to this class. Students will need to address the following questions: Why did you sign up for this course? What do you hope to learn or gain from taking this course? What presuppositions or inherited understandings of mission do you bring? What cross-cultural mission experiences have you had? This paper will be due by 12:00 a.m. CST on Saturday, July 27. Please note that this is *prior to the beginning* of the course.
- 4) All students will prepare daily 2-page essays that respond to assigned readings, incorporating learnings from the text(s), from guest speakers and documentaries, and your own thoughts. The papers will be due by 12:00 a.m. CST after each day of class.

- 5) All students will prepare a reflection of 6 to 8 pages on the themes in mission that have been discussed. Considering your local church/ministry site, what are the inherited understandings of how mission engagement should be practiced? In what ways is your local ministry setting currently engaged in mission, either domestically or internationally? How would you critique this current practice, both positively and negatively? If you cannot identify any current mission engagement in your current ministry setting, why do you think this is the case? Using materials/learnings from this course, what are ways you can engage your local ministry setting to foster new understandings and practices of mission? Remember, the focus of this paper is to incorporate your understanding of mission today as you serve in your local ministry setting. This paper is due by Wednesday, August 6 at 12:00 a.m. CST.

Texts:

Jonathan Barnes and Peter Makari (eds.), *Restoring Dignity Nourishing Hope: Developing Mutuality in Mission*. Cleveland: Pilgrim Press, 2016. ISBN 978-0-8298-2037-9

Wesley Granbert-Michaelson, *From Times Square to Timbuktu: The Post-Christian West Meets the Non-Western Church*. Grand Rapids, MI: William B. Eerdmans Publishing, 2013. ISBN 978-0-8028-6968-5

Ogbu Kalu, Peter Vethanayagamony and Edmund Kee-Fook Chia (eds.), *Mission After Christendom: Emergent Themes in Contemporary Mission*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2010. ISBN 978-0-664-23465-2

Dana Robert, *Christian Mission: How Christianity Became a World Religion*. Hoboken, NJ: Wiley-Blackwell Publishers, 2009. ISBN 978-0-631-23620-7

Grading Procedures:

Grading assessments are made according to the official definition of letter grades in the Divinity School. Letter grades are defined numerically according to the following formula: A = 94-100 (90-93 = A-), B = 84-86 (87-89 = B+, 80-83 = B-, etc.) The lowest passing grade for the course = 60. Work not submitted will receive a "0". By BDS policy, incomplete grades are given only for genuine, unforeseeable emergencies such as accident and illness. They require application through the Registrar's office.

Course grades will be determined as follows:

Participation	10%
Pre-class reflection paper	30%
Daily 2-page reflections	20%
Final paper	40%