Course Description

Examines the missional church in light of God’s mission in the world. This course gives special attention to the missional church movement within the post-Christendom context of the West. Various streams of missional church will be examined, as well as subjects such as: missional ecclesiology, holistic witness, community engagement, missional communities, disciple-making, and leadership. Three semester hours.

Course Learning Objectives

At the end of this course students will be able to:

1. Describe the theological foundation of God’s mission (missio Dei).
2. Explain defining marks of the missional church (missio ecclesiae) in light of God’s mission.
3. Apply missional practice (missio praxis) in a local context, whether planting a missional church or helping an existing congregation to become more missional.
4. Engage in the conversation regarding various perspectives and applications of missionality.

Course Texts: Required


Additional Texts for PhD and DMin Students:

Course Format and Expectation

This course will follow a format that includes lecture, discussion, field experience and literature research.
Learning Assignments Required

1. **Reading Questions.** Complete assigned readings and be prepared to discuss in class. Write two questions (clarifying or discussion) based upon the reading for each Friday night session, two questions for each Saturday morning session, and two questions for each Saturday afternoon session. (No afternoon session Nov. 17) The entire list of twenty-two (22) questions will be due on the final weekend of class. 20%

2. **Participation** in class discussion based on assigned readings. See attendance policy below regarding absences. 5%

3. **Missional Experience.** Students will write a 5-6 page-paper about a missional church experience during this course. The experience should be one that the student participates in outside of class time. Describe the missional experience, missional space, and observable outcomes in light of principles discussed in class. 30%

4. **Research Paper.** Students will write an 8-10 page-research paper, plus bibliography, that develops in detail one to three areas of missional church and practice, integrating concepts from the reading, lectures, and research. Suggested topics are: 1) holistic evangelism, 2) disciple-making and spiritual formation for mission, 3) and missional communities. For **PhD and DMin students**, the requirement for this research paper is 16-20 pages, plus bibliography, as students engage more deeply with theory and research. Examples are: a critique of Hirsch’s application of APEST, leading a congregation toward missionality, comparison of discipleship curricula such as Breen’s 3DM and Forge Chicago’s residency, application of missional metrics, and comparison of models of missional communities. All students must receive approval of topic by the professor. 45%

Course Grading

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Score Range</th>
<th>Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>95-100</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>93-94</td>
<td>A-</td>
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<tr>
<td>91-92</td>
<td>B+</td>
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<td>88-90</td>
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<td>86-87</td>
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<td>72-75</td>
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<tr>
<td>70-71</td>
<td>D-</td>
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<tr>
<td>0-69</td>
<td>F</td>
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All submitted work will be evaluated according to the following criteria:
- Content
- Critical thinking
- Organization
- Communication
- Documentation
- Mechanics – grammar, spelling, style, and form

An “A” paper is exceptional in all of the above criteria. The writing style engages the reader. Organization is characterized by coherence and logic. The text is marked by originality of ideas and outstanding critical reflection. Documentation is plentiful and accurate. The student not only thoroughly answers each question or addresses each topic, he or she provides a convincing presentation that explores all of the implications related to the question or topic. The student follows the **TIU Style Guide**, and Kate Turabian, *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*, 7th Edition.

A “B” paper is technically competent in all of the above criteria. The writing style is clear and reasonable, and the writing is generally effective without rising to sustained excellence. Each question or topic is covered completely and the student engages in above average critical reflection and commentary.
A “C” paper represents competent but underdeveloped work. C papers are adequately but obviously organized, and the argument tends toward oversimplification without being implausible. The student fails to answer all of the questions or has failed to cover the topic completely. Errors are scattered throughout. In some C papers, excellent ideas are marred by poor presentation. In other C papers, the organization, structure, and grammar are not flawed, but the ideas ought to show greater development. In most situations, the grade of C is earned in work that merely meets the requirements of the assignment.

A “D” paper demonstrates some effort on the author’s part but is too marred by technical problems or flaws in thinking and development of ideas to be considered competent work.

An “F” paper has received a failing grade, usually reserved for work that demonstrates minimal effort on the author’s part (adapted from Barbara Gross Davis, Tools for Teaching).

**Course Policies**

Attendance is required at scheduled classes, from the beginning of the class time. Excuses (medical or legal) must be supported by documentation. Students are not excused for work- or ministry-related reasons. If you must miss class, speak to another student to get notes. Students who miss a Friday evening session, Saturday morning session, or Saturday afternoon session without a medical or legal excuse, will have their final grade lowered by one half letter (e.g. A > A-).

Course assignments are due on the date indicated on the syllabus. Late papers will be lowered by one full letter grade (e.g. A > B) for each day the paper is late.

Turn cell phones off, or to vibrate. Laptops may be used during class for the exclusive purpose of taking notes related to the lecture and discussion.

Students should quote books, articles, essays, and Internet sites with proper credit given to the author(s). For the policy on plagiarism see the current TEDS Catalog and Academic Handbook.

All work must be original work prepared for this class only and not work submitted previously or concurrently with another course. All spiritual conversations must be during this semester and not from earlier experiences.

This course is highly participatory and requires engaging each other with courtesy, gentleness, and respect. Students are to be mindful of the ways their speech has the power to encourage or discourage.

In compliance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), it is the policy of Trinity Evangelical Divinity School to provide appropriate and reasonable accommodations, or academic adjustments, and services to students with a documented disability to help ensure an equal educational opportunity. Students seeking these services should contact Jana Holiday, Associate Dean of Students, at the earliest possible time with supporting documentation. If you believe you might have a disability that negatively impacts your educational performance, but have never been diagnosed, you are encouraged to meet with Jana Holiday to discuss your needs. You can contact her at jrholiday@tiu.edu or 847-317-4063.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Reading</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>F, Aug 24</td>
<td></td>
<td>Introduction to Course; <em>Missio Dei</em>: Mission of the Triune God; Biblical Meta-Narrative; Kingdom of God</td>
<td>Newbigin 1-65; Frost &amp; Hirsch, 225-230 (Glossary)</td>
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<tr>
<td>S, Aug 25</td>
<td>9am</td>
<td>Incarnation; Johannine “Sent” Theology; Church as Sent; Spirit-led Ministry; Full-orbed, Mission of the Church</td>
<td>Hastings 11-36; 80-117</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>12pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>S, Aug 25</td>
<td>12pm</td>
<td>Gospel, Culture, and Church; Christ and culture; Mission in the 21st Century</td>
<td>Newbigin 66-159; Keller 29-83; 181-243; Frost &amp; Hirsch, ix-xi, 3-30</td>
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<tr>
<td>F, Sept. 21</td>
<td></td>
<td>Missional Church Defined; Streams of Missional Thought; Missional Church Metrics</td>
<td>Frost &amp; Hirsch, 33-75; Keller 264-275; Hastings 121-146</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S, Sept. 22</td>
<td>9am</td>
<td>Ministry in Context; Cultural Exegesis; Contextualization</td>
<td>Frost &amp; Hirsch, 76-94; Keller 89-132; Hastings 147-189</td>
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<tr>
<td>S, Sept. 22</td>
<td>12pm</td>
<td>Disciple-making; Learning theory in the Missional Church; Formation and Equipping</td>
<td>Frost &amp; Hirsch, 134-162, 201-223; Keller 277-289</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S, Oct. 20</td>
<td>9am</td>
<td>Congregational Culture; Missional Communities; Small Groups</td>
<td>Keller 251-261; 311-320</td>
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<tr>
<td>S, Oct. 20</td>
<td>12pm</td>
<td>Evangelism, Holistic Witness, Justice, and Human Flourishing</td>
<td>Keller 135-179; 322-335; Hastings 219-239</td>
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</table>
**ME 7510 Missional Church Dr. Gustafson**

**F, Nov. 16**  **Paper on Missional Church Experience DUE**
Worship: Gathered and Sent; Preaching; Missional Hermeneutic
- Keller 291-309
- Hastings 190-218

**S, Nov. 17am**  **Vision; Missional Imagination; Church as a Missional Movement; Gospel Eco-systems**
- Frost & Hirsch 201-223
- Keller 337-377
- Hastings 307-321

(No pm session due to time allotted for missional experience)

**M, Dec. 3**  **Final Paper on Area(s) of Missional Church and Practice DUE (no class)**

**Bibliography**

**Works by Self-Identified Proponents of the Missional Church Movement**


### Scholars Whose Work Provides Foundational and/or Complementary Thinking about Missionality


**Thought Leaders and Practitioners Whose Writings Express and/or Explore Missional**


