

**ASSEMBLIES OF GOD THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY**  
**BTH/MHT 501 The Mission of God in Biblical and Contemporary Contexts**

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**COURSE SYLLABUS**

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This introductory course to the *River* segment of the AGTS curriculum segment of the AGTS curriculum consists of an in depth study of the mission of God, as it is revealed in both Old and New Testaments. The course will not only examine the text of Scripture, but also consider the mission of God in terms of history, culture, and philosophy of the people to whom the mission was delivered, the interpretation of Scripture within the Bible, the progressive development of biblical theology as new cultures and peoples were engaged by Israel and the Church, the modes of mission and ministry which are evidenced in the Bible, and the application of biblical missiology to the contemporary world context.

**OBJECTIVES**

At the conclusion of this course the student should be able to:

- explain the concept of biblical theology.
- identify important persons, events, institutions, and concepts related to the biblical narrative of God's Mission.
- trace the history of the *Missio Dei* through both Old and New Testaments.
- evaluate the assertion that *Missio Dei* is the unifying theme of the Bible.
- articulate a biblical understanding of human diversity and God's desire to save men and women from every diverse human grouping.
- consider how the process of intercultural and inter-religious encounter between the people of God and other peoples shaped the progressive revelation of God in Scripture and apply the principle to contemporary ministry.
- discern the unique role of mission within the themes and structures of the New Testament.
- identify the missiological principles within the Scriptures and how they may be applied in contemporary ministry.
- understand and experience the role of the Holy Spirit and Spirit-empowered believers in the fulfillment of *Missio Dei*.
- commit his or her life to the cause of God's mission.
- encounter the power of God's Spirit as an enabler of life and mission.

## REQUIRED READING

### **Textbooks:**

Glasser, Arthur F., et al. *Announcing the Kingdom: The Story of God's Mission in the Bible*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2003.

Kaiser, Walter C. *Mission in the Old Testament: Israel as a Light to the Nations*. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 2000.

Köstenberger, Andreas J. and Peter T. O'Brien. *Salvation to the Ends of the Earth: A Biblical Theology of Mission*. New Studies in Biblical Theology 11. Downers Grove: InterVarsity, 2001.

### **On Reserve:**

Alexander, T. Desmond and Brian S. Rosner, et. al., editors. *New Dictionary of Biblical Theology*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity, 2000.

## BASIC OUTLINE AND COURSE SCHEDULE

1/11/07 Biblical Theology and a Missional Hermeneutic/Mission in Creation (JC) (DT in Argentina)

**Reading:** Alexander and Rosner, "Biblical Theology," "History of Biblical Theology," and "Relationship of Old Testament and New Testament" in *NDBT*; Köstenberger/O'Brien pp 19-23; Glasser, 17-45

1/18/07 Creation and Fall/Biblical Theology of Diversity. (JC)

**Reading:** Kaiser pp. 7-50; Köstenberger/O'Brien pp. 25-53; Glasser pp. 46-55.

1/25/07 (**Day of Renewal**)

2/1/07 Covenant and Promise. (JC)

**Reading:** Kaiser pp. 51-63; Glasser, pp. 56-89.

2/8/07 From Exodus to the Davidic Covenant (DT).

**Reading:** Kaiser 65-82. Glasser, 90-104. **Interactive Review of Kaiser due.**

2/15/07 Monarchy to the Exile. JC (DT in Peru)

**Reading:** Glasser, 105-139

2/22/07 Prophets and Mission; OT summary. (DT)

3/1/07 Spring Study Week

3/8/07 **Midterm Exam**; Intertestamental Period. (DT) (JC at SPS)

**Reading:** Köstenberger/O'Brien pp. 55-71.

3/15/07 *Missio Dei* in the Gospels. (DT)

**Reading:** Köstenberger/O'Brien pp. 73-127, 203-226.

3/22/07 *Missio Dei* in the Gospels, continued. (DT) (JC in Vancouver) Glasser, pp. 183-258.

3/29/07 Book of Acts: The Holy Spirit in Mission and Paul's Missionary Methods. (DT)

**Reading:** Kaiser pp. 75-82; Köstenberger/O'Brien pp. 127-201.

4/5/07 Acts and Paul, continued. (DT)

**Reading:** Glasser pp. 259-311.

4/12/07 Paul and General Epistles. (DT)

**Reading:** Glasser pp. 311-358.

4/19/07 Revelation, Summary of New Testament. (DT, JC at NCAHLC)

**Reading:** Köstenberger/O'Brien pp. 227-270; Glasser pp. 359-373.

**4/26/07 Summary session; Empowerment Service (JC, DT in Belgium).**

**Final Paper due.**

## **METHODOLOGY**

Course objectives will be met through:

1. Classroom lecture
2. In-class questions, answers, and discussions.
3. Completion of required assignments of reading and writing

## **COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

1. **Consistent attendance.** Anticipated absences should be made known to the professors beforehand. Consult the AGTS catalog for seminary policy on the relation between excessive absenteeism and grade reduction.
2. **Completion of reading assignments** on the indicated dates (see course plan).
3. **Classroom participation** (discussion, questions, answers) where appropriate.
4. **Interactive Book Review.** The paper will be a 4-5 page treatment of the Kaiser text. Approximately one-third will consist of summary, while the remainder will consist of a critical interaction with the contents. By critical interaction one means evaluation, appreciation, and critique, as well as a reflection upon a text's larger ramifications.
5. **Midterm Exam.** An objective examination over course material to this point.
6. **Research paper.** In 12-15 pages, summarize the content of this course by writing a paper entitled: "My Biblical Theology of *Missio Dei*." In this paper, you should:
  - Apply the principles of biblical theology taught in the class;
  - Demonstrate a comprehensive knowledge of *missio dei* as found in the biblical witness, including appropriate biblical references. Be sure to demonstrate a clear contextual understanding of all texts that are discussed.
  - Include rich footnoting of scholarly sources from the literature of Old and New Testament studies and missiology.

· After presenting your understanding of the biblical principles of mission, apply them to your current sense of God's unique calling on your life and what the Holy Spirit is leading you to do.

**\*Late work will be docked one-half letter grade per date unless previous permission has been granted by the professor.**

### **GRADING PROCEDURE**

Class participation 10%

Book Review 15%

Midterm Exam 35%

Final Paper 40%

**Total 100%**

### **SELECT BIBLIOGRAPHY**

Students are advised to consult the excellent bibliography at the conclusion of Köstenberger and O'Brien for their research needs.