

MISS6248 LIFE AND WORK OF THE MISSIONARY
New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary

Disclaimer: This syllabus is intended to give the student a general idea of the content, format, and textbooks used for this class. The professor will submit a full syllabus at the beginning of the class which will contain a course schedule and the instructor's information.

Seminary Mission

The mission of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary is to equip leaders to fulfill the Great Commission (Matthew 28: 16-20) and the Great Commandments (Matthew 22:34-40) through the local church and its ministries.

Course Purpose

The purpose of this course is to help equip those studying at NOBTS to fulfill the Great Commission (Matthew 28: 16-20) through the local church and its ministries.

Core Value Focus

Our seminary has five core values: doctrinal integrity, spiritual vitality, mission focus, characteristic excellence, and servant leadership. This course relates in some way to all five core values but especially mission focus which states in part: "We are here to change the world by fulfilling the Great Commission and the Great Commandments through the local church and its ministries."

Curriculum Competencies Addressed

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary has seven basic competencies guiding the NOBTS curriculum. This course supports and relates to various competencies such as servant leadership, interpersonal skills, and spiritual and character formation. The disciple making competency which states is "to stimulate church health through mobilizing the church for missions, evangelism, discipleship, and church growth" is especially addressed in the curriculum of this course.

Course Description

This course is designed to introduce the prospective cross-cultural missionary to selected issues encompassing lifestyles; strategic thinking and planning; contemporary methodologies and critical life and ministry skills.

Student Learning Outcomes

By the end of the course the student should be able to:

1. Define the dimensions of being a missionary.
2. Value critical life and ministry skills for missionaries
3. Develop plans to improve in selected target competencies of selected dimensions for a missionary.

Course Teaching Methodology

A variety of teaching methods will be utilized including Power Point presentations, online handouts, threaded discussion, utilization of missions related websites, and other communication mediums. Learners are also expected to contribute and learn from each other.

Course Textbooks

Explore: Pathways to Missions. Booklets on-line. Rockville, VA: International Centre for Excellence in Leadership, 2004. Available from: <http://icelonline.com/>

Hale, Thomas. *On Being A Missionary*. Pasadena: William Carey Library, 1995.

Lingerfelter, Sherwood G. And Mayers, Marvin K. *Ministering Cross-Culturally: An Incarnational Model for Personal Relationships*, Second Edition. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2003.

Course Requirements

1. **Blackboard**. Each student must **maintain a valid e-mail address recorded in your Blackboard account at all times**.

. If you have trouble using Blackboard, please contact the ITC department of NOBTS at blackboardhelpdesk@nobts.edu or call (504) 816-8180.

2. To read and be tested on class presentations, assigned readings, and handouts. Quizzes and reading checkups will be given on reading the week it is due.

3. Complete the Basic Value Questionnaire found in the 1st reading assignment for *Ministering Cross-Culturally*. Write a one page double-spaced reflection paper about your strengths and weaknesses. Submit on digital drop box by --. (This will not be graded, but required as part of class participation.)

3. Complete assignments related to the Personal Development of the “Seven Dimensions” of serving as a missionary.

A. Complete self-assessments to determine individual development in each of the seven dimensions of a missionary. The assessments are found in the online version of *Explore: Pathways to Missions: Self Assessments*. Instructions for scoring answers are for on page 9. Write a two paragraph reflection about your assessments of yourself. Submit on digital drop by -. (This will not be graded, but required as part of class participation.)

B. Examine and write a one-page reflection and summary of items discovered in each on-line booklet related to the seven dimensions. A conclusion should be included. The total length of the reflection assignment would be 8-10 double-spaced full pages. Due --.

C. Complete any additional assignments related to the seven dimensions materials in *Explore*.

4. To write and submit a six to nine full pages double spaced typed critique of regarding one of the following types of books with the professor's approval: a. a missionary biography b. missionary strategic planning c. contemporary missionary methodologies d. critical life and ministry skills for missionaries such as one of the seven dimensions or e. other topic approved by the professor.

(1) Briefly summarize the contents of the book. Discuss the major topics or themes of the book. Summaries may be done for each chapter but covering the main themes is more important.

(2) Evaluate the material from a biblical, theological, and missiological perspective. (Use separate paragraphs for each category.)

A. Biblical- Evaluate the use of Scripture in the book. Does the book have a good biblical foundation in the way it uses verses or indirectly in references to the Bible. For example: Is the author using the Bible in a proper way or simply trying to justify a position with biblical references or materials? B. Theological -Evaluate the theological soundness of the author's work. For example: What is the basis for their theological statements? Is their theology based on a solid scriptural foundation? C. Missiological - Evaluate the soundness of the missions perspective of the book. For example: Does the author used solid and practical missions methods or does it appear to be missions theory?

(3) Discuss two or more concepts, principles, or ways to apply concepts from the book that would be useful to someone involved in missionary service. Include how these points could impact your own life and ministry.

Use Headings for each section in the body of the paper: **Summary, Evaluation, Discussion** Each section should be approximately two full pages of text. The assignment should be posted by --.

5. The student will post a handout of one or more pages about the above book containing practical insights or suggestions applicable to ministry from the book on a discussion board set up on Blackboard. The handout should not simply be a outline of chapter titles or major sections of the book. The handout should be posted by --.

6. To complete one of the following projects:

A. Write a research paper selected from one of the following categories: (1) examining a missionary leader's life (past or present) focusing on applicable insights from their life (2) missionary strategic planning with applicable principles to one's own ministry (3) a contemporary missionary methodology with emphasis on analyzing the methodology and its application by missionaries on the field. (4) selected critical life and ministry skills for missionaries such as one of the seven dimensions. (5) Other topic approved by the professor.

All Research Papers: The research paper should be fifteen to twenty double spaced typed full pages citing at least twelve to fifteen different sources in the body of the paper and a separate bibliography of works consulted. Use an outline including an introduction and conclusion. (Preliminary outlines will be evaluated by the professor.) Footnotes or endnotes are acceptable. Post on digital drop box by --.

B. Conduct interviews of eight to ten missionaries. Compose a list of questions dealing with issues related to this course of study to ask the missionaries. Some of the interviews may be done by e-mail. (Contacts should be made immediately to insure time to get responses or contact alternative persons to replace those not responding timely.)

All Interview Papers: The written report may include categories of questions, a summary of answers, and research about topics used in interviews. A complete list of questions asked may be included as an appendix. The report should be fifteen to twenty double spaced typed pages and have at least six different cited references plus interviews. Pseudonyms may be used for people working in sensitive or a high security region. Post on digital drop box by --.

C. Do an alternative project upon approval of the professor. An alternative project should be fifteen to twenty double spaced pages and use an appropriate number of different cited sources (normally twelve to fifteen as for Option A. above.) Post on digital drop box by --.

7. The student will present a summary of two pages consisting of key points and insights from the paper to post on a discussion board by --.

Additional Explanation about Assignments:

1. ***Reading***

Students are expected to read all the assigned texts. Weekly quizzes or reading checkups (check to see what percentage of reading completed) are posted to test the student over the week's assigned reading.

2. ***Quizzes and Reading Checkups***

Quizzes will cover the material assigned for that particular week (see schedule below). Quizzes are 10 minutes in length. Quizzes must be taken or reading checkup posted by Saturday, midnight of each week.

3. ***Examinations***

Two exams will be given, a midterm and a final. Posted announcements will give details.

4. ***Research Paper & Summary***

Every student will write a paper to engage in in-depth research. Each student must submit a research paper proposal sheet to have his or her topic approved.

The topic approval sheet must contain the student's name, paper title, thesis, and five possible sources. The same sources used in the research proposal should be used for the research paper. Research papers may be submitted via the digital dropbox on Blackboard. See above for detailed explanation of paper and summary.

5. **Book Review & Handout**

Students should complete one books review. Students can select a book from the list that is attached to the syllabus or another book approved by the professor. Reviews are to be done in Turabian style. Book reviews may be submitted via the digital dropbox on Blackboard. See above for detailed explanation of book review and summary.

6. **Power Point Presentations and Audio Recordings**

Students must download Power Point presentations and listen to the attached audio file during the week assigned. Material covered in the presentations will be tested in the mid-term exam and final exam.

7. **Discussion Boards**

Students will participate in discussion boards topics posted under the “Groups” section of Blackboard. The topics for the board will relate to the reading topics or other assignments.

Announcements will be posted about when to participate in discussion boards.

8. **Grading Scale**

Scale

A: 93 – 100

B: 85 – 92

C: 77 – 84

D: 70 – 76

F: Below 70

9. **Announcements on Blackboard**

The syllabus lists the due dates for required textbook readings and major assignments. Announcements will post reminders about discussion boards or other additional assignments. There will be seven units and each unit may have an audio introduction and/or a threaded discussion related to the topic.

Course Topics*

Introduction to the Course

Dimensions of Serving As a Missionary:

Disciple

Cross-Cultural Witness

Mobilizer

Team Player

Church Planting Movement Facilitator

Family Member
Servant Leader
Church Planter Characteristics
Lifestyles of Missionaries
Strategic Thinking and Planning
Contemporary Methodologies
Critical Life Skills

* The main focus through Power Point Presentations and handouts will be the seven dimensions. The textbooks, book reviews and special projects chosen by students, will focus on parts of these dimensions or other listed topics.

Course Reminders

1. Academic misconduct including but not limited to plagiarism, cheating, or unacceptable conduct may result in failure of the course and disciplinary action by the seminary as outlined in the student handbook.
2. Failure of a computer, printer, or other electronic devices used to compose class assignments will not be accepted as a reason for late work.
3. Members of the class are expected to treat the professor and each other with respect in their online discussion and communication. If not, appropriate action may be taken based on seminary policies.
4. Use Times New Roman as font and size 12 for papers. Using PDF for discussion group posting of papers would be helpful for reading easily.
5. Use Kate Turabian's *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations* as the official style and form guide.

Evaluation

Written Book Critique & Handout	10%
Written Project and Summary	20%
Midterm Exam	15%
Final Exam	15%
Online Participation & Discussion	15%
Reading Checkups and Quizzes	15%
Seven Dimension Assignments	10%

Netiquette: Appropriate Online Behavior

Each student is expected to demonstrate appropriate Christian behavior when working online on the Discussion Board. The student is expected to interact with other students in a fashion that will promote learning and respect for the opinions of others in the course. A spirit of Christian charity will be expected at all times in the online environment.

Note: Textbook readings and quizzes or reading checkups should be completed by Saturday of the assigned week. All other assignments are due on the posted day by 11:59 P.M.

Assignments turned in late receive an automatic ten point deduction. There will be an additional ten point deduction for each week late . (An assignment turned in one week late would receive a 20 point deduction.)

No assignments will be accepted more than two weeks past the due date.

ALL ASSIGNMENTS MUST BE COMPLETED BY A STUDENT IN ORDER TO PASS THE COURSE.

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