



Course Syllabus Wycliffe College Toronto School of Theology

This description is intended to assist in the course approval process and to assist students in determining whether this course will help them achieve their educational objectives and the learning goals of their program. It is not a learning contract. The details of the description are subject to change before the course begins. The course syllabus will be available to the class at the beginning of the course.

Course Identification

Course Number : WYP1610HS
Course Name: The Church, The Faith, and Our World
Campus: St. George

Instructor Information

Instructor:	Peter Robinson	Teaching Assistant:	Gayle Doornbos
E-mail:	peter.robinson@wycliffe.utoronto.ca	E-mail:	gayle.doornbos@mail.utoronto.ca
Office Hours:	by appointment		

Course Prerequisites or Requisites

This is an online course. Student who are geographically able are expected to take the in-class version of this course. Priority will be given to distance students.

Students should expect a larger weekly workload because this is a 12-week class condensed into an 8-week format.

Students need good computer access as well as the ability to participate in the class several times a week. Class participation will be on-line, and the timely participation of all students helps to create an environment of safety and collegiality. Late posts for the on-line discussions will not be accepted.

Course Description

To introduce students to theological praxis in the context of exploring the church, the faith and our place in the world. Particular attention is given to understanding and analyzing how groups of people seek to live out their Christian faith in particular contexts.

Course Methodology

The course will consist of video-taped lectures, weekly readings, congregational observation report, book review, congregational analysis, discussion questions, and a final paper. Students are expected to be a part of a local community in which they are able to do an in-depth analysis of the master story.

Course Resources

Required Course Texts

- Readings will be available on Blackboard

Course Website

- Blackboard <https://weblogin.utoronto.ca/>

This course uses Blackboard for its course website. To access it, go to the UofT portal login page at <http://portal.utoronto.ca> and login using your UTORid and password. Once you have logged in to the portal using your UTORid and password, look for the **My Courses** module, where you'll find the link to the website for all your Blackboard-based courses. (Your course registration with ROSI gives you access to the course website at Blackboard.) Note also the information at <http://www.portalinfo.utoronto.ca/content/information-students>. Students who have trouble accessing Blackboard should ask Thomas Power for further help.

Class Schedule

Week 1 Introduction to the course. The shape of theology in ministry: understanding the shaping and formation of local Christian Communities.

Readings: Nancy Ammerman, "Culture and Identity in a Congregation," chapter 3 in *Studying Congregations: A New Handbook*, pp. 78–104.

Week 2 The Gospel in particular time and space.

Readings: Lesslie Newbigin, The Good Shepherd, Chapter 23 The Gospel and our Culture and Chapter 24 The Particularity and Universality of the Gospel. pp. 116-126

Week 3 The Missio Dei: Whose Mission is it?

Readings: Chris Wright – 'Mission as Matrix' in *Out of Egypt: Biblical Theology and Biblical Interpretation*, Bartholomew, Healy, Moeller, Parry (Zondervan and Paternoster, 2004): pp 102–43.

Laing, Mark, 'Missio Dei: Some implications for the Church' in *Missiology: An International Review*, k 1. XXXVII, no. 1, January 2009

Week 4 God shaped Mission

Readings: Sarisky, Darren, 'The Meaning of the missio Dei: Reflections on Lesslie Newbigin's Proposal That Mission Is of the Essence of the Church', *Missiology: An International Review*, 2014, Vol. 42(3) 257–270

Vinay Samuel and Chris Sugden, 'God's intention for the World' in *Mission as Transformation*, (Regnum 1999) pp.166–207.

Week 5 Jesus came in the Flesh: Some Implications of the Incarnation for Mission.

Readings: Guder, Darrell, *Incarnation and the church's evangelistic mission*.

Week 6 What in the World? Thinking about Culture Today

Readings: D.A. Carson, *Christ and Culture Revisited*. Chapter 1

William Willimon & Stanley Hauerwas, Ch 3 *Church and World in Where Resident Aliens Live*.

Week 7 Church and Culture

Readings: Christopher Kaiser, 'Wearing Different Hats: Christian Living in a Fragmented World' in *Confident Witness; Changing World* (Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1999):pp. 16–25;

John Perkins, *With Justice for All*, (Regal Books, Ventura California, 1982): chapters 2–4, pp. 26–49.

Week 8 The Church in our World

Readings: Andy Crouch, “Why we can’t change the World” (chapter 12) in *Culture Making* (Grand Rapids, MI: IVP, 2008): pp.187–201.

John Perkins, *With Justice for All* (Regal Books, Ventura California, 1982): chapters 7, 9, 14, pp. 66–75, 86–95, 138–143;

Vinay Samuel, ‘Mission as Transformation’ in *Mission as Transformation* (Oxford: Regnum, 1999): pp. 227–35.

Evaluation

Requirements

1. Readings and blackboard discussion forum participation (30%). Each week after carefully reading what is assigned for that week you will engage with the questions for that reading on blackboard by the Thursday of that week. By Monday you will have responded to at least two other students’ comments on the questions.

Guidelines for online discussion (these guidelines will form the basis for grading)

- a. Postings should be evenly distributed during the discussion period but must be submitted before Thursday at midnight to be included.
- b. Postings should be a minimum of one short paragraph and a maximum of two paragraphs.
- c. Avoid postings that simply state ‘I agree’ or ‘good idea’.
- d. Postings should reflect significant engagement with the readings. Address the questions as much as possible and avoid letting the discussion stray.
- e. Build on other responses in the thread.
- f. Use proper etiquette (proper language, typing, etc.).
- g. Bring prior related knowledge into the discussion (other readings, work experience, etc.)

2. Site observation report. (3-4 pages) (10%) Visit three distinct congregations/mission initiatives and write up a concise ‘1st reactions’ overview on one of the sites. ***Due the 3rd week of class.** Students are strongly encouraged to begin or even complete this assignment before the beginning of the course. **See Site Visit Guidelines available on Blackboard.**

3. Book forum (15%) – You will be assigned to a study group forum where you will engage in a discussion of *The Open Secret* by Lesslie Newbigin. After carefully reading the book you will discuss a set of questions (which will be provided) with your study group on the forum. As a group you will summarize your discussion into a 2-3 page document which will be **due on week 5.**

4. Church/Mission initiative analysis: powerpoint presentation/video with short synopsis 6 pages (20%). MDiv. Students are to prepare and present an in-depth analysis of a local Christian Community/Church. MTS students are to prepare and present an in-depth analysis of a local mission initiative (or if they prefer they may, with the MDiv students, do an analysis of a local Church). Guidelines for research will be provided at the beginning of the course. The presentation can be in the form of a video recording or a dynamic powerpoint presentation that is a maximum of 15 minutes in length. The goal should be to give a sense of the masterstory of the community in as succinct a manner as possible for someone who does not know the church or mission. The presentations are to be posted to blackboard **by the seventh week of class.**

In addition to their own presentation each student is encouraged to post a comment or question to at least two other student’s presentations.

5. Final Paper 3000- 3500 words. (25%) Write a paper one of the following missional leaders: Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Dorothy Day, John Perkins. You will describe their theology of mission, their formation for ministry, their character and their leadership. Some of the questions you may want to address include: How did their theology shape their praxis? What significant events or people helped form/shape them for ministry? What was/is their theology and practice of leadership and mission? **Due by June 28.**

Grading System

Letter Grade	Numerical Equivalents	Grade Point	Grasp of Subject Matter
A+	90–100%	4.0	Profound & Creative
A	85–89%	4.0	Outstanding
A-	80–84%	3.7	Excellent
B+	77–79%	3.3	Very Good
B	73–76%	3.0	Good
B-	70–72%	2.7	Satisfactory
FZ	0–69%	0	Failure

Grades without numerical equivalent:

CR	Designates credit; has no numerical equivalent or grade point value
NCR	Designates failure; has no numerical equivalent, but has a grade point value of 0 and is included in the GPA calculation
SDF	Standing deferred (a temporary extension)
INC	Permanent incomplete; has no numerical equivalent or grade point value
WDR	Withdrawal without academic penalty
AEG	May be given to a final year student who, because of illness, has completed at least 60% of the course, but not the whole course, and who would not otherwise be able to convocate; has no numerical equivalent and no grade point value

Policy on Assignment Extensions

Basic Degree students are expected to hand in assignments by the date given in the course outline. This penalty is not applied to students with medical or compassionate difficulties; students facing such difficulties are kindly requested to consult with their faculty adviser or basic degree director, who should make a recommendation on the matter to the instructor. The absolute deadline for the course is the examination day scheduled for the course. Students who for exceptional reasons (e.g., a death in the family or a serious illness) are unable to complete work by this date may request an extension (SDF = “standing deferred”) beyond the term. An SDF must be requested from the registrar’s office in the student’s college of registration no later than the last day of classes in which the course is taken. The SDF, when approved, will have a mutually agreed upon deadline that does not extend beyond the conclusion of the following term. If a student has not completed work but has not been granted an SDF, a final mark will be submitted calculating a zero for work not submitted.

One percentage point per day will be deducted on the course grade if an extension has not been requested by the stated deadline.

Course grades. Consistently with the policy of the University of Toronto, course grades submitted by an instructor are reviewed by a committee of the instructor's college before being posted. Course grades may be adjusted where they do not comply with University grading policy (<http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/Assets/Governing+Council+Digital+Assets/Policies/PDF/grading.pdf>) or college grading policy.

Course Outcomes

COURSE OUTCOMES	COURSE ELEMENT	PROGRAM OUTCOMES
By the end of this course, students	This outcome will be achieved through these course elements:	This course outcome corresponds to these aspects of Wycliffe's statements of outcomes (MTS, MDiv)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> will assess and critique a theological foundation for ministry and mission in relation to the Triune God (Father, Son and Spirit); 	Book forum, online discussion	MTS: 1.3, 1.6, 2.3 MDiv: 1.3, 1.6, 2.2
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> will question and evaluate particular understandings of the Church as the body of Christ, with reference to the challenges and promise within a local North American context; 	Site observation report, in-depth analysis of local church/community, online discussion	MTS: 1.6, 2.3 MDiv: 1.6, 2.2
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> will analyze, interpret and evaluate a local church context; 	In-depth analysis of a local church/community, participation	MTS: 1.6, 2.3 MDiv: 1.6, 2.2, 2.4
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> will discern and articulate the dynamic relationship between church and culture; 	Book forum, site observation, in-depth analysis, online discussion, final paper	MTS: 1.6, 2.2, 2.3 MDiv: 1.6, 2.2
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> will appraise a unique model of leadership and assess the theological foundations and the understanding of mission. 	Final paper	MTS: 1.6, 2.3, 3.3 MDiv: 1.6, 2.3

Policies

Accessibility. Students with a disability or health consideration are entitled to accommodation. Students must register at the University of Toronto's Accessibility Services offices; information is available at <http://www.accessibility.utoronto.ca/>. The sooner a student seeks accommodation, the quicker we can assist.