

# **Course of Study 423 Mission**

**Winter 2025 Weekend Term  
February 7-8 and March 7-8**

**Instructor: Rev. Glenn Rowley  
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## **Course Description**

This course introduces the theology and scope of mission, and the pastor's role in leading congregations in their mission as agents of God's transforming redemption.

## **Course Objectives**

Students will be able to:

- Articulate a biblical and theological framework for Christian mission.
- Explain the Wesleyan relationship of personal piety and social holiness.
- Expand understanding of the inclusive nature of God's mission.
- Examine and reflect on unjust social realities and the response of the church locally and globally
- Analyze their ministry context and develop strategies for transforming mission.

## **Booklist**

### **Required Texts for COS 423:**

Robert, Dana L. *Christian Mission: How Christianity Became A World Religion* (Wiley-Blackwell, 2009, ISBN 978 0631236207)

Wright, Christopher J. H. *The Mission of God's People: A Biblical Theology of the Church's Mission* (Zondervan, 2010, ISBN 978-0310291121)

### **Recommended Texts:**

Cardoza – Orlandi, Carlos *Mission: An Essential Guide* (Abingdon Press, 2002  
ISBN 0-687- 05472-9)

Bosch, David. *Transforming Mission: Paradigm Shifts in Theology of Mission* (Orbis, 1994  
ISBN 0-88344-719-3)

## **Three Assignments**

(All written assignments must be submitted electronically through the Populi platform)

### **Assignment 1: 10 Pages**

#### **Part 1: Creation, Fall, Redemption, New Creation**

In 5 pages, describe the importance of these theological concepts to a theology of mission. Christopher Wright outlines his understanding of how Christianity has been missionally focused from the beginning. How have his insights informed your understanding of mission?

## **Part 2: Empire, Human Rights, and Land**

Dana Robert (in *Christian Mission*, chapter 4) nuances how Christian mission has historically engaged issues of empire, human rights and land. How has this chapter informed your view of these complex realities? How has Robert helped you deepen your understanding? Respond in 5 pages.

**Due date: Wednesday Feb 19**

### **Assignment 2: 5 Page Paper**

In 5 pages, reflect on the content of this class and how it meets your life. You might want to consider how it has compelled you to reconsider things as a pastor, family member, member of society or in your work. You brought ideas and experience to this class; how did the content here force you to think about these things again?

**Due date: Thursday March 6**

### **Assignment 3: 5 Page Paper**

Produce a tool for use in ministry. This could be a Bible study, a small group lesson, a leader development plan, a sermon, a community mapping tool built from a theology of mission or more. Present the tool, intended context and how you might implement it.

**Due date: Thursday March 20**

## **ONLINE FORUMS on POPULI DISCUSSIONS – January 21 – February 3**

### **FORUMS - 2 forums per week (a total of 4 forums)**

- ❖ In these two weeks I will post 2 forums per week. Each of the 2 forums will invite reflection on course material for the week
- ❖ Students engage these forums by making initial posts (250 – 300) in response to the forum topics. You may wish to reference course texts, narrated PowerPoints, videos, or other material.
- ❖ Students will then respond to initial posts by two other students in each of the two forums each week (50 – 100 words)
  - ❖ 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> forum posts by students will open Tuesday Jan. 21 through Tuesday Jan. 28.
  - ❖ 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> forum posts will be open Wednesday Jan. 29<sup>th</sup> through Wednesday Feb. 5
  - ❖ In each two-week posting period initial posts must be done by the second day after the forum opens by 11:59 pm to allow students to write at least two responses to their classmates by the closing date at 11:59pm.
- ❖ Forum postings on time will count and be graded as class participation and attendance.

## ONLINE CLASS MEETINGS

Classes will be held via Zoom for 12 hours on the two weekends; Feb. 7 - 8 and March 7-8 with the following schedule:

### **Friday Feb 7: 4:00 – 6:00pm**

Developing a Missional Hermeneutic - Wright pp. 23-81

### **Saturday February 8: 2:00 – 4:00pm**

The Making of a World Religion – Robert pp 7-52

### **Friday March 7: 2:00 – 4:00 and 5:00 – 7:00pm**

Redemption, Insiders & Outsiders – Wright pp. 82-147

Global Networking and the Politics of Missions – Robert 53 – 113

### **Saturday March 8: 9:00 – 11:00am and 1:30 – 3:30pm**

Bearing Witness, True Good News, Called and Sent – Wright pp. 151 – 243

Women in World Mission & Conversion and Christian Community – Robert pp. 114 – 172

Moving Forward as a Missional UMC – TBA Readings

You will receive a zoom invite from your instructor. A computer or tablet with a camera are preferred – and please plan to have your camera on during class to facilitate discussion.

### **Final Grade**

The final grade will be calculated as follows:

Assignment 1	40%
Assignment 2	20%
Assignment 3	20%
Online Forum Participation	10%
Online Class Participation	10%

Two special notes:

1. Late papers receive a grade no higher than C (unless by special accommodation) and may receive no credit.
2. Missing Online Class session or 20% of a class work results in no credit for the course.  
[See the COS policy below]

### **COSO ACADEMIC HONOR POLICY**

The Course of Study School of Ohio requires that all material submitted by a student in fulfilling his or her academic requirements be the original work of the student.

Violations of academic honor include any action by a student indicating dishonesty or lack of integrity in academic ethics. Violations in this category include, but are not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, or knowingly passing off work of another as one's own.

Cheating includes seeking, acquiring, receiving or passing on information about the content of an examination prior to its authorized release or during its administration.

Cheating also includes seeking, using, giving or obtaining unauthorized assistance in any academic assignment or examination.

Plagiarism is the act of presenting as one's own work with the work of another whether published or unpublished (including the work of another student). A writer's work should be regarded as his or her own property. Any person who knowingly uses a writer's distinctive work without proper acknowledgement is guilty of plagiarism.

A student found guilty of a violation of the academic honor code, after a review of the case, may be subject to one or more of the following sanctions: (1) warning; (2) failing grade for the assignment and/or course; (3) probation; (4) suspension; (5) dismissal from the Course of Study School of Ohio. In severe or repeat cases (regardless of the sanctions) a letter will be sent to the student's District Superintendent and Board of Ordained Ministry representative.

### **COSSO ATTENDANCE POLICY**

National policy from the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry (GBHEM) states that a student is expected to attend every class session. Unexcused absences may be cause for loss of credit or dismissal from the school. A student missing 20% or more of the classroom work shall not receive credit for the class. In the event of extenuating circumstances which require the student to miss up to 20% of the synchronous course time (whether in-person or on Zoom), the student should contact both the instructor and the Director prior to the start of the class to get approval and discuss make-up work. (Extenuating circumstances include emergency situations, illness, and dire circumstances, for example. Students are to provide back-up coverage at the local church while attending COS classes.)

**Cancellation and Withdrawal:** Student must notify the COSSO office if they will be unable to attend class for which they are registered. Although there is no penalty when withdrawing more than two weeks in advance of the beginning of a term, registration fees are nontransferable and nonrefundable. A \$50.00 late withdrawal fee is charged for all withdrawals within two weeks of the start of a class. All tuition and housing payments are applied to a future term.

Students withdrawing after the start of a term will be assigned a grade of AW (Administrative Withdrawal) and will be responsible for the full \$300.00 tuition amount. Any annual conference scholarship applied to the student billing record becomes the student's responsibility and is due by the end of the term. Housing payment is non-refundable.

**No Shows:** Except in cases of immediate and dire emergencies, if a student misses any class without notifying the COSSO office, tuition and housing fees are due immediately, a \$50.00 no show fee is charged, and the student will receive an "F" in the class.