

**Southern Wesleyan University**  
"The Missional Church"  
*Spring 2013*

**Meeting Date, Time, and Location:** January 18, 19- SWU Campus Location  
(Friday): 2-5:30 & 7-9:30 p.m. [6 hrs]  
(Saturday): 8:15-12:15 [4 hrs]  
March 15, 16-12Stone  
(Friday): 9:30 a.m. – 12 noon & 1-5:30 p.m. @ 12Stone [7 hrs]  
(Saturday): 9 a.m. – 12 noon in Central [3 hrs]  
April 5, 6- SWU  
(Friday): 2-5:30 & 7-9:30 p.m. [6 hrs]  
(Saturday): 8:15-12:15 [4 hrs] + 1-4:30 for student presentations

<b>Instructor:</b>	Dr. Derrick Lemons	<b>E-Mail:</b> dlemons@uga.edu	<b>Phone:</b> 706-206-1927
<b>Coordinator:</b>	Dr. Mari Gonlag	<b>E-Mail:</b> mgonlag@swu.edu	<b>Phone:</b> 864-644-5229
<b>Practitioners:</b>	Matt LeRoy-Love Chapel Hill	<b>E-Mail:</b> matt@lovechapelhill.com	
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## I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

Transformational ministries in today's rapidly changing culture require churches that are "missional" from a biblical, theological, and cultural perspective. This course will help you better understand the cultural context in which you serve and teach you how to apply biblically faithful and culturally relevant missiological strategies to your ministry. Special attention will be given to North American cultural shifts, the missional/sending nature of God and of the church, effective communication in various cultural contexts, and emerging ministry patterns in North America.

## II. COURSE OBJECTIVES

1. Explain the biblical and theological basis of the missional church.
2. Analyze their ministry in relation to the biblical models of the missional church.
3. Understand, evaluate, and answer the primary benefits and criticisms of the missional church.
4. Critique and evaluate North American cultural shifts, especially in their own ministry context.

## III. TEXTBOOKS AND MATERIALS

### A. REQUIRED

1. Lesslie Newbigin. Foolishness to the Greeks: The Gospel and Western Culture. Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans, 1986.
2. Mike Frost. The Road to Missional: Journey to the Center of the Church. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 2011.
3. Supplemental readings will be provided on the course website and email.

#### IV. ASSESSMENT AND EXPECTATIONS

Assessment of your learning encompasses what is more commonly referred to as grading. I may use these two words interchangeably. I have designed a suite of assessments meant to support your progress towards the course objectives described. Here's a table that gives you the breakdown of how I will evaluate your learning, followed by a description of the different assignments:

Assessment	Total Points	Your Grades
Attendance, Preparation, and Participation	100	
Pre-course Book Reviews	100	
Research Proposal	100	
Class Reflections	100	
Presentation	100	
Post-course Paper	100	
<b>Total</b>	<b>600</b>	<b>Formula: (____ ÷ 600 X 100)</b>

- **The course syllabus is a general plan for the course; deviations announced to the class by the instructor may be necessary.**
- **Overall Attendance, Preparation, and Participation** – In order to accomplish the goals of this course, it is essential that you prepare and participate. Therefore, I expect you to attend class. Simply showing up is one of the most important things you can do in this course. We will talk about things in class that will supplement your reading and other course work. I reserve 100 points of your grade to award your contributions. I will evaluate your contribution based on your attendance (monitored via a sign-in sheet), how well you work with your peers during the small-group discussions, and other things like asking and responding to questions in class. Absences will only be excused with appropriate documentation such as a note from a doctor or a university official. SWU attendance policy requires you to attend at least 75% of class to be granted credit for the course. In the event you are unable to attend 75% of the course, you will receive a F for the course.
- **Small-group Discussion** –Throughout the semester, some class time will be used for small group discussions based on the topic being discussed in class. These discussions will provide you with an opportunity to learn within the supportive context of a group of peers. Your participation will be included as part of your participation grade.
- **Written Exercises** –
  - **Pre-Course Book Reviews** (Due the first day of class). Utilize the following guide to review Michael Frost and Lesslie Newbigin's books:
    - *Book Review Guide*  
Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Course Title: \_\_\_\_\_  
Book Title: \_\_\_\_\_
      1. Overview—Write a one-paragraph overview of the book.
      2. Critique—Write two-paragraphs explaining the strengths and weaknesses of the book.
      3. Application—Write one-paragraph applying what you learned to a specific ministry setting demonstrating the value and relevance of the book.
      4. Ten Best Quotes—Write your favorite quotes and their page numbers.

- **Class Reflections** (Due one week following each class). Answer the following questions during each instructor's presentation and turn in at the conclusion of class:
  - *Questions Guide*
    1. What is being said? In other words, what is the argument being put forward?
    2. What is the evidence? What kinds of data are used and are they adequate?
    3. In what ways is the argument sound? What gives me faith in the message?
    4. What is missing? What questions go unasked, and what gaps exist?
- **Research Proposal** (Due February 1)
  - In a one page double-spaced paper explain the church/group you plan to make the focus of your project and what you think may be an opportunity for living out an incarnational mission. Also, on a second page include a list of 10 books or journal articles which you may cite in your Missional Engagement Paper.
- **Presentation** (Due April 6)
  - Prepare a presentation to explain to the class your Missional Engagement Paper project.
- **Post-Course Missional Engagement Paper** (Due April 13)
  - Students will provide a 20 page double-spaced description and assessment of their church/group and its particular culture with reference to the particular challenges and opportunities for Christian witness. If you are not in a specific ministry setting within a local church, then utilize your immediate context (ie. SGA, Class, family, an athletic team, a local school, etc.) These assessments should include: a description of the immediate cultural context of the church/group (5 pages); a description of the church/group, its activities, its purpose, and leadership structures (5 pages); an assessment of the specific challenges facing the church/group for the expansion of its witness to the gospel in its particular setting or for reaching the group with the gospel (5 pages); and a detailed plan for living out an incarnational mission utilizing your church/group (5 pages).
  - Minimum benchmarks for project (More fully discussed in Research Methods Lecture)
    - 15 different journal articles, books, class sessions cited in paper
    - 10 Ethnographic Interviews
    - 5 Participant Observation site visits
    - Evidence of connection of missional engagement with a specific cultural context
- **Requests for Extensions** - Extensions for written exercises or your presentation due to illness, authorized representation of the University, or extraordinary personal circumstances must be requested in advance of the deadline or as soon as possible. Unexcused late submissions of assignments are not acceptable and will result in a score of zero (0) being entered for that assignment.

○ **GRADING for Written Work**

- A--Outstanding Work (90-100%) Goes above and beyond the requirements of the assignment, above and beyond merely competent work. Outstanding effort, significant achievement, and mastery of the material of the course are clearly evident. Exceptional critical skills, creativity or originality is also evident.
- B--Above Average (80-89%) A “B” paper fulfills all aspects of the assignment and goes bit beyond minimum competence to demonstrate a thorough and above average understanding of course material. Extra effort, extra achievement or extra improvement often evident.
- C--Average (70-79%) A “C” paper fulfills all aspects of the assignment with obvious competence and grace. A thorough and satisfactory understanding of basic course material and incorporation of an anthropological perspective.
- D--Below Average (63-69%) A “D” paper represents marginally satisfactory understanding of basic course material. A “D” may indicate failure to follow directions, failure to implement specific recommendations, or failure to demonstrate personal effort and improvement. Often a “D” is given either because some aspect of the assignments have not been fulfilled, or because a preponderance of errors (more than one or two per page) interferes with clear communication.
- F--Lack of demonstration of satisfactory understanding of basic course material. Not Acceptable, either because the student did not complete the assignment as directed, or because the level of writing skill is below an acceptable level for college work.

- **Calculation of letter grades** – Your letter grade for the course will be calculated at the end of the semester and will be based on your final percentage. Your final percentage will be determined by adding the total number of points you have earned, dividing it by the total number of points you could have earned, and multiplying by 100. I will use the following scale for determining letter grades: 100-93% A; 92-90% A-; 89-87% B+; 86-83% B; 82-80% B-; 79-77% C+; 76-73% C; 72-70% C-; 69-67% D+; 66-63% D; <62% F.
- **Appeals Process** - If you feel that there has been a mistake in your grade on an exam or another assignment you should talk with me so that we can decide whether or not I should reconsider the score I gave you. I will not consider grading appeals beyond one week after I return an assignment to you.

# Class Schedule

## *January 18, 19- SWU*

<b>Friday</b>		
2 – 4:30 p.m.	Dr. Derrick Lemons	Introduction to the Concept of Culture, the American Context, and the Missional Church
4:30 – 5:30	Rev. Matt LeRoy	Mission in Context
5:30 – 6:45	Supper	
6:45 – 9:30	Rev. Matt LeRoy	Ministry in Context
<b>Saturday</b>		
8:15 – 8:45 a.m.	Dr. Derrick Lemons	Reflections on Friday's Content
8:45 – 11	Rev. Matt LeRoy	Mission in Context
11– 12:15	Dr. Derrick Lemons	Research Methods

## *March 15, 16- 12Stone and SWU*

Friday	9:30 a.m. – 12 noon & 1-5:30 p.m. in Lawrenceville, GA at 12Stone
Saturday	9 a.m. – 12 noon in Central

## *April 5, 6- SWU*

<b>Friday</b>		
2 – 4:30 pm	Dr. Derrick Lemons	The Wesleyan Church in Mission and Challenges to Missional Vocation and Leadership
3:45 – 5:30 pm	Rev. Mark Wilson	Mission in Context
5:30 – 6:45 pm	Supper	
6:45 – 9:30 pm	Rev. Mark Wilson	Ministry in Context
<b>Saturday</b>		
8:15 – 8:45 am	Dr. Derrick Lemons	Reflections on Friday's Content
8:45 – 12:00	Rev. Mark Wilson	Mission in Context
12 – 1	Lunch	
1 – 4:30	Dr. Derrick Lemons	Student Presentations