



**PMMI8302 Contemporary
Mission Trends
New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary
Division of Church Ministries
Fall 2026 (September 28–30, 2026)**

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Mission Statement

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary and Leavell College prepare servants to walk with Christ, proclaim His truth, and fulfill His mission.

Course Description

The purpose of this seminar is to familiarize students with the most current mission methods being employed on mission fields throughout the world, and oftentimes, in missional churches in America. Students are also led to examine some of the great movements that are impacting the world of missions. Seminar participants become familiar with mission efforts being effectively used and with issues that impact modern missions.

Student Learning Outcomes

By the completion of the course, each student will be able to:

1. Formulate essential biblical principles for contemporary mission methods and movements.
2. Identify various contemporary mission methods and movements.
3. Develop an understanding of strengths and limitations of existing contemporary mission methods and movements.
4. Understand and analyze strategy development in contemporary mission settings.
5. Increase and implement strategic planning skills for in contemporary mission settings, including both local church and mission agency settings.

Required Readings

The following textbooks are required and must be read in their entirety:

Caldwell, Larry W., Marty Shaw, Jr., and Enoch Wan, eds. *New Frontiers in Missiology: Exploring Innovation, Global Shifts, and the Future of Mission*. Evangelical Missiological Society Series 33. Littleton, CO: William Carey, 2025, pp. ix–113.

Cochran, Gregory C. *Christians in the Crosshairs: Persecution in the Bible and Around the World Today*. Wooster, OH: Weaver, 2016.

Farah, Warrick, ed. *Motus Dei: The Movement of God to Disciple the Nations*. Pasadena, CA: William Carey, 2021.

Lederleitner, Mary. *Women in God's Mission: Accepting the Invitation to Serve and Lead*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP Academic, 2018.

Moon, W. Jay, and W. Bud Simon. *Effective Intercultural Evangelism: Good News in a Diverse World*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity, 2021.

Spitters, Denny, and Matthew Ellison, eds. *Conversations on When Everything Is Missions: Recovering the Mission of the Church*. Orlando, FL: BottomLine, 2020.

Udall, Jessica A. *Loving the Stranger: Welcoming Immigrants in the Name of Jesus*. Addis Ababa, ET: Abeneazer, 2015.

Course Teaching Methodology

The primary course method will involve reading, writing, and student interaction with peers and the professor.

Course Requirements

1. Pre-Seminar Assignments (All pre-seminar assignments are due in Canvas by 11:55 pm on Saturday, September 26.)

a. Executive Summaries (25%)

Students will read the required textbooks and prepare a detailed summary of each book. Each summary will:

- (1) Identify the thesis and provide a synthesis of the book's major themes.
- (2) Provide a critical analysis of strengths and weaknesses of the book.
- (3) Be 3–4 pages, double-spaced, and in correct form and style.

In addition to the summary for *Motus Dei*, the professor will also assign each student chapters from the book to present during the seminar. The professor will communicate the chapters via email and Canvas.

b. Annotated Analysis (20%)

Each student will read (1) of the textbooks listed below and compose an Annotated Analysis that provides:

- (1) A two-page summary of the book's content.
- (2) The identification of five key insights and issues addressed to the related contemporary trend in missiology and a one-page discussion for EACH insight, relating the importance of the insight in the student's ministry context.
- (3) A one-page reflection on the two significant strengths and two significant weaknesses of the book.

The total page count for the Annotated Analysis is eight, double-spaced pages. The Annotated Analysis should use proper form and style. Do not write in first person. Students will present their book during the seminar. Students are to email Dr. Johnson their first choice, second choice, and third choice of books. The professor will make the assignments in the order of emails received and communicate via email and Canvas.

Books

Boyd-MacMillan, Ronald. *Faith That Endures: The Essential Guide to the Persecuted Church*. Grand Rapids, MI: Revell, 2006.

Cocanougher, Stu. *Reaching the World Across the Street*. Skyforest, CA: Urban Loft Publishers, 2022.

Dzubinski, Leanne M., and Anneke H. Stasson. *Women in the Mission of the Church: Their Opportunities and Obstacles throughout Christian History*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2021.

DeYoung, Kevin, and Greg Gilbert. *What Is the Mission of the Church?: Making Sense of Social Justice, Shalom, and the Great Commission*. Crossway, 2011.

Garrison, David. *Wind in the House of Islam: How God Is Drawing Muslims Around the World to Faith in Jesus Christ*. Monument, CO: WIGTake, 2014.

George, Sam and Miriam Adeney, eds. *Refugee Diaspora: Missions Amid the Greatest Humanitarian Crisis of the World*. Littleton, CO: William Carey Publishing, 2018.

Horner, David A. *When Missions Shapes the Mission: You and Your Church Can Reach the World*. Nashville: B&H, 2011.

Payne, J. D. *Strangers Next Door: Immigration, Migration, and Mission*. Grand Rapids, MI: IVP, 2012.

Rhodes, Matt. *Persecution in Missions: A Practical Theology*. Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2026.

Thacker, Jason. *The Age of AI: Artificial Intelligence and the Future of Humanity*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2024.

c. Interviews (10%)

Each student will interview two missions organizations/agencies or individuals serving in missions or missiology to identify five issues they consider most significant and pressing in missiology today. Students will summarize their findings in a 3–5 page, double-spaced paper that follows proper form and style. The paper should identify the interviewees, describe the five issues, and explain the rationale for their significance. Students will also present their findings during the seminar.

2. Seminar Requirements

a. Seminar Presentations and Participation (15%)

Each student will be involved in seminar presentations and discussions involving all pre-seminar assignments. Students are expected to be active participants in all sessions of the seminar.

3. Post-Seminar Requirements

a. Contemporary Mission Trend Paper (30%)

Each student will write a research paper discussing one contemporary mission trend from the seminar (or another trend with approval from the professor) and connecting it to their current ministry context. The paper should be 15–20, doubled-spaced pages and follow proper style and form. The bibliography should include no less than 15 scholarly sources that the student has interacted with in the paper. Pertinent course texts are expected to constitute to the sources for the paper. Grading is based on the student's understanding of the trend, depth of research, clarity of writing, and practical application to their ministry context. Other specific instructions regarding the paper will be given by the professor prior to the end of the seminar.

The paper is due in Canvas by 11:55 pm on Wednesday, October 28.

Evaluation of Grade

The student's grade will be computed as follows:

• Executive Summaries	25%
• Annotated Analysis	20%
• Trend Interviews	10%
• Seminar Participation	15%
• Contemporary Mission Trend Paper	30%

Course Grading

Grading for the course will follow the guidelines in the NOBTS Academic Policies:

A = 93–100; B = 85–92; C = 77–84; D = 70–76; F = Below 70.

Attendance Policy

Absences in doctoral seminars are not permitted. Students enrolled in the seminar are expected to attend each meeting of the seminar. Absence of over two hours of seminar meetings will result in a non-passing grade unless special permission is granted due to extraordinary circumstances.

Technical Assistance

Here is the contact information for the ITC support team, who are to help you with your NOBTS/LC technical questions/issues/support requests:

1. ITCSupport@nobts.edu - Email general technical questions/support requests. If you are not sure who to contact, use this email address!

2. Selfserve@nobts.edu - Email technical questions/support requests with the Selfserve.nobts.edu or My.nobts.edu site (Access to online registration, financial account, online transcript, etc.)
3. Canvas@nobts.edu - Email technical questions/support requests with the NOBTS Canvas Learning Management System, Canvas.nobts.edu site. / nobts.instructure.com.
4. VCHelpDesk@nobts.edu - Email technical questions/support requests with NOBTS Microsoft Teams (Flex & Live classes)
5. [504.816.8180](tel:504.816.8180) - Call for any technical questions/support requests. (Currently available Mon, Tues & Thurs 7:30am-7:00pm, Wed 7:30am-6:00pm & Fri 7:30-12:00pm Central Time)
6. www.NOBTS.edu/itc/ - General NOBTS technical help information is provided on this website.

Disability Accommodations

Accommodations for students with disabilities are determined and approved by the Assistant Dean of Students for Student Affairs. If you, as a student, believe you are eligible for accommodations but have not obtained approval please contact Conner Hinton immediately at chinton@nobts.edu or 504-816-8246. Students must complete the Accommodation Request Form and provide documentation of their disability. The Assistant Dean of Students notifies students and faculty members of approved academic accommodations and coordinates implementation of those accommodations. While not required, students and faculty members are encouraged to discuss details of the implementation of individual accommodations. The seminary reserves the right to consider each request for special accommodations on a case-by- case basis pursuant to the criteria enumerated above.

Plagiarism on Written Assignments

NOBTS has a no-tolerance policy for plagiarism. Plagiarism in certain cases may result in expulsion from the seminary. See the NOBTS Student Handbook for definition, penalties, and policies associated with plagiarism.