WESTERN JURISDICTION COURSE OF STUDY

SYLLABUS WITH PRE-CLASS ASSIGNMENT

Summer 2020

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**COS 423 – Mission**

**The Rev. Dr. Ron Hines** – ronhines1970@gmail.com

This course introduces the theology, history, and scope of Christian mission, and the

pastor’s role in leading congregations in their mission as agents of God’s transforming

redemption, both in their neighborhood, and around the planet, the earth home we share

with diverse peoples. Students will be able to:

1. Articulate a biblical and theological framework to understand how the Christian

mission has made Christianity a world religion.

2. Explain how the Wesleyan movement’s emphasis on personal piety and social

holiness has contributed lively hope for a transformed world.

3. Examine and reflect on the church’s response, locally and globally, to creatively

transform unjust social realities.

4. Analyze the mission field in their local ministry context and develop strategies for

mission that participate in God’s transforming work near and far in our wide world.

**Required Reading:** (Purchase these!)

PLEASE NOTE AT THE END OF THIS SYLLABUS THERE IS ADDITIONAL

INFORMATION ABOUT RESOURCES

1. *Mission: An Essential Guide,* Carlos F. Cardoza-Orlandi (Abingdon, 2002)

2. *Christian Mission: How Christianity Became a World Religion*, Dana L. Robert

 (Wiley-Blackwell 2009)

3. *Joining God, Remaking Church, Changing the World: The New Shape of the Church in*

 *Our Time*, Alan J. Roxburgh (Morehouse, 2015)

(Articles downloadable from the internet may also be assigned from time to time.)

**Supplementary Resources:** (Some may be available through CST Library.)

1. Framework for Christian Mission

John B. Cobb, Jr. *Jesus’ Abba: The God Who Has Not Failed* (Fortress Press, 2015)

Carlos F. Cardoza-Orlandi and Justo L. Gonzalez. *To All Nations From All Nations:*

 *A History of the Christian Missionary Movement* (Abingdon, 2013)

Philip Jenkins. *The Next Christendom: The Coming of Global Christianity*

 (Oxford University Press, 2002, 2007, 2011, 3rd edition)

Lesslie Newbigin. *The Open Secret: An Introduction to the Theology of Mission*

 (William B. Eerdmans, 1978, 1995, revised edition)

Rodney Stark. *The Rise of Christianity: How the Obscure, Marginal Jesus Movement*

 *Became the Dominant Religious Force in the Western World in a Few Centuries*

 (Princeton University Press, 1996)

2. Wesleyan Movement

Theology of Mission Statement, United Methodist Board of Global Ministries.

See <http://www.umcmission.org/Learn-About-Us/Theology-of-Mission>.

*Book of Discipline 2016* (See especially historical sections, summary of doctrine, and

 paragraphs 120-125, “The Mission and Ministry of the Church.”)

*Book of Resolutions 2016* (See especially the Social Principles and the Social Creed)

Dana L. Robert. *Joy to the World: Mission in the Age of Global Christianity*

 (Women’s Division, General Board of Global Ministries, United Methodist, 2010).

 Contains a Study Guide by Toby Gould for United Methodist Women Mission

 Study for 2010 and 2011.

Philip R. Meadows, “Wesleyan Wisdom for Mission-Shaped Discipleship,” *Journal of*

*Missional Practice*, Volume 3 (January 2014). Download at

<http://journalofmissionalpractice.com/wesleyan-wisdom-for-mission-shaped-discipleship/>.

See Board of Discipleship resources at website [SeeAllThePeople.org](http://SeeAllThePeople.org). You may

 download Junius B. Dotson, *Engaging Your Community: A Guide to Seeing All the*

 *People,* (Discipleship Resources, 2018).

3. Church Response to Injustice

Miroslav Volf, *A Public Faith: How Followers of Christ Should Serve the Common*

 *Good* (Brazos Press, 2011)

Theodore W. Jennings, *Good News to the Poor: John Wesley’s Evangelical Economics*

 (Abingdon, 1990)

*In the Company of the Poor, Conversations with Dr. Paul Farmer and Fr. Gustavo*

 *Gutierrez* (Orbis, Maryknoll, NY 2013)

Steve Corbett & Brian Fikkert, *When Helping Hurts: How to Alleviate Poverty without*

 *Hurting the Poor. . .and Yourself* (Moody, 2009)

4. Responding to Your Mission Field

Thomas G. Bandy, *See, Know & Serve the People within Your Reach* (Abingdon, 2013)

Douglas Ruffle, *A Missionary Mindset: What Church Leaders Need to Know to Reach*

 *Their Community - Lessons from E. Stanley Jones* (Discipleship Resources, 2016)

Carter, Kenneth and Audrey Warren, *Fresh Expressions: A New Kind of United*

 *Methodist Church for People Not in Church* (Abingdon, 2017)

Daniels, Joe, Jr. *Walking with Nehemiah: Your Community Is Your Congregation*

 (Abingdon, 2014)

Dottie Escobedo-Frank and Rob Ryndars, *How God Is Using the World to Shape the*

 *Church* (Abingdon Press, 2016)

Henry H. Knight III & F. Douglas Powe, *Transforming Community: The Wesleyan*

 *Way to Missional Congregations* (Discipleship Resources, 2016)

**Pre-Class Assignments**

 1. Read the three required books.

 2. Write no more than 800 words on each set of the following questions (A,B,C), and be

 prepared to share your responses in our first day of class.

A. In the spirit of Carlos Cardoza-Orlandi’s Introduction (p. 11ff) and Conclusion (p. 110ff),

write your testimony of involvement with God’s mission. When have *you* been a *recipient* of

mission? When have you been a *subject* of mission? Explain the difference between

“mission” and “missions.”

B. Respond to Alan Roxburgh’s invitation to join God in the neighborhood. See especially

“God at the Center” (p. 38-46), and “Practices for the Journey” (p. 47-55). How is your

congregation responding to God in your neighborhood? Which practices now help your folk

follow Jesus into the neighborhood?

C. React to Dana Robert’s summary of “How Christianity Became a World Religion.”

Anything in that story makes you ashamed of Christians in mission? What makes you proud

to be a Christian in mission? What surprises you about that history? What questions does it

raise for you?

3. Choose one of the Supplementary Resources, and write a response. Mention two new

things you learned, two things you disagreed with, and two questions that the reading

provoked for you. This paper should be roughly 800 words in length. *Be prepared to*

*share this with the class when its content is relevant.*

4. These papers (for #2 and #3) will be *sent by email to the instructor before the class.*

 His email address is ronhines1970@gmail.com. *Papers should arrive by June 15.*

 (These initial papers comprise 25 percent of your course grade.)

5. Choose a missionary or mission project sponsored by your Annual Conference and

 *take notes* on what you learn by following that mission. *Be prepared to share with the*

 *class* your thoughts about relating your congregation to this person or project.

6. The last class day will provide opportunity to revisit *your understanding of your own*

*personal calling* to engage in God’s mission, and *your congregation’s participation* *in*

*God’s mission,* both in its own neighborhood context, and as a citizen of the global

family of life. This will be shared in a final paper of about 1000 words, which will

also guide your oral report. (It will determine 35 percent of your grade.) Possible

questions that might guide your project are these:

What group is the focus of mission? What do you know about them? How do you

know this about them? What do you not know? How can you find out more?

Where do power and the lack of power manifest themselves in this context? What

is the Biblical basis of your engagement with them in mission? How have faith

groups related to these persons in the past? How can you harm them with

mission? What are the questions you have about what it would mean to be in

mission with them? How can you bridge seeing “them” as other, and thus make

mission more about “us”?

**Class participation**

Forty percent of your final grade will be determined by your participation in class. The

class will be conducted as a seminar, and you are expected to participate actively and

honestly, asking questions both of others and yourself. You will be respectful of others, but you will also challenge them to think critically, just as you will graciously accept their challenges to you. You will bring lessons and questions from your reading assignments to bear on the issues we discuss during the class sessions. At the end of each session, you will be given instructions on how to prepare for the following class, including reviewing pertinent portions of the required reading. You will show up on time for each day’s session.

*Questions about the course may be directed to the instructor at*

*ronhines1970@gmail.com.*

TENTATIVE CLASS TOPICS

COS 423 MISSION, JULY 1-6, 2019

RON HINES, INSTRUCTOR

**Class schedule**

We will have six three-hour class sessions. The sessions may include discussion, lecture,

film and other media, and interviews with mission practitioners. Here is the anticipated flow of our class experience.

**Monday, July 6 Get Acquainted with One Another, Sharing our Calls to Mission.**

A How did you receive *Abba’s* Good News? How are you sharing this Good News?

B Describe the Mission Field in which you are called to make a difference.

**Tuesday, July 7 Celebrate *Abba’s* Mission of Compassion;**

 **Confess our “Christendom” Sins.**

A Celebrate the Biblical Witness of *Abba’s* work in our world!

 Introduce biblical & theological testimony to *Abba’s* Mission!

 Celebrate a Movement of Compassion Flowing from Jesus Christ!

B Global Christianity vs Empire (Own our failings in Christendom’s history!)

**Wednesday, July 8 Spread “Scriptural Holiness” in “the World, Our Parish.”**

A Affirm the Wesleyan Heritage in United Methodist mission.

B Affirm Local Congregations in Connection as a Wesleyan Strategy.

**Thursday, July 9 Witness for Christ in multi-cultural neighborhoods near and far!**

A Culture Christian Engagement with *Abba’s* Mission in the Neighborhood!

B Culture Christian Engagement with *Abba’s* Mission in a Multi-Faith World!

**Friday, July 10 What do you need in order to respond to Abba’s call to Mission?**

A Cultivate the “Missionary Mindset” (E Stanley Jones & Path 1)

B View *Your* World through *Abba’s* Lens!

**Saturday, July 11 Sharpen the Focus of *Abba’s* Call to Mission at home and abroad!**

A For you and your congregation, revisit *Abba’s* Call to Your Neighborhood!

B For you and your congregation, claim a piece of *Abba’s* global vision!

Throughout the sessions you will focus on *designing a mission project, related to the*

*context you described on the first day of class.* This will involve both a brief verbal

presentation to the whole class as well as a *1000 word paper due no later than June 20*.

Your paper and presentation on this project will form 35 percent of your final grade.

**RESOURCE LIST FOR COS423 MISSION:**

(\*Book available on CST library? \*\*E-Book only available; \*\*\*Book & E-book available)

(#Resource available for download from internet.)

PLEASE NOTE THAT YOU WILL NEED YOUR STUDENT ID/LIBRARY CARD TO ACCESS THE CST LIBRARY SYSTEM. IF YOU NEED THE NUMBER PLEASE

CONTACT JUDY LITTLE AT jlittle@cst.edu. **(For those who left their IDs with her last year for safe keeping.)**

**Required:**

1. \*\*\**Mission: An Essential Guide*, Carlos F. Cardoza-Orlandi (Abingdon, 2002)

 BV2063 .C363 2002

2. \*\*\**Christian Mission: How Christianity Became a World Religion*, Dana L. Robert

 (Wiley-Blackwell 2009) BV2100 .R554 2009

3. \*\*\**Joining God, Remaking Church, Changing the World: The New Shape of the Church in Our Time,* Alan J. Roxburgh (Morehouse, 2015) BV601.8 .R6885 2015

**Supplementary:**

1. Framework for Christian Mission

\*\*\*John B. Cobb, Jr. *Jesus’ Abba: The God Who Has Not Failed* (Fortress Press,

 2015) BT153.F3 C63 2015

\*\*\*Carlos F. Cardoza-Orlandi and Justo L. Gonzalez. *To All Nations From All*

 *Nations: A History of the Christian Missionary Movement* (Abingdon, 2013) BV2100 .C27 2013

\*\*\*Philip Jenkins. *The Next Christendom: The Coming of Global Christianity*

 (Oxford University Press, 2002, 2007, 2011, 3rd edition) BR121.3 .J46 2011

\*Lesslie Newbigin. *The Open Secret: An Introduction to the Theology of Mission*

 (William B. Eerdmans, 1978, 1995, revised edition) BV601.8 .N5 1995

\*Rodney Stark. *The Rise of Christianity: How the Obscure, Marginal Jesus Movement*

 *Became the Dominant Religious Force in the Western World in a Few Centuries*

 (Princeton University Press, 1996) BR166 .S75 1996

2. Wesleyan Movement

#Theology of Mission Statement, United Methodist Board of Global Ministries.

See http://www.umcmission.org/Learn-About-Us/Theology-of-Mission

#*Book of Discipline 2016* (See especially historical sections, summary of doctrine, and

 paragraphs 120-125, “The Mission and Ministry of the Church.”)

#*Book of Resolutions 2016* (See especially the Social Principles and the Social Creed)

\*Dana L. Robert. *Joy to the World: Mission in the Age of Global Christianity*

(Women’s Division, General Board of Global Ministries, United Methodist, 2010).

Contains a Study Guide by Toby Gould for United Methodist Women Mission

Study for 2010 and 2011. BV2550 .R58 2010

#Philip R. Meadows, “Wesleyan Wisdom for Mission-Shaped Discipleship,” *Journal of*

*Missional Practice*, Volume 3 (January 2014). Download at

<http://journalofmissionalpractice.com/wesleyan-wisdom-for-mission-shaped-discipleship/>

#See Board of Discipleship website, http://www.SeeAllThePeople.org. You may

 download Junius B. Dotson, *Engaging Your Community: A Guide to Seeing All the*

 *People,* (Discipleship Resources, 2018).

3. Church Response to Injustice

\*Miroslav Volf, *A Public Faith: How Followers of Christ Should Serve the Common*

 *Good* (Brazos Press, 2011) BT738 .V66 2011

\*Theodore W. Jennings, *Good News to the Poor: John Wesley’s Evangelical Economics*

 (Abingdon, 1990) BX8495 W5 J45 1990

\*Michael P. Griffin and Jennie Weiss Block, *In the Company of the Poor, Conversations*

 *with Dr. Paul Farmer and Fr. Gustavo Gutierrez* (Orbis, Maryknoll, NY 2013)

 BT83.57 I5 2013

\*\*\*Steve Corbett & Brian Fikkert, *When Helping Hurts: How to Alleviate Poverty*

 *without Hurting the Poor. . .and Yourself* (Moody, 2009, 2012, 2d ed)

 BV639.P6 C67 2012

4. Responding to Your Mission Field

\*\*\*Thomas G. Bandy, *See, Know & Serve the People within Your Reach* (Abingdon,

 2013) BV601.8 .B36 2013

Douglas Ruffle, *A Missionary Mindset: What Church Leaders Need to Know to Reach*

 *Their Community - Lessons from E. Stanley Jones* (Discipleship Resources, 2016)

\*\*Carter, Kenneth and Audrey Warren, *Fresh Expressions: A New Kind of United*

 *Methodist Church for People Not in Church* (Abingdon, 2017)

\*\*\*Daniels, Joe, Jr. *Walking with Nehemiah: Your Community Is Your Congregation*

 (Abingdon, 2014) BV601.8 .D36 2014

\*\*\*Dottie Escobedo-Frank and Rob Ryndars, *The Sacred Secular: How God Is Using*

 *the World to Shape the Church* (Abingdon Press, 2016) BX8349.S65 E83 2016

Henry H. Knight III & F. Douglas Powe, *Transforming Community: The Wesleyan*

 *Way to Missional Congregations* (Discipleship Resources, 2016)

RESOURCES NOT LISTED, BUT WORTH EXPLORING:

\*W. Stephen Gunter and Elaine A. Robinson, *Considering the Great Commission:*

 *Evangelism and Mission in the Wesleyan Spirit* (Abingdon, 2005)

 BV2063 .C628 2005

\*\*\*Steven Charleston and Elaine A. Robinson, *Coming Full Circle: Constructing Native*

 *Christian Theology* (Fortress, 2015) E98.R3 C437 2015

 See last two chapters: 9. “Mission & Ministry—Church and Culture: A Difficult

 Beginning,” by David Wilson, and 10. “Restoration & Reconciliation—Restoring Truth in a Time of Repentance,” by Thom White Wolf Fassett.

\*\*Peter Slade, Charles Marsh and Peter Heltzel, *Mobilizing for the Common Good: The Lived Theology of John M. Perkins* (University Press of Mississippi, 2013)