

PT 500: FORMATION AND MISSION
OCTOBER 8, 15, 22, 29 AND NOVEMBER 5, TUESDAYS 6:30-10:00 P.M.
(INCLUDES SATURDAY, OCTOBER 19, 8:30 A.M. - 4:30 P.M.)
FALL 2019

Last revised: 06/23/19

This syllabus is intended to give the student guidance in what may be covered during the term (or semester) and will be followed as closely as possible. However, the professor reserves the right to modify, supplement, and make changes as course needs arise.

MTS MISSION

To prepare missional leaders who incarnate the story of Jesus with humility and authenticity and who communicate the story with fidelity to Scripture, appreciation of the Christian tradition, and sensitivity to the needs and aspirations of postmodern culture.

COURSE FORMAT

This course delivers instruction in two or more modes, such as in the classroom, via the E-campus course site, through field experiences, and more. Students are required to participate in all the in-class and outside-of-class instructional sessions as noted in this syllabus. Outside-of-class instruction typically is required and is not considered part of the course's homework hours. The delivery of the outside-of-class instruction varies. Outside-of-class instructional sessions may include recorded lectures, narrated slide presentations, instructor-guided discussion boards, instructor-moderated collaborative assignments, and text-based lectures with study questions and/or teleconferencing.

DATES AND TIMES

This class meets at the Philadelphia campus. The class meets October 8, 15, 22, 29 and November 5 on Tuesdays from 6:30-10:00pm, including Saturday October 19, from 8:30 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. Students should login to the E-campus course site prior to the first class session.

ONLINE PARTICIPATION STANDARDS

Attendance in this course constitutes both 1) coming to class and 2) logging in to the E-campus course site and participating in the online or out-of-class activities assigned throughout the course. Students are responsible for reading and familiarizing themselves with the material posted on the E-campus course site throughout the course. Students should login to the course site regularly, especially when participating in discussion boards or collaborative assignments. Student usage of the course site is tracked by the E-campus software and monitored by the professor of the course. Students who need to be absent from the course site for three or more days during a discussion forum activity or required web conference should email the professor in advance of the absence (see Attendance Policy and Grades in this syllabus). Students may email the instructor at any time if they have questions about the course.

PROFESSOR

Name: Rev. J.R. Briggs

Email: jrbriggs@kairospartnerships.org

Phone: 215.833.4424 (cell)

Contacting the professor:

- E-mail is answered typically within 24 hours of receipt (though not on weekends).
- Appointments can be made by request via e-mail.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

One of the great tragedies of ministry is when pastors and kingdom leaders do ministry *for* God without cultivating a life *with* God. It is out of our own formation and relationship with Christ that we minister to others. And, as we are being formed by Christ to become like Christ in our own lives we also join God in His great mission for the world. Our role is not simply to sit on our hands and wait it out until Christ returns; He has an immensely significant role for all of us to participate in.

In this course we will explore and discuss the significant questions of Christian ministry: *What is the gospel? What is the kingdom of God? What is God's mission – and how do we join Him in it? How do we cultivate and nurture a flourishing and vibrant relationship with Christ, remembering we are children of God first before we are Christian leaders or pastors?* This course lays the foundation for much of your theological and pastoral education at Missio Seminary. Therefore, the prayer is this course will shape you not just for a few weeks or a few semesters, but for decades to come.

WHY SHOULD YOU CARE ABOUT THIS COURSE?

There is nothing quite like the adventure of following our great God into His great mission. When we truly understand that line from the Lord's Prayer – *your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven* – we begin to grasp the nature and value of this course. Our role as Christians is not to take earth to heaven when we die; because of the life, death and resurrection of Jesus, our role is to bring heaven to earth as we live *right now*. This paradigm shift changes everything. It helps us realize the Church is not a building for a few hours on a Sunday morning; it is a group of rescued, redeemed and freed people through Christ who are rescued, redeemed and then unleashed into God's grand vision to seek first the kingdom of God and proclaim it seven days a week outside of the walls of the church building by loving God and loving others. So, why should you care about this course? Because it has the potential to radically reorient and transform how you see God and His mission lived out, not only across the ocean in overseas missions, but across the street with our neighbors on an average Tuesday afternoon.

HOW WILL THIS COURSE HELP YOU GROW AND DEVELOP IN MINISTRY?

While we will talk about what it means to be missional and all of its various implications, this course is also intended to be personal. The goal is not simply to glean new information; you can get that by reading a stack of books or listening to a few podcasts. The goal is to equip and unleash you to join God in His cosmic plan, which includes each one of us. And when we participate in His mission, we will have personal encounters with Christ that will form us and

shape us. If all we do in this course is fill your mind, I have failed you as your professor. But if we learn to love God with all of our heart, all of our soul, all of our mind and all of our strength then we will be prepared to enter into the world that Jesus so loved in order to be light and hope in the midst of darkness and despair.

HOW IS THIS COURSE MISSIONAL?

This course is designed primarily to do one thing: *to change your paradigm of what you think ministry is all about.* We are not called to simply “huddle and cuddle” with a group of Christians and wait it out until Christ returns. Instead, it is to unleash all of God’s people into God’s purposes. By helping you understand the character of this sending God, the nature of His mission (Matthew 28:18-20; John 15:1-8) and how we can faithfully interact with this loving God in our everyday lives, together we will see how this course is missional.

HOW WILL YOU SUCCEED IN THIS COURSE?

As your professor, my job is to not simply to teach you; it is also to help you succeed. Thus, I encourage you to engage in four specific practices.

Participate and engage. Your participation enhances the learning process. Since most of the things we will learn in this class prepare you for practical ministry *outside* of a classroom setting, it is all the more important for you to participate and engage fully *inside* the classroom. This includes having no screens of any time during class times (see below for specific details). By doing so, it will set you up to participate and engage more fully. (Trust me on this one.)

Communicate and interact. Throughout the course, we are teammates in your growth and development. Therefore, communication and interaction between student and professor is crucial. Please communicate with me throughout the course. I will do my best to respond to e-mails and phone calls promptly. Additionally, your communication and interaction with other students in the class is also important. If there are ways to make this course more valuable, meaningful, and fruitful for your ministry, *let me know during the course itself*, not just on the post-class evaluations.

Step out and take risks. I work hard to make the classroom experience a safe, fun, and formative place to learn, engage, and grow. In the safety of our classroom environment, take risks. Try something new. Ask that vulnerable question you’re thinking about. Push back during a discussion. Don’t simply ask “What is the minimum requirement I need to put into this assignment?” Dive deeper. Push yourself. You will find that this will benefit you both now and long into the future.

Be prayerful and listen. This is not simply a course for you to get a good grade. While I certainly want you to flourish academically, this course is a training ground for you to serve people who God loves and who you are called to serve. Prayer is the fuel for mission and ministry. If your head is the only thing engaged in this course, you have missed the point! I am praying that you would learn to trust God deeper and more fully as you gain the practical how-to’s of ministry. I also challenge you to pray for yourself *and for your fellow classmates* that you would see this course as something greater and more sacred and significant than merely academic requirements and assignments. May you meet the God of the Universe in new and fresh ways during this course.

PERSONAL NOTE FROM THE PROFESSOR

For over fifteen years, I've had the sacred privilege of serving as a pastor in mega-churches, church plants, and house churches. I've worked alongside of and invested in kingdom leaders in various settings (i.e. churches, colleges, denominations, non-profits, missions agencies and seminaries, etc.). You can read more on my website at www.kairospartnerships.org I've also had the privilege of teaching as an adjunct instructor at Missio Seminary the past three years. I am passionate about finding the proper rhythm between thinking theologically about God (orthodoxy) and living it out practically with others (orthopraxy) and I hope you find the same kingdom rhythm through our time together. I love pouring into and investing in hungry kingdom leaders, leaders who want to love God and love others with all their heart, soul, mind and strength. If this is your desire, *I will bend over backwards to help you grow personally, biblically, theologically and missionally throughout this course - and beyond.*

I graduated from Missio Seminary (formerly Biblical Seminary) several years ago. In fact, over a decade ago I took this very course. I can still remember with great clarity the books we read, the discussions our class engaged in and the assignments I turned in. This course shaped me deeply, informing much of my understanding of what it means to be missional and launched me into missional ministry. It is for this reason that I approached the dean asking if I could teach this course, and I am grateful he said yes. I long for you all to grow and learn in much the same way I was impacted. I commit to praying for you each and every day of the course. I also commit to working hard to making sure you understand the material, but even more so that you know why the material is important. Above all, I want this course to not simply to be about *what* or *how*, but about *who*. It is God who is great and who graciously invites us into this way of life. I hope you walk away from this course not just with a good grade or a head full of knowledge, but also with a soul full of wonder by how amazing God really is and a heart that has been softened to the needs of God's world. I'm grateful to be on this journey with you all.

Grace and peace,

J.R.

SYLLABUS

This syllabus provides an overview of the course and course requirements. Students are responsible to know the content of the syllabus and follow the course schedule. Questions about the syllabus or schedule should be emailed to the professor promptly and will generally be answered in an email to the entire class so that everyone is informed.

PROGRAM GOALS AND COURSE OBJECTIVES

Course Objectives.

1. Teach the foundational and biblical understanding of God and His mission in the world and how He graciously invites us in to join Him in that mission.
2. Offer space, time and practices to be spiritual formed to become more like Jesus Christ and to have a deeper awareness of who we are and how God has wired us.

3. To learn about the nature of incarnational ministry, discipleship and the kingdom of God and how we can best participate in these gracious invitations from the Lord.
4. To grow in our awareness of culture and to learn to live discerningly and faithfully in an ever-increasing post-Christian culture.

PROGRAM GOALS	COURSE OBJECTIVES
Goal 1: Students will cultivate a missionary mindset as it and learn how to exegete Scripture and culture.	1, 3,4
Goal 2: Students will grow in their understanding of the nature of the missional character of God and the essence of the kingdom of God.	1, 3
Goal 3: Students will cultivate grace-based missional lives increasingly characterized by the fruit of the Spirit and love for God and others.	2
Goal 4: Students will be inspired to take biblical and cultural exegesis seriously and to gain a deeper love for God, His mission, His people and His Word.	1, 3, 4
Goal 5: Students will grow in their own personal formation as students, leaders, ministers and, most importantly as disciples and children of God.	3

COURSE INSTRUCTIONAL HOURS

INSTRUCTION TYPE	RELATED OBJECTIVES	HOURS TO COMPLETE
1. Classroom sessions	All	23.25 hours
2. Lectures, Audio/visual experiences and notes in E-campus	All	7 hours
3. Discussion questions for group discussion and interaction.	All	3.75 hours
Total instructional hours	3 credit course	34.5 hours

COURSE ASSESSMENTS AND HOMEWORK HOURS

Assessments are graded assignments that measure a student’s mastery of the course content. Homework is course work in addition to the instruction listed above.

ASSESSMENTS AND HOMEWORK HOURS	RELATED OBJECTIVES	PERCENT OF GRADE	ESTIMATED TIME
Required reading	All	30%	40 hours
Three Reflection papers	All	20%	10 hours
Ministry Health Plan paper	All	25%	7 hours
Silent retreat and paper	All	15%	6 hours
Journal entries	All	15%	7 hours
Missional service experience and in-class presentation	All	10%	5 hours
Class Participation	All	10%	-
Total estimated time on homework		100%	75 hrs. total

Note: All assignments must be submitted by the due date listed in the syllabus and no later than the final due date for the course listed in this syllabus by permission of the instructor. After the final due date, faculty cannot grant students permission to submit late work. See “Completion of Course Work” below.

REQUIRED READING AND MATERIALS

- Bolsinger, Tod. *Canoeing the Mountains: Christian Leadership in Uncharted Territory*. InterVarsity Press, 2018.
https://www.amazon.com/Canoeing-Mountains-Christian-Leadership-Uncharted/dp/0830841474/ref=tmm_hrd_swatch_0?encoding=UTF8&qid=1560949422&sr=8-1-spons

- McKnight, Scot. *The Jesus Creed: Loving God, Loving Others*. Paraclete Press, 2014.
https://www.amazon.com/Jesus-Creed-Loving-Others-Anniversary/dp/1612615783/ref=sr_1_1?keywords=Jesus+creed&qid=1560949309&s=gateway&sr=8-1
- Nouwen, Henri. *In the Name of Jesus: Reflections on Christian Leadership*. Crossroad Publishing, 1993.
https://www.amazon.com/Name-Jesus-Reflections-Christian-Leadership/dp/B006N19WZM/ref=sr_1_2?crid=2F8Z3GBD19TZ9&keywords=in+the+name+of+jesus+by+henri+nouwen&qid=1560949490&s=gateway&srefix=in+the+name+of+j%2Caps%2C135&sr=8-2
- Scazzerro, Peter *Emotionally Healthy Spirituality: It is Impossible to Spiritually Mature While Remaining Spiritually Immature* (Updated Edition). Zondervan, 2017.
https://www.amazon.com/Emotionally-Healthy-Spirituality-Impossible-Spiritually/dp/0310348498/ref=sr_1_1?crid=K1VWLULIBBJD&keywords=peter+scazzerro+books&qid=1560949534&s=gateway&srefix=Peter+Sca%2Caps%2C136&sr=8-1

RECOMMENDED MATERIALS

- Barton, Ruth Haley. *Sacred Rhythms: Arranging Our Lives for Spiritual Transformation*. IVP, 2006.
- Briggs, J.R. *Fail: Finding Hope and Grace in the Midst of Ministry Failure*. InterVarsity Press, 2014.
- Calhoun, Adele A. *Spiritual Disciplines Handbook*. IVP, 2015. Revised and Expanded.
- Chan, Simon. *Spiritual Theology: A Systematic Study of the Christian Life*. IVP, 1998.
- Foster, Richard. *Celebration of Discipline*. Harper, 1978.
- Goff, Bob. *Love Does: Discover a Secretly Incredible Life in an Ordinary World*. Thomas Nelson, 2012.
- Goff, Bob. *Everybody, Always: Becoming Love in a World of Setbacks and Difficult People*. Thomas Nelson, 2018.
- Hagberg, Janet and Robert Guelich, *The Critical Journey: Stages in the Life of Faith*. Sheffield, Wisconsin, 2005.
- Ortberg, John. *Soul Keeping: Caring for the Most Important Part of You*. Zondervan, 2014.
- Roxburgh, Alan and M. Scott Boren, *Introducing the Missional Church*. Baker, 2009.

- Smith, James Bryan, *The Good and Beautiful God: Falling in Love with the God Jesus Knows*, InterVarsity Press, 2009.
- Willard, Dallas. *Renovation of the Heart: Putting on the Character of Christ*. NavPress, 2002.
- Willard, Dallas. *The Spirit of the Disciplines: Understanding How God Changes Lives*. Harper, 1988.
- Willard, Dallas, *Hearing God: Developing a Conversational Relationship with God*, InterVarsity Press, 2012.

COURSE PROCEDURES AND REQUIREMENTS

Attendance Policy and Grades

Students are expected to login to the E-campus course site regularly and participate in the course activities in a timely manner. If you know you are going to absent from the course site for more than three or four days, email the instructor and group members (if applicable) in advance. Nevertheless, your grade may be lowered for absences at the discretion of the instructor.

Completion of Course Work

All course work is to be completed by the last day of classes for the term. **Extensions to this time limit will be made only by the academic affairs committee. The individual faculty member does not have the authority to grant any extensions of time beyond the last class of the term.** Requests for extensions must be made in writing to the committee at least one week prior to the last day of classes. Variance forms for this purpose are available in the academic office or on BTS's website. All requests should specify the reasons for the extension and the length of the extension desired. Requests are not automatically granted.

ASSIGNMENT DESCRIPTIONS AND GRADING

Note: All written assignments should be double-spaced with standard formatting in Times New Roman. Each written assignment must exhibit clarity of thought and communication (making sure they are free of typos, possess proper grammar and syntax, etc.). In order to write with clarity of thought, asking a friend, colleague, classmate, Missio staff/faculty member or writing coach to look over your work is recommended. See word count or length requirements under each assignment for length of written assignments. Work submitted after this time will be considered as late and a half letter grade will be deducted from each assignment for each day late (see more at the end of the syllabus).

1. Reading Grade

Students are required to read all of the required reading on time, as outlined in the syllabus. Based on the rubric below, students will submit a number grade to e-campus. **Due November 5 on e-campus.**

Description	Grade
You read every page, were mentally present, made observations, and took great notes.	A (93 – 100)
You read every page and were mentally present for all of the book.	A – (90 – 92.9)
You read every page but were not really following along very closely.	B + (87 – 89.9)
You read most of the book but were not always following along closely.	B (83 – 86.9)
You read most of the book but cannot really remember anything.	B – (80 – 82.9)
You read about half of the book and followed along closely for that half.	C + (77 – 79.9)
You read about half of the book but did not really follow along closely.	C (73 – 76.9)
You read a third of the book and followed along closely for that part.	C – (70 – 72.9)
You read a third of the book but did not follow along closely.	D + (67 – 69.9)
You skimmed the whole book.	D (63 – 66.9)
You skimmed half of the book or less.	D – (60 – 62.9)
You did not read anything.	F (0 – 59)

2. Three reflection papers

Write three reflection papers where you sufficiently answer the following questions:

Reflection paper #1: Your Spiritual Journey

- How did you come to faith in Christ? What is your faith story?
- Why have you chosen to enroll at Missio Seminary?
- Think into the future about your graduation from Missio Seminary: describe what you long for your relationship with Christ to look like at that time? What do you believe you will have to commit to in order for that to happen?
- Write a prayer for yourself as you in this significant season of going to seminary (2-3 paragraphs). How do you desire for God to be involved in your academic journey in this course and into the future?

Reflection paper #2: In the Name of Jesus and The Jesus Creed

- Give a 1-2 paragraph summary of each of the two assigned books.
- What resonated with you? What challenged you? What messed with your thinking or your theology?
- What did you disagree with (and why)?
- Are there any overlaps and/or connections to be made between the two books? If so, what are they?
- How does what you read impact how you think about ministry and God's mission – and how does it impact how you actually live as a follower of Jesus?

Reflection paper #3: Emotionally Healthy Spirituality and Canoeing the Mountains

- Give a 1-2 paragraph summary of each of the two assigned books.
- What resonated with you? What challenged you? What messed with your thinking or your theology?

- What did you disagree with (and why)?
- Are there any overlaps and/or connections to be made between the two books? If so, what are they?
- How does what you read impact how you think about ministry and God's mission – and how does it impact how you actually live as a follower of Jesus?

Note: All papers should be 2-4 pages in length, double-spaced and submitted through e-campus by the due date listed below. Please make sure your papers are clear, thoughtful and free from typos and grammatical errors (and don't forget to use spell check before submitting them!).

3. Ministry Health Plan:

Develop a holistic, specific and grace-based ministry health plan that will impact your journey through seminary. This plan is intended to give you a vision and healthy rhythms to cultivate your spiritual, emotional, physical and intellectual flourishing as a seminary student. Make it realistic and beneficial to you (you want it to stretch you, but not stress you).

The plan should include:

- a. Answers to questions such as: *How can you experience health and flourishing during your years as a seminary student? How can you ensure you graduate with a head full of knowledge and a soft heart for God, His mission and the world?*
- b. Emotional, physical, mental, relational, spiritual components (i.e. rhythms, practices, support, disciplines, etc.) that you are practicing and/or you can participate in that will assist in your health and wellbeing as a follower of Jesus, including realistic timelines and/or frequency of these practices.
- c. An interview with a pastor or a recent seminary grad where you include their responses to the following questions: what do you wish you knew when you first started seminary? What practices do you engage in regularly that cultivate a with-God life in ministry? What advice or wisdom would you have for me as a seminary student? Include their responses to these questions in your paper.
- d. Take the Enneagram test [Take the Enneagram test \(https://www.eclecticenergies.com/enneagram/test\)](https://www.eclecticenergies.com/enneagram/test). Read the suggestions on how to take the test. (I recommend you start with Test 2, if you wish, you can take Test 1 for confirmation.) What is your type/number? Does this seem like a fair assessment/description of who you are? Why or why not? Briefly include this in your paper (we will discuss this further in class).

Length: 4-6 pages, double spaced (submitted via e-campus).

4. Participate in one four-hour silent retreat.

Plan for and spend time on one four-hour off-site prayer and silent reflection retreat day. This day should be a day without interruption, noise or to-do lists. Students should be away from home, work and/or the church office. Find a location that will be interruption-free and quiet for the entire four hours. You are not to take your phone, screens, music and/or any other technology along with you during the prayer retreat, nor are you to bring books for class or any other reading from outside of class (you may, however, bring a

Bible and/or journal if you wish). To be clear, this retreat is not a day to do work, make plans, catch up on work or school assignments or be productive. This is a day specifically designed for you to spend unrushed, undistracted quality time with God in order to be fully present and accessible to Him.

When completed, write a reflection on your retreat experience. Include the date and time of the retreat and where you went. Your reflection paper may include answers to the following questions: *What did you like? Not like? Did you get distracted? If so, what did you do? What did you feel or experience through this time? Did you encounter God during your time? If so, what was it like? Do you believe you would do it again? If so, when? If not, why not?*

Length: 1-2 pages, double spaced (submitted via e-campus).

5. Reflective journal entries

Keep a journal, either written in a notebook or typed in a computer document, reflecting on your inner life as you journey through this course.

This assignment is *not* intending to be a summary of what you are learning in class or a record of what you do each day. I want you to make this a heart-engaging exercise where you truly reflect, in whatever way(s) you wish, on important elements such as what God is teaching you, how what you are learning is impacting your life, how he is speaking to you and maybe even how you wish He would speak to you. This could include addressing questions such as: *What do you long for him to do in and through you? What are you thanking him for in this season? Where do you sense his guidance in your life? Where have you felt closest to Christ or most alive in your relationship with Him? Why those times?* Feel free to be creative as you want to be.

You should include at least ten entries (approximately two per week throughout the course). **Each entry should be no less than 300 words.** Record in e-campus the percentage of the assignment you completed.

Note: I will not be reading your journal entries nor will you be turning them in to me (so you can be as honest as you want to be). I simply want to know how many of entries you completed (posted in e-campus).

6. Missional service experience and in-class presentation:

Serve in a context other than yours at least two times throughout the course. The context can be a business, non-profit, school, or social organization, etc., but it cannot be a church or have any Christian affiliation. This can be any number of things such as a soup kitchen, food pantry, after school care program, shelter, local business, etc.

Give a brief oral presentation on the last day of class explaining

- *the context:* (what organization was it, where is it located, why did you choose them, how often they meet, who were the people you interacted with and what were they like, etc.)

- *your own thoughts and feelings*: what you felt by being with them (i.e. scared, unsure, excited, insecure, hopeful, etc.) and why felt that way.
- *the missional component*: answer one of these two questions: (a) where did you see God at work in that context when you were serving? (b) What did you learn about ministry and God’s mission through the experience?

Note: presentations should be 3-4 minutes (and should not be longer than 5 minutes). Brevity will be important here and the onus is on you to prepare accordingly to speak clearly, compellingly and succinctly.

7. **Class participation:** Attend class, be on time, be fully present, engage, and participate in various discussions, interactions, and other opportunities during each class time with *your professor and your classmates*. Your grade will be determined by the depth of your engagement and questions, the quality of your interactions, and the frequency of your engagement in discussions.

Description	Grade
You showed respect for everyone in the class, always participated positively, stayed on topic, and were fully present.	A (93 – 100)
You showed respect for everyone in the class, participated often and in a positive way, and stayed on topic.	A – (90 – 92.9)
You showed respect for everyone in the class and participated positively, though not being fully present for each class session.	B + (87 – 89.9)
You showed respect for everyone in the class and participated positively, though infrequently.	B (83 – 86.9)
You showed respect for everyone in the class, but participation was rare and not always relevant to the discussion.	B – (80 – 82.9)
You showed respect to everyone in the class, but did not pay attention and never initiated positive interaction.	C (73 – 76.9)
You only engaged in class discussions when called upon, but otherwise were distracted by other things.	D (63 – 66.9)
You never contributed to class discussions and were not engaged at all.	D – (60 – 62.9)
You did not show respect to everyone in the class, never participated, and were not present.	F (0 – 59)

Optional extra credit: Memorize John 15:1-8

Any student who wishes to receive 1 extra credit point for their overall course grade can memorize John 15:1-8 in an English translation of their choice. Memorization must be written out in full during the last day of class. This assignment is *optional*.

Please note: Due to the significance of the topic of the course and the importance of being fully present in our learning, **personal computers, laptops, tablets, cell phones or electronic screens will not be allowed during class times**. If there are extenuating circumstances (e.g. physical disability, a diagnosed learning disability, medical issue, and/or other legitimate reason)

students must e-mail the professor at least one week prior to the first day of class for the consideration of a possible exemption.

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITY AND ACADEMIC POLICIES

1. **Academic Policies:** Students are fully responsible to know and follow all seminary rules, regulations, and deadlines published in the Academic Catalog on the BTS website and all requirements concerning their degree programs.
2. **Course Syllabus:** *Students are fully responsible to know and fulfill the requirements stated in the course syllabus.* Students should email the professor about issues related to course work and deadlines during the course. See the Academic Catalog for policies on course extensions.
3. **E-campus Course Site:** Students are fully responsible for course content and materials that are posted on the course site. Students are encouraged to check the course site frequently during the course. Students who experience difficulty accessing or using the E-campus should email helpdesk@biblical.edu and include their student ID# in their correspondence.
4. **Academic and General Integrity:** As followers of Jesus Christ, we are called to integrity and Christ-likeness in all areas of life. What this means in the academic realm is that the completion of all assignments and assessments are to reflect your own work (see the Academic Catalog for plagiarism definitions and policies). Students found guilty of cheating or plagiarism will receive a grade of zero on the assessment and will follow the process outlined in the Academic Catalog.
5. **Student PC Security:** Missio Seminary recognizes the need for computer use throughout the entire educational process today. Computers equipped with Internet access and applications that help deliver information and knowledge are vital. Students are encouraged to bring their electronic computing devices to campus to facilitate their course work and supplemental activities. Given the current climate of online dangers such as viruses, malware, phishing scams, and other related risks it is critical to secure all such devices regardless if they're being used on campus or not. Please take the appropriate steps to safeguard the security of your own electronic devices to protect the integrity of the student network on campus and provide a safe computing environment for everyone to use.

GRADING SYSTEM

To remain in good academic standing, a student must maintain the grade point average designated for his or her program.

BTS SEMINARY GRADING SYSTEM			
A	4.00	96.0 -100	Superior
A-	3.67	94.0 – 95.9	
B+	3.33	92.0 – 93.9	
B	3.00	88.0 – 91.9	Good

B-	2.67	86.0 – 87.9	
C+	2.33	84.0 – 85.9	
C	2.00	80.0 – 83.9	Fair
C-	1.70	78.0 – 79.9	
D+	1.30	76.0 – 77.9	Poor
D	1.00	72.0 – 75.9	
D-	.70	70.0 – 71.9	
F	0.00	00. - 69.9	Failing

COURSE SCHEDULE

CLASS DATE	IN CLASS	OUTSIDE-OF-CLASS OR ONLINE
Tuesday, 10/8/19	What is the gospel?	Read <i>In the Name of Jesus and The Jesus Creed</i> (chs. 1-15) Reflection paper #1 (due 10/15) Journal entries
Tuesday, 10/15/19	What is ministry? What is God’s mission?	Read <i>The Jesus Creed</i> (chs. 16-30) Journal entries
Saturday 10/19/19	What is ministry?	Read <i>Canoeing the Mountains</i> (chs. 1-8) Journal entries
Tuesday, 10/22/19	How do we join God in His mission?	Read <i>Canoeing the Mountains</i> (chs. 9-Epilogue) Journal entries Reflection paper #2 (due 10/29) Silent retreat and summary paper (due 10/29)
Tuesday 10/29/19	How do we interact with God?	Read <i>Emotionally Healthy Spirituality</i> Journal entries Reflection paper #3 (due 11/5) Ministry health plan (due 11/5)
Tuesday 11/5/19	How are we formed into fully devoted followers of Jesus?	<i>In class:</i> missional service experience oral presentation <i>Optional extra credit:</i> John 15:1-8 (due 11/5)

Note: All assignments are due by the due dates listed above. Assignments turned in late will receive lower grades by one half-letter each day late (e.g., B+ becomes B); **assignments turned in more than 5 days late will receive no grade. After the final due date, faculty cannot grant students permission to submit late work.** Students must seek a course extension before the final due date by submitting a variance request form to the academic office. The form is available from the academic office. See the academic catalog for policies on course extensions.