

TH 807 COMMUNICATION IN CONTEXT
SEPTEMBER 9, 16, 23, 30, OCTOBER 7, 14, 28, NOVEMBER 11, 18, 1-5PM
FALL 2019

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**Missio Seminary exists to produce missional Christian leaders-
men and women 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.**

INSTRUCTOR

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

Missional leaders model, inspire, and invite others to participate in the mission of God. The task of communicating the gospel and the mission of God is integral to this process. This course is designed to focus on communicating in various ways as is appropriate and effective in various contexts, including across various cultural landscapes. The student will also consider and analyze the dynamics involved and needing to be considered in various *means* of communication, as well (e.g., oral proclamation, written communication, dialogical interaction, visual and/or multimedia or artistic media). The role of the preacher/teacher as God's instrument of communication, and the task of communicating the message(s) of God's word, will be carefully considered. You will be prompted to evaluate the process and refine the skills and passion necessary to prepare and present the gospel in ways that are culturally relevant and missionally faithful.

PERSONAL NOTE FROM THE PROFESSOR

This course assumes the student is cultivating a healthy theology and biblical understanding that will empower him/her in the unique context God has called them to serve. However, it has been my observation that there is more to experiencing fruitful and faithful ministry than knowing the Bible and theology or even personal application of biblical truths. To join God in his mission, leaders must learn to **effectively communicate** His story so the hearers can experience God's Spirit and be transformed. This is **NOT** a homiletics course. It **IS** a communications course designed to help missional leaders communicate God's truth in relatable ways through various modes and means.

In this course, the missional leader will discover general barriers and enhancements to effective communication; understand the critical role he/she plays in affecting the communication process; engage the key roles of the Holy Spirit, prayer, and spiritual warfare in effective communication; and learn practical tools to ensure effective communication in various contexts including preaching, teaching, small group, church staff, social media and worship arts. In short, this course is designed for you to answer the question: "How can I be a more effective communicator of God's story?"

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.

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

PROGRAM GOALS AND COURSE OBJECTIVES

PROGRAM GOALS	COURSE OBJECTIVES
Students will understand and apply general communication principles	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Articulate communication principles that will ensure effective communication. 2. Define the levels, types and forms of communication 3. Apply the habits and practices of effective communicators.
Students will embrace how God has uniquely shaped them to effectively communicate His story	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. To become spiritually and emotionally healthy 5. To articulate how your personality affects your communication 6. To live in the leadership “voice” God gifted you with
Students will deepen their relationship with God to empower their communication with others	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 7. To be Spirit-filled and led in communicating God’s story 8. To demonstrate a life of prayer that causes the student to be shaped by God. Your life is the message. 9. To embrace the critical role that spiritual warfare plays in communicating God’s story
Students will deepen their relationship with their audience to enhance clear, effective, transformative communication	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 10. to design sermons that connect with the audience 11. to apply cross-cultural communication methodologies 12. to use social media, multimedia and visual arts to effectively communicate God’s story

COURSE ASSESSMENTS AND HOMEWORK HOURS

ASSESSMENTS AND HOMEWORK HOURS	RELATED OBJECTIVES	PERCENT OF GRADE	ESTIMATED TIME
Readings and reflection papers	1-12	50%	90
Class attendance and participation	1-12	35%	36
Watch a video of a sermon you preached and write a three page critical reflection paper.	1-12	5%	4
10 Movie clips as sermon illustrations with URL and short paragraph describing biblical truth (to be distributed to all students in the class)	10-12	5%	4
Paper: 10 best sermon illustrations (5 must be personal) with a short paragraph describing biblical truth (to be distributed to all students in the class)	10-12	5%	4
Total estimated time on homework		100%	138 hours

REQUIRED READING: TOTAL HOURS READING INCLUDING CRITICAL REFLECTION PAPER: 59

NOTE: Hyperlinks to Amazon.com are placed here for your convenience. Please be aware that there may be other websites (by publishers or by other ebook publishers) that may sell the same item for cheaper prices. Please shop around! In addition, some sites offer ebook rental prices for a limited number of weeks. These may also be cost effective. Just be sure to buy the right edition and recognize some of the smaller sellers may not deliver books in a timely fashion.

Blackwood, Rick. (2008) *The Power of Multi-Sensory Preaching and Teaching*. Zondervan Publishing, Grand Rapids, Michigan.

https://www.amazon.com/gp/product/0310515351/ref=ppx_yo_dt_b_asin_title_o02_s00?ie=UTF8&psc=1

(9 hours reading, write a 3 page critical reflection paper; total: 12 hours)

Kraft, Charles, H. (1991). *Communication Theory for Christian Witness (revised edition)*. Orbis Books, Maryknoll, New York, New York.

https://www.amazon.com/gp/product/0883447630/ref=ppx_yo_dt_b_asin_title_o09_s00?ie=UTF8&psc=1

(12 hours reading, write a 3 page critical reflection paper; total: 15 hours)

Scazzero, P. (2015). *The Emotionally Healthy Leader*. Grand Rapids, Michigan. Zondervan Publishing.

https://www.amazon.com/Emotionally-Healthy-Leader-Transforming-Transform/dp/0310494575/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1493489713&sr=8-1&keywords=emotionally+healthy+leader+by+peter+scazzero

(11 hours reading, write a 3 page critical reflection paper, total: 14 hours)

Treasure, Julian. (2017) *How to be Heard: Secrets for Powerful Speaking and Listening*. Mango Publishing Group, Coral Gables, Florida

https://www.amazon.com/gp/product/1633536718/ref=ppx_yo_dt_b_asin_title_o02_s00?ie=UTF8&psc=1

(15 hours reading, write a 3 page critical reflection paper, total: 18 hours)

RECOMMENDED READING: TOTAL HOURS READING INCLUDING CRITICAL REFLECTION PAPER: 31.

Kubicek, Jeremie; Cockram, Steve. (2016) *5 Voices: How to Communicate Effectively with Everyone You Lead*. John Wiley and Sons, Inc., Hoboken, New Jersey.

https://www.amazon.com/gp/product/1119111099/ref=ppx_yo_dt_b_asin_title_o07_s00?ie=UTF8&psc=1
(10 hours reading, write a 3 page critical reflection paper: total: 13 hours)

Lazarus, Natchi. (2017) *The Connected Church: A Social Media Communication Strategy Guide for Churches, Nonprofits and Individuals in Ministry*. www.theconnectedchurch.org.

https://www.amazon.com/gp/product/1543013813/ref=ppx_yo_dt_b_asin_title_o03_s00?ie=UTF8&psc=1
(10 hours reading, write a 3 page critical reflection paper; total 13 hours)

Livermore, David A. (2009) *Cultural Intelligence: Improving your CQ to engage our multicultural world*

https://www.amazon.com/gp/product/0801035899/ref=ppx_yo_dt_b_asin_title_o00_s00?ie=UTF8&psc=1
(13 hours reading, write a 3 page critical reflection paper; totaling 16 hours)

Rawson, Katie, J. (2015) *Crossing Cultures with Jesus: Sharing Good News with Sensitivity and Grace*. InterVarsity Press, Downers Grove, Illinois.

<https://www.amazon.com/Crossing-Cultures-Jesus-Sharing-Sensitivity/dp/0830844384>
(9 hours of reading, write a 3 page critical reflection paper, total 12 hours)

Rognlien, Bob (2004). *Experiential Worship: Encountering God with Heart, Soul, Mind and Strength*. NavPress, Colorado Springs, Colorado.

https://www.amazon.com/gp/product/1576836630/ref=ppx_yo_dt_b_asin_title_o01_s00?ie=UTF8&psc=1
(10 hours of reading, write a 3 page critical reflection paper, total 13 hours)

Scazzero, P. (2006). *Emotionally Healthy Spirituality*. Grand Rapids, Michigan. Zondervan Publishing.

https://www.amazon.com/Emotionally-Healthy-Spirituality-Impossible-Spiritually/dp/0310342465/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1493489536&sr=8-1&keywords=emotionally+healthy+spirituality+by+peter+scazzero
(8 hours reading, write a 3 page critical reflection paper, total: 11 hours)

Sullivan, Jay. (2017) *Simply Said: Communicating Better at Work and Beyond*. John Wiley and Sons, Hoboken, New Jersey.

https://www.amazon.com/gp/product/1119285283/ref=ppx_yo_dt_b_asin_title_o03_s00?ie=UTF8&psc=1
(12 hours of reading, write a 3 page critical reflection paper, total 15 hours)

Swindoll, Charles, R. (2012) *Saying it Well: Touching Others with Your Words*. https://www.amazon.com/Saying-Well-Touching-Others-Words/dp/0892968311/ref=sr_1_fknull_1?crd=3RDLZOT0XU9OS&keywords=saying+it+well+charles+swindoll&qid=1556893471&s=gateway&srefix=saying+it+well%2Caps%2C133&sr=8-1-fknull

https://www.amazon.com/Saying-Well-Touching-Others-Words/dp/0892968311/ref=sr_1_fknull_1?crd=3RDLZOT0XU9OS&keywords=saying+it+well+charles+swindoll&qid=1556893471&s=gateway&srefix=saying+it+well%2Caps%2C133&sr=8-1-fknull
(13 hours of reading, write a 3 page critical reflection paper, total 16 hours)

20 pages. Thrasher, Bill. (2003). *A Journey to Victorious Praying: Finding Discipline and Delight in Your Prayer Life*. Moody Publishers, Chicago, Illinois.

https://www.amazon.com/Journey-Victorious-Praying-Finding-Discipline/dp/0802436986/ref=sr_1_fknull_2?keywords=victorious+praying+lutzer&qid=1556893338&s=gateway&sr=8-2-fknull

(11 hours of reading, write a 3 page critical reflection paper, total 14 hours)

COURSE PROCEDURES AND REQUIREMENTS

Attendance Policy and Grades

It is important to arrive on time and be actively engaged in every minute (literally, every minute) of class time. Class time is valuable – to you, to your classmates, and to the professor. Class time is thoughtfully prepared by the professor and crafted with intricacy for maximum learning effectiveness.

Students are also 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 be absent from the course site for more than three or four days, please notify the instructor and group members (if applicable) in advance. Nevertheless, recognize that your grade may be lowered for tardiness or absences at the discretion of the instructor.

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.

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.

Completion of Course Work

All course work is to be completed by the last day of classes for the term or by the date posted in the course syllabus. Extensions to this time limit will be made only by the academic administration 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 Misio'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

1. **Critical Reflection Paper.** The student is to read all books from the required reading list and his/her choice books the recommended list: totaling 90 hours. The reflection paper of a book read should include the following elements: First page: the title of the book and number of pages read; identify four concepts that were helpful to you. Concisely state each concept and why you found it meaningful. For the second and third pages, choose two concepts previously identified and elaborate on their importance to you and how they may be useful in your ministry context. Length: 750 words (3 pages double spaced).
2. **Critical reflection paper for student video sermon.** Write a reflection paper that answers the following questions: What was the theme of the sermon? Who was the intended audience? Were their personal phrases or habits that distracted from the presentation/content of the sermon? Were illustrations, personal stories, humor used effectively? How could the sermon help the audience members personally apply biblical truth? Length: about 1000 words (4 pages double spaced).
3. **Critical reflection paper of 10 movie clips that illustrate a biblical truth.** Write a reflection paper that gives a brief description of the biblical truth that a movie clip illustrates. Include the name of the movie, date of release and URL address (if applicable). Length: about 1000 words (4 pages double spaced). Make copies of your paper and distribute to all classmates.

4. **Critical reflection paper of 10 best illustrations a biblical truth.** Write a reflection paper that contains the 10 best sermon illustrations you know of. Five must be from the student’s personal home life or personal experience. Each illustration must state the biblical principle it illustrates. Length: about 1000 words (4 pages double spaced). Make copies of your paper and distribute to all classmates.

COURSE SCHEDULE

DATE	IN CLASS	OUTSIDE-OF-CLASS OR ONLINE
Monday, 09/09/19	Topic: Communication Theory and Basics of Effective Communication; types of, levels of, forms of, Jesus as our communication model	This book should be read BEFORE the first day of class: Kraft, Charles, H. (1991). <i>Communication Theory for Christian Witness (revised edition)</i> .
Monday, 09/16/19	Topic: Better communication through better listening	This book should be read BEFORE class: Treasure, Julian. (2017) <i>How to be Heard: Secrets for Powerful Speaking and Listening</i> .
Monday, 09/23/19	Topic: Why being intentional about your emotional and spiritual health matters as a communicator for God	This book should be read BEFORE class: Scazzero, P. (2015). <i>The Emotionally Healthy Leader</i> . Grand Rapids, Michigan. Zondervan Publishing.
Monday, 09/30/19	Topic: Who’s out there? How to understand your audience so you can better connect.	
Monday, 10/07/19	Topic: What is your leadership voice and how will it help you better communicate?	Assignment due: critical reflections papers due for all required readings
Monday, 10/14/19	Topic: How to effectively communicate cross-culturally.	
Monday, 10/28/19	Topic: How to effectively communicate through a multi-sensory approach.	This book should be read BEFORE class: Blackwood, Rick. (2008) <i>The Power of Multi-Sensory Preaching and Teaching</i> . Zondervan Publishing, Grand Rapids, Michigan.
Monday, 11/11/19	Topic: How to effectively use social media to communicate with impact.	Assignment due: critical reflection paper based on a video sermon you preached; 10 best movie clip illustrations paper and 10 best illustrations paper all due.
Monday, 11/18/19	Topic: Wrapping it up: How to be a more effective preacher and communicator with your church staff.	Assignment due: critical reflection papers due for all recommended reading

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITY AND ACADEMIC POLICIES

Academic Policies: Students are fully responsible to know and follow all seminary rules, regulations, and deadlines published in Missio Seminary’s Student Handbook, and all requirements concerning their degree programs. The Student Handbook and program supplements (if applicable) are found on Missio’s website. www.Missio.edu Login using your student ID# and password and go to “Current Students.”

Course Syllabus: Students are fully responsible to know and fulfill the requirements stated in the course syllabus. Students should speak with the professor about issues related to course work and deadlines during the course. See “Completion of Course Work” below for policies on course extensions.

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. Student usage of the course site is tracked by the software and monitored by the professor of the course. Students who experience difficulty accessing or using the E-campus should email helpdesk@Missio.edu and include their student ID# in their correspondence.

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. Students found guilty of cheating or plagiarism will receive a grade of zero on the assessment and will follow the process outlined in the Student Handbook. See Missio’s Student Handbook for more information on plagiarism and Missio’s policies related to cheating and plagiarism.

ATTENDANCE POLICY AND GRADES

Students are expected to arrive on time and attend all class sessions. Attendance is especially crucial in courses formatted in block scheduling with evening or all day Saturday class sessions. If you know you are going to miss a class or arrive late, contact the course instructor in advance via email. Nevertheless, your grade may be lowered for absences or lateness at the discretion of the instructor.

COMPLETION OF COURSE WORK – VARIANCE FORMS

All course work is to be completed by the last day of classes for the term or by the date posted in the course syllabus. 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 Missio’s website. All requests should specify the reasons for the extension and the length of the extension desired. Requests are not automatically granted.

STUDENT COURSE EVALUATIONS

Student course evaluations are an important part of Missio’s commitment to continuous improvement. Students are required to complete the course evaluation within one week of the final due date of the course. See Missio’s Student Handbook and program supplement for your program (if applicable) for more information.

STUDENT PC SECURITY STATEMENT

Missio 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 (see Missio’s Catalog for details).

MISSIO SEMINARY GRADING SYSTEM			
A	4.00	93.0 -100	Superior
A-	3.67	90.0 – 92.9	

B+	3.33	87.0 – 89.9	
B	3.00	83.0 – 86.9	Good
B-	2.67	80.0 – 82.9	
C+	2.33	77.0 – 79.9	
C	2.00	73.0 – 76.9	Fair
C-	1.70	70.0 – 72.9	
D+	1.30	67.0 – 69.9	Poor
D	1.00	63.0 – 66.9	
D-	.70	60.0 – 62.9	
F	0.00	00. - 59.9	Failing