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**BODYSHAPING: HOW SCRIPTURE FORMS MISSIONAL COMMUNITIES**  
**SAH-PT 5/718**  
**Summer School 2016**  
**July 4-8, 2016 – 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.**

**PURPOSE**

How do we shape (or re-shape) a “missional” church so that the “Body of Christ” can be more actively engaged with the world? This course explores why and how a missional hermeneutic—a mode of reading and interpreting the Bible—can be used to empower fruitful Christian witness and engagement with our culture, focusing on John’s Gospel.

**PREREQUISITES**

None

**COMPETENCE OBJECTIVES**

Upon successfully completing this course, students should be able to:

- Define the essential idea and dimensions of a missional hermeneutic
- Describe core ideas and concepts entailed in a missional theology
- Contrast a missional hermeneutic with other hermeneutical approaches
- Discuss the warrant we have for a missional reading of scripture
- Explain how different types of biblical literature might relate to a missional hermeneutic
- Evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of different pedagogical approaches as related to forming missional communities
- Interpret a specific text of Scripture using a missional hermeneutical approach

**FORMAT AND CONTENT**

This is a one-week course worth 1.5 credit hours (or 3.0 credits by arrangement with the Instructor). The class will meet daily, Monday-Friday, for three hours each day. For *on-campus students*, work in the course consists of classes including lectures and discussions, assigned readings (some to be completed in advance), a daily journal, and a term paper. Students taking the course for 3.0 credits must discuss additional assignments with the Instructor. *Distance students* will do the same work as on-campus students, but will participate by Adobe Connect.

## TEXTS

*Students should purchase books through Amazon or another source. Articles marked with an asterisk\* will be available on Moodle for registered students.*

### Required Reading for all students

Bauckham, Richard (2003). *Bible and Mission: Christian Witness in a Postmodern World*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic.

\*Goheen, Michael W. (2008). 'The urgency of reading the Bible as one story'. *Theology Today* 64 (no 4 Jan): 469-83.

Gorman, Michael J. (2015). *Becoming the Gospel: Paul, Participation, and Mission*. Grand Rapids, Michigan. William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company. (305 pages)

Guder, Darrell L. (2015). *Called to Witness: Doing Missional Theology*, chapters 6, 7 & 8. Grand Rapids, MI. William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company. (51 pages)

\*Hunsberger, George R. (2009). 'Proposals for a Missional Hermeneutic: Mapping the Conversation.'  
Online. January 28, 2009. Retrieved May 7, 2009, from <http://www.gocn.org/resources/articles>.

### Additional Texts Required for 3.0 credit students

\*Barram, Michael (2007). 'The Bible, Mission, and Social Location: Toward a Missional Hermeneutic'. *Interpretation* 61 (no. 1).

\*Hastings, Ross (2012). 'The Greatest Commission', in *Missional God, Missional Church*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP Academic. pp 19-36.

Löhfink, Gerhard (1984). *Jesus and Community: The Social Dimension of Christian Faith*: Fortress Press/Paulist Press.

\*Wagner, J. Ross (2009). 'Missio Dei: Envisioning an Apostolic Reading of Scripture'. *Missiology: An International Review* 37 (no. 1).

## COURSE POLICIES

1. **Attendance** For a weekly course, VST requires at least 80% attendance. For an intensive course such as this one, VST requires 100% attendance. For on-campus students, this means attending all five classes. For distance students, this means participating synchronously in all five classes via Adobe Connect.
2. **Reading and assignments** Students are expected to read all required assignments before class and to complete all assignments as outlined in the syllabus within the specified dates of the course and term.

**3. Academic honesty** Students are expected to adhere to VST's requirements for academic honesty as published in the Student Handbook.

**4. Inclusive language** In speaking and writing, inclusive language is expected when making reference to humans and a variety of metaphors are anticipated when making reference to God.

**5. Assignment and Course Evaluation**

Course evaluations at VST combine a letter grade system (A+ to B-; course failure is "Not Approved") including narrative comments based on the competencies of the course. No number grades or weights of assignments are calculated, nor are final grades given numerical equivalents.

Individual assignments within a course are given narrative evaluations, that is, APP (Approved) or INC (Incomplete) with narrative comments, based on the competencies and expectations set for that assignment. One re-write is allowed on any assignment that is INC. The re-written assignment is due two weeks after the work is returned. The final evaluation for an assignment can be APP or NAPP after a re-write. For a passing grade in the course, all assignments must be Approved.

**6. Late assignments**

Submission of assignments on time is a part of academic, professional and pastoral competence and a part of every course at VST. All assignments in courses are due on the dates specified in the syllabus. Failure to submit an assignment on time will be noted in the narrative evaluation of an assignment. Repeated failure to submit assignments on time may affect the final grade for the course.

**7. Social Media**

Ordinarily, the use of electronic devices in the context of classrooms or meetings will be limited to support the learning, formation, or agenda at hand. Behaviors that distract the user or others from these purposes are socially discourteous and will be noted negatively in evaluating class participation.

**8. Special Needs**

VST is committed to creating safe space and an inclusive learning environment. If you have a diagnosed or suspected learning disability, chronic condition, mental health concern, or physical requirement which may impact your participation in this class, you are encouraged to discuss your needs with the instructor and the Dean within the first week of classes.

## COURSE CALENDAR

### Monday, July 4

What is a 'missional hermeneutic' and why does it matter?

Read in advance: Guder (2015) ch. 6

Biblical Text: John 1:19-5

### Tuesday, July 5

Multiple dimensions of a 'missional hermeneutic'

Read in advance: Guder (2015) ch. 7; article by Hunsberger (2009)

Biblical Text: John 2:1-25

### Wednesday, July 6

Framework and focus—relating the details of Scripture to the whole.

Read in advance: Guder (2015) ch. 8; article by Goheen (2008)

Biblical text: John 4:1-42

### Thursday, July 7

The missional community God is shaping through Scripture.

Read in advance: Guder (2015) ch. 8

Biblical Text: John 6:1-59

### Friday, July 8

Pedagogy—what approaches to Scripture are conducive with a missional hermeneutic?

Biblical text: John 9:1-41

## EXPECTATIONS, ASSIGNMENTS, AND EVALUATIVE CRITERIA

- 1. Class participation:** Students are expected to be familiar with the texts assigned for advance reading (see calendar), and to participate in class discussions. Evaluative criteria: comments and questions showing adequate preparation, an understanding of the assigned readings, and a readiness to apply readings to interpretive questions and insights.
- 2. Paper:** This paper is due at the end of the summer term (by August 31, 2016), and should demonstrate the student's grasp of missional hermeneutical methods. Evaluative criteria: concise and clear writing, and completeness and accuracy in carrying out the assigned project. In general, the paper will focus on interpreting a particular text of Scripture chosen by the student and approved by the professor. The paper should be 8-10 pages for 1.5 credits (2,000-2,500 words), or 12-15 pages for 3.0 credits (3,000-3,750). Further detailed instructions for the paper will be given in class.
- 3. Journal:** A brief set of written reflections that capture your insights, impressions, and thoughts from each day's class. Due at the end of the summer term. Evaluative criteria: completeness (one entry for each day of class), depth of reflection and insight, and evident ability to explore the issues involved in missional biblical interpretation.

4. **Audit students.** Auditors who want to participate in class discussions are expected to read the required texts in order to participate knowledgeably. Audit students are not required to submit a paper and/or journal, but if they choose to submit either or both these will be read appreciatively and evaluative comments will be provided by instructor.
5. **Certificate students** are required to do all the reading, participate in class discussions, keep a journal, and submit a brief paper (5-10 pages) according to the outline specified above.

## SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

*Additional readings relevant to the subject of this course*

- Bosch, David J. (1991). *Transforming Mission: Paradigm Shifts in Theology of Mission*. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books. (especially Section 1)
- Brownson, James V. (1998). *Speaking the Truth in Love: New Testament Resources for a Missional Hermeneutic*. Harrisburg, PA: Trinity Press International.
- Goheen, Michael W. (2008). 'Continuing Steps Towards a Missional Hermeneutic'. *Fideles: A Journal of Redeemer Pacific College* 3: 49-99.
- Goheen, Michael W. (2010). 'Bible and Mission: Missiology and Biblical Scholarship in Dialogue', in *Christian Mission: Old Testament Foundations and New Testament Developments*. Porter, S E and C L Westfall. Eugene, OR/Hamilton, ON: Wipf and Stock Publishers/Pickwick Publications: McMaster Divinity College Press. pp 208-35.
- Guder, Darrell L. (2004). 'Biblical Formation and Discipleship', in *Treasure in Clay Jars: Patterns of Missional Faithfulness*. Barrett, L Y. Grand Rapids, MI: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company. pp 59-73.
- Guder, Darrell L. (2015). *Called to Witness: Doing Missional Theology*. Grand Rapids, MI: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company.
- Hastings, Ross (2012). *Missional God, Missional Church*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP Academic.
- LeMarquand, Grant (2002). 'From Creation to New Creation: The Mission of God in the Biblical Story', in *Waging Reconciliation: God's Mission in a Time of Globalization and Crisis*. Douglas, I T. New York: Church Publishing Incorporated. pp 9-34.
- Wagner, J. Ross (2001). *Heralds of the Good News: Isaiah and Paul in Concert in the Letter to the Romans*: Brill.
- Wright, Christopher J.H. (2004). 'Mission as a Matrix for Hermeneutics and Biblical Theology', in *Out of Egypt: Biblical Theology and Biblical Interpretation*. Bartholomew, C, M Healy, K Möller and R Parry. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan. pp 108ff.