



McMaster Divinity College

Mission and Evangelism

MS 3XM3
(CC/CW/PS)

Online Course (with some synchronous online meetings)

Fall 2022

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Office # 237

Class Begins Online Sept. 15. We will meet as a class via Zoom on Thursday Sept. 15 at 4:00 – 5:50 pm ET. The class will also meet via Zoom on Thursday Oct.6, Nov.3 and Dec. 8, 4:00 – 5:50 pm ET.

Instructor Biography

Dr. Lee Beach is the Associate Professor of Christian Ministry, the Garbutt F. Smith Chair in Ministry Formation and the Director of Ministry Formation at McMaster Divinity College in Hamilton, Ontario. He teaches courses on the church in culture, pastoral ministry and Christian spirituality. Prior to coming to MDC Lee pastored for over 20 years with the Christian and Missionary Alliance in Canada serving churches in Peterborough, Cobourg and Scarborough, Ontario. He currently participates in Ancaster Village Church in Ancaster, Ontario where he lives with his family. He is the author of the book, *The Church in Exile: Living in Hope after Christendom* (IVP) and co-author (With Dr. Franklin Pyles) of the book *The Whole Gospel for the Whole World: Experiencing the Four-Fold Gospel Today* (Wipf and Stock).

Course Description

This course is an exploration of the challenges of and approaches to mission and evangelism in a 21st century, Western context. Students will be encouraged to develop and/or hone their own theology of mission and evangelism as well as formulate creative approaches to mission and evangelism within the Western cultural context. Particular attention will be given to evangelistic challenges, possible approaches to evangelism, congregationally based mission and issues of contemporary social concern.

Course Objectives:

Knowing:

1. To help students understand foundational scriptural and theological principles and/or categories for the mission of the Church in contemporary Canadian culture, and in light of the concerns of post- Christendom.
2. To understand key features of contemporary Western/Canadian culture as they relate to issues of spiritual need, and the proclamation of the Christian message.
3. To become conversant with a range of relevant approaches to mission and evangelism in the context of the contemporary church.

Being:

1. To encourage reflection and integration in terms of personal, congregational, and political aspects of Christian identity.
2. To help students develop confidence in their own ability to proclaim the Christian gospel and lead a congregation in evangelistic enterprise.

Doing:

1. To understand the critical components of nurturing and leading change so that they can be implemented in transitioning churches from maintenance to mission.
2. To develop skills in conducting a critical literature review.
3. To create a change management paradigm that can be self-reflected upon in my presence ministry context and so it might be practiced and adapted to local congregations.

Working together as a learning community

A core value of our class is that it is a “learning community,” designed to be a place where each member of the community can grow through positive affirmation and constructive input. We should all come to the community as people in process, open to be deconstructed and formed through our mutual learning experience.

As a responsible member of our learning community, you will be expected to commit yourself to the class throughout the semester that we are together. This means that in our class interactions you will endeavor to treat all members of our class with respect and dignity. Your presence is necessary for our community (that is our class) to function at an optimal level,

therefore it is expected that each student will be “present” in the online aspect of the course and in attendance for the online class meetings. Specific expectations for online interaction can be found in the “assignments” and “course schedule” sections of this syllabus (below). Assignments should be handed in on time and in good order as an attachment to an email to the professor. Assignments should be sent in on or before the due date specified in this syllabus. All assignments handed in after the due date may be subject to a penalty of 3% for each day (including weekends) that they are late.

Instructor’s role and availability

As professor it is my responsibility to empower each class member as a learner by treating each student with respect and dignity. I come to position myself as a fellow learner in the community and to offer information, reflection, experience, and questions for us to reflect on together. Further, it is my responsibility to give good evaluation and feedback to your thinking, both as you offer it to the class in our discussions and through written work so that your growth through this class can be maximized as a result of our collaboration.

I will do my best to answer any email enquiries within 24 hours during week days (Mon.-Fri). I do not generally answer emails Saturdays or Sunday. If an email is sent later in the afternoon on a Friday it will probably not be answered until Sunday evening or Monday morning. I will do my very best to grade assignments within three weeks of submission.

I am not only available but also welcome and enjoy connections with each of you outside class time. If you would like to meet together in person or via Zoom please feel free to make an appointment with me for a time that works for both of us.

Required Reading

Bowen, John P. *The Unfolding Gospel: How the Good News Makes Sense of Discipleship, Church, Mission and Everything Else*. Minneapolis, MN: Fortress, 2021.

Stone, Bryan. *Evangelism After Pluralism: The Ethics of Christian Witness*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker, 2018.

Assignments

1. Paper: What is the Gospel?

The heart of mission and evangelism is the proclamation and embodiment of the Christian gospel. But what is the gospel? What is this message that the church is charged to offer to the world? This paper asks the student to reflect on the simple, and yet complex question, “what is the gospel?” The paper should explore ways this question has been answered in various church traditions, key biblical and theological perspectives and ultimately your own vision of what you

believe the gospel is and why it is good news for people today. The paper should include interaction with at least 8 sources including course textbooks.

The paper will be due Oct. 27, 2022. This paper should be 8-10 pages (double spaced) and will constitute 30% of the overall course grade.

2. Video Presentation: Here's the Gospel

This assignment invites you to offer an oral presentation of the gospel in response to the question, "what do Christians believe?" This presentation can be NO MORE than 5 minutes in length and must capture the essence of your first paper in a way that would be intelligible to someone who is not a Christian and is generally unfamiliar with Christian teaching but asks you, in 5 minutes or less to share your faith with them. You can record this video using any platform that you are familiar with as long as you can provide the instructor with a link so that he can easily access your presentation (if you need help with this just let the instructor know and he will be glad to help you figure it out). The presentation should be clear, creative, and authentic. Please do not read it off of notes. Treat this assignment as if a friend or colleague asked you to explain your faith to them, make it natural, as if you were in an actual conversation with someone who was genuinely interested in understanding what you believe. If you read it from notes that will affect your mark. Also, please keep the presentation to 5 minutes or less. If your presentation is longer than 5 minutes it will affect your grade. Of course, faith sharing takes longer than 5 minutes, but we should be able to articulate the essence of the Christian gospel in a concise way and this assignment asks you to develop your ability to do that. Please submit this presentation as a link to the instructor on the date it is due.

This presentation is due Nov. 3, 2022. It will constitute 20% of the course grade. Grades will be based on clarity of the presentation, thoughtfulness, creativity, authenticity and length.

3. Research and Reflection Paper: How can we do mission and evangelism in the 21st Century?

This paper should offer an introductory biblical foundation for mission and evangelism and an analysis of ways that the church in North America has approached mission and evangelism in recent church ministry. The paper should critically engage with those approaches that challenge your own understanding of a theology of the church, post-Christendom culture and mission. Are there good examples of mission and evangelism that you have read about or experienced? Are there approaches that you think are antiquated and no longer useful? Finally, the paper should offer ideas on how the church can and should do mission in the contemporary world with a view to engaging with your particular specialization in the following way;

Church in Culture: In the final section of the paper please give attention to particular trends and/or cultural contours that you think can be fruitful places for missional engagement and evangelistic conversation.

Pastoral Studies: In the final section of the paper please give attention to how you would go about equipping a church for missional effectiveness (i.e. casting vision, training, leading in missional endeavors, etc.) in the contemporary context.

Christian Worldview: In the final section of the paper please give attention to ways that Christianity offers a distinct way of approaching life in this world that is clearly different from other prevailing ideologies (or what you perceive to be the prevailing world view of Western culture) and how a Christian can enter into constructive dialogue with someone whose worldview is different from their own.

***If you are not using this course as a specialization you can choose any one of these directions for the final section of your paper.**

The paper should demonstrate comprehension of course materials, required texts and pertinent research on the issue of evangelism and mission (at least ten sources, including course texts should be employed).

This paper should be approximately 10-12 pages and is due Dec. 1, 2022. It will constitute 40% of the total course grade.

4. Participation

As an online course it is expected that students will make engagement with peers a high priority in their learning. As an online class this kind of commitment to participation is absolutely essential to the ethos and overall quality of the course. Thus, students will be graded on their participation based on the quality and frequency of their online participation.

Class participation will constitute 10% of the course grade. Grades will be determined using the following rubric.

A-LEVEL PARTICIPATION (9-10 Points)

- The participant integrated evidence from the reading, lecture, or past experience in supporting their argument.
- The participant consistently posted insightful comments and questions that prompted on topic discussion.

- The participant consistently helped clarify or synthesize other class members' ideas. If disagreeing with other class members' ideas, the participant stated his or her disagreement or objections clearly, yet politely.

B-LEVEL PARTICIPATION (8 Points)

- The participant was notably lacking in one or two of the items listed for A-level participation.
- The participant consistently had to be prompted or coaxed to participate.
- The participant usually, but not always, expressed herself or himself clearly.

C-LEVEL PARTICIPATION (7 Points)

- The participant was consistently lacking in two or more of the items listed for A-level participation.
- The participant was extremely reluctant to participate, even when prompted.
- The participant rarely expressed himself or herself clearly.

D-LEVEL PARTICIPATION (6 Points)

- The participant frequently attempted (success is irrelevant) to draw the discussion off-topic, even if the participant's participation otherwise conforms to a higher level on the rubric

F-LEVEL PARTICIPATION (0-5 Points)

- The participant was rude or abusive to other course participants.
- The participant consistently failed or refused to participate at all, even when specifically prompted or questioned, even if the participant's participation otherwise conforms to a higher level on the rubric.

Course Outline and Expectations

Course Introduction: Zoom class meeting (online), Sept. 15th 4:00 pm ET

**details will be provided but please plan to attend this gathering via. the online platform Zoom.*

- Meeting content will include: Course overview, introductions, student questions and some introductory lecture material.

- Student Responsibilities: Please review the course syllabus before this meeting and come prepared to offer a brief (1-2 minute) introduction of yourself (occupation, professional background, personal/family situation, your hopes for the course), and bring any questions you have about the course.

Section One: A Biblical Theology of Mission and Evangelism

- Weeks of Sept. 19, 26, Oct.10, Online Presentations on various introductory aspects of a theology of Mission and evangelism will be provided including lecture material, other educational resources and online discussion. On Oct, 6 we will meet together for an online lecture and discussion at 4:00 – 5:50 pm ET.
- Student Responsibilities: Review the weekly online lectures and the other material provided. Also, begin engaging with the course texts, beginning with Bowen’s *The Unfolding Gospel* During the week of Sept.26 participate in the on- line discussion forum. Please post your response to the discussion prompts provided by the instructor by Thursday of this week (Sept. 29th). Respond to at least two posts by your classmates no later than Sunday of this week (Oct. 2nd). Join the class gathering online on Oct. 6 (4:00 pm ET). Work on your paper on “What is the Gospel” in order to be ready to submit it to the instructor as an email attachment by Oct. 27, 2022.

Section Two: Evangelism and Ethics

Week of Oct. 17- Online Presentation: The Ethics of Evangelism in Post-Christian North America

Week of Oct. 24 – There will be no new course material offered this week.

Student Responsibilities: Review the weekly online lecture and any other material provided. Engage with Stone’s book, *Evangelism after Pluralism*. During the week of Oct. 17 participate in the on- line discussion forum on the book *Evangelism after Pluralism*. Please post your response to the discussion prompts provided by the instructor by Thursday of this week (Oct. 20th). Respond to at least one post by your classmates no later than Sunday of this week (Oct. 23rd). Prepare your paper for submission Oct. 27.

Section Three: The Practice of Mission and Evangelism: Issues and Approaches

- Join the online class gathering Nov. 3 as we begin to explore practical ideas on mission and evangelism in the North American context today.

-The weeks of Nov, 10, 17 and 24 we will explore specific cultural issues that provide opportunities for missional engagement. These include, creation care/environmental issues, reconciliation with indigenous peoples, “spiritual but not religious,” creative ways to engage our culture as an “alternative community.”

- The week of Nov. 28-Dec. 1 is a writing week. No new material will be presented this week.

- Student Responsibilities: Review the online materials on the course website for this section of the course. Submit your oral presentation “Here is the Gospel” Nov. 3. Participate in the online discussion forum the week of Nov. 14-20. Respond to the question posted by the instructor by midnight Nov. 17. There is no need to respond to other posts this week (although you are free to do so if you want to). Work on your final paper. Submit it to the instructor as an email attachment by Dec. 1,

Section Four: Final class Meeting

-Join us Dec. 8 for a final class gathering (on zoom) where we will engage further on issues of mission and evangelism in today’s context and reflect on the things we have talked about, learned and struggled with throughout the semester. (4:00 pm ET).

Additional notes:

A. Textbook Purchase

All required textbooks for this class are available from the College’s book service, READ On Bookstore you may contact READ On Bookstore, at books@readon.ca. Other book services may also carry the texts.

B. Academic Honesty

Academic dishonesty is a serious offence that may take any number of forms, including plagiarism, the submission of work that is not one’s own or for which previous credit has been obtained, and/or unauthorized collaboration with other students. Academic dishonesty can result in severe consequences, e.g., failure of the assignment, failure of the course, a notation on one’s academic transcript, and/or suspension or expulsion from the College. Students are responsible for understanding what constitutes academic dishonesty. Please refer to the Divinity College Statement on Academic Honesty ~ <https://mcmasterdivinity.ca/rules-regulations/>

C. Gender Inclusive Language

McMaster Divinity College uses inclusive language for human beings in worship services, student written materials, and all its publications. It is expected that inclusive language will be

used in chapel services and all MDC assignments. In reference to biblical texts, the integrity of the original expressions and the names of God should be respected, but you will need to use gender-inclusive language for humans, and you will need to quote from a gender-inclusive version such as the following: NRSV (1989), NCV (1991), TEV/GNB/GNT (1992), CEV (1995), NLT (1996), TNIV (2005), and the Common English Bible (CEB 2011).

D. Style

All stylistic considerations (including but not limited to questions of formatting, footnotes, and bibliographic references) must conform to the McMaster Divinity College Style Guidelines for Essays and Theses, <http://mcmasterdivinity.ca/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/mdcstyleguide.pdf> Failure to observe appropriate form will result in grade reductions.

Disclaimer

This syllabus is the property of the instructor and is prepared with currently available information. The instructor reserves the right to make changes and revisions up to and including the first day of class.

Mission and Evangelism Reading and Research List

Adeney, Francis S. *Graceful Evangelism: Christian Witness in a Complex World*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2010.

*Barrett, Lois Y. et. al. *Treasures in Jars of Clay: Patterns in Missional Faithfulness*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2004.

Barna, George. *Revolution: Finding Vibrant Faith Beyond the Walls of the Sanctuary*, Carol Stream, Ill: Tyndale House Publishers, 2005.

Beach, Lee. *The Church in Exile: Living in Hope after Christendom*. Downers Grove: Intervarsity, 2015.

*Beaudoin, Tom. *Virtual Faith: The Irreverent Spiritual Quest of Generation X*, San Francisco: Jossey-Bass, 1998.

Bessenecker, Scott A. *The New Friars: The emerging Movement Serving the World's Poor*. Downers Grove: Intervarsity, 2006.

*Bosch, David J. *Transforming Mission: Paradigm Shifts in the Theology of Mission*, American Society of Missiology Series, No.16, Mayknoll: Orbis, 1991.

- *Braatan, Carl and Jenson, Robert eds. *The Strange New World of the Gospel: Re-evangelizing in the Postmodern World*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2002.
- *Brueggemann, Walter. *Biblical Perspectives on Evangelism: Living in a Three-Storied Universe*, Nashville: Abingdon, 1993.
- *Chester, Tim (editor). *Justice, Mercy and Humility: Integral Mission and the Poor*. UK: Paternoster, 2002.
- *Chilcote, Paul W. and Lacey C. Warner (editors). *The Study of Evangelism: Exploring a Missional Practice of the Church*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2008.
- Claiborne, Shane. *The Irresistible Revolution: Living as an ordinary Radical*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2006.
- Clapp, Rodney. *A Peculiar People: The Church as Culture in a Post-Christian Society*, Downers Grove: Intervarsity, 1996.
- Flemming, Dean. *Recovering the Full Mission of God: A Biblical Perspective on Being, Doing and Telling*. Downers Grove: Intervarsity, 2013.
- *Frost, Michael. *Exiles: Living Missionally in a Post-Christian*, Peabody, Mass.: Hendrickson Publishers, 2006.
- *_____ and Hirsch, Alan. *The Shaping of Things to Come: Innovation and Mission In the 21st Century Church*, Peabody: Mass: Hendrickson, 2003.
- *Gallagher, Robert, Hertig, Paul (editors). *Landmark Essays in Mission and World Christianity*. New York: Maryknoll, Orbis. 2009.
- *Gibbs, Eddie and Bolger Ryan K. *Emerging Churches: Creating Christian Community in Postmodern cultures*, Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 2005.
- *Green, Michael. *Evangelism in the Early Church*, Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1970.
- Guder, Darrell, (editor) *Missional Church*, Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1998.
- *_____. *The Continuing Conversion of the Church*, Grand Rapids, Eerdmans, 2000.
- Guthrie, Stan. *Missions in the Third Millennium: 21 Key Trends for the 21st Century*, Waynesborough, Georgia: Paternoster Press, 2005.

- *Hastings, Ross. *Missional God, Missional Church: Hope for Re-Evangelizing the West*. Downers Grove: Intervarsity, 2012.
- *Hauerwas, Stanley and William Willimon. *Resident Aliens*, Nashville: Abingdon, 1989.
- *Heath, Elaine. *The Mystic Way of Evangelism*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2008.
- * Hirsch, Alan and Frost, Michael. *ReJesus: A Wild Messiah for a Missional Church*. Peabody, Mass: Hendrickson, 2009.
- *_____. *The Forgotten Ways: Reactivating the Missional Church*. Grand Rapids: Brazos, 2006. (in process at Mills)
- *_____. *The Forgotten Ways Handbook: A Practical Guide for Developing Missional Churches*. Grand Rapids: Brazos, 2009.
- *Hunsberger, George and Van Gelder, Graig (ed.'s), *The Church Between Gospel and Culture; The Emerging Mission in North America*, (Grand Rapids: Eerdmanns, 1996).
- Kallenberg, Brad. *Live to Tell: Evangelism for a Postmodern Age*, Grand Rapids: Brazos, 2002.
- *Malesic, Jonathan. *Secret Faith in the Public Square: An Argument for the Concealment of Christian Identity*. Grand Rapids: Brazos, 2009.
- *Mancini, Will. *Church Unique: How Missional Leaders Cast Vision, capture Culture, and Create Movement*. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass, 2008.
- *McLaren, Brian. *The Church on the Other Side: Doing Ministry in the Post Modern Matrix*, Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2000.
- *_____. *A Generous Orthodoxy*, Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2004.
- *McKnight, Scot. *A Community Called Atonement*. Nashville: Abingdon, 2007.
- *Middleton, Richard J. and Walsh, Brian J. *Truth is Stranger Than it Used to Be: Biblical Faith in a Postmodern Age*, Downers Grove: Intervarsity Press, 1995.
- *Miller, Donald. *Blue Like Jazz: Nonreligious Thoughts on Christian Spirituality*, Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 2003.
- *Minatrea, Milfred. *Shaped by God's Heart: The Passion and Practices of Missional Churches*. San Francisco, Jossey-Bass, 2004.

- Mittelberg, Mark. *Building a Contagious Church: Revolutionizing the Way we View and Do Evangelism*, Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2000.
- Moltmann, Jurgen. *The Open Church: Invitation to a Messianic Lifestyle*, London: SCM, 1978.
- *Muck, Terry and Adeney Francis. *Christians Encountering World Religions: The Practice of Mission in the 21st Century*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2009.
- *Nelson, Gary. *Borderland Churches: A Congregations Introduction to Missional Living*. St. Louis: Chalice, 2008.
- *Newbiggin, Leslie. *Foolishness to the Greeks: The Gospel and Western Culture*, Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1986.
- *_____. *The Gospel in a Pluralistic Society*, Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1989.
- *Ott, Craig and Strauss, Stephen J. *Encountering Theology of Mission: Biblical Foundations, Historical Developments and Contemporary Issues*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2010.
- *Posterski, Donald C. *Reinventing Evangelism: New Strategies for Presenting Christ in Today's World*, Downers Grove: Inter-Varsity, 1989.
- Roxburgh, Alan. *The Missionary Congregation: Leadership and Liminality*. Harrisburgh, Penn: Trinity Press, 1997.
- *_____ and Fred Romanuk. *The Missional Leader: Equipping your Church to Reach a Changing World*, San Francisco, Jossey Bass, 2006.
- Smith, Gordon T. *Beginning Well: Christian Conversion & Authentic Transformation*, Downers Grove: Inter Varsity Press, 2001.
- *Smith, James K.A. *Who's Afraid of Postmodernism?: Taking Derrida, Lyotard and Foucault to Church* Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2006.
- *Stone, Bryan. *Evangelism After Christendom: The Theology and Practice of Christian Witness*, Grand Rapids: Brazos Press, 2007.
- Stults, Donald L. *Grasping Truth and Reality: Leslie Newbiggin's Theology of Mission and the Western World*. Cambridge: Lutterworth, 2009.
- Sweet, Leonard. *Aqua-Church*, Loveland, Co., Group Publishing, 1999.
- _____ (editor). *The Church of the Perfect Storm*. Nashville: Abingdon, 2008.

Tennent, Timothy C. *Invitation to World Missions: A Trinitarian Missiology for the Twenty-first Century*. Kregel: Grand Rapids, 2010.

*Thomlinson, Dave. *The Post-evangelical*, Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2003.

*Van Gelder, Craig. *The Essence of the Church: A Community Created by the Spirit*, Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 2000.

*_____. *The Ministry of the Missional Church: A Community Led by the Spirit*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2007.

*_____ (editor). *The Missional Church in Context: Helping Congregations Developing Contextual Ministry*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmanns, 2007.

*Walsh, Brian J. Keesmaat, Sylvia C. *Colossians Remixed: Subverting the Empire*, Downers Grove: Intervarsity Press, 2004.

Whitesel, Bob. *Inside the Organic church: Learning From 12 Emerging Congregations*, Nashville: Abingdon, 2006.

*Wright, Christopher J. H. *The Mission of God: Unlocking the Bible's Grand Narrative*, Downers Grove: Inter Varsity Press, 2006

* Available at Mills Library.