

THE CONTENT OF THIS DESCRIPTION IS NOT A LEARNING CONTRACT AND THE INSTRUCTOR IS NOT BOUND TO IT. IT IS OFFERED IN GOOD FAITH AND INTENDED AS A HELPFUL GUIDE TO THE STUDENT.

**TITLE:** The Missional Theology of Lesslie Newbigin

**TERM:** Fall 2022-2023

**PROFESSOR:** Edwin van Driel

**CREDIT HOURS:** 3

**REGISTRATION:** LIMITED TO: \_\_\_\_\_  
# AUDITORS: X

UNLIMITED X  
NO AUDITORS \_\_\_\_\_

### **COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

Lesslie Newbigin (1909-1998) has been called one of the church fathers of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Ordained in the Church of Scotland, he became a missionary in India, was instrumental in the formation of the Church of South India (the result of unification of Presbyterian, Episcopal, Methodist and Congregationalist denominations), in which he served as bishop, was involved with the World Council of Churches as Associate General Secretary and, on retirement in England, served a small Reformed congregation in Birmingham while using his cross-cultural experiences to develop a unique missional perspective on the church in a post-Christian Western society. As we increasingly rethink what it means to be church, this course explores what we can learn from Newbigin's missional theology.

### **CLASS OBJECTIVES:**

1. To help students think through Newbigin's account of the overall narrative and broad theological themes of the Bible.
2. To help students think through Newbigin's understanding of key theological themes, and to see how Newbigin's account both develops and functions within particular social contexts and invites to fitting and faithful theological practices.
3. To help students use Newbigin's theology to describe a particular context in terms of God's mission.

**PREREQUISITES:** None

### **REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS/READING:**

- Lesslie Newbigin, *Trinitarian Doctrine for Today's Mission*. Wipf & Stock, 2006, ISBN: 978-1597529242, \$12.53
- Lesslie Newbigin, *Honest Religion for Secular Man*. Wipf & Stock, 2011, ISBN: 978-161975839, \$21.00
- Lesslie Newbigin, *The Finality of Christ*. Wipf & Stock, 2009, ISBN: 978-1606085813, \$17.00
- Lesslie Newbigin, *The Household of God: Lectures on the Nature of the Church*. Wipf & Stock, 2008, ISBN: 978-1606082225, \$20.00
- Lesslie Newbigin, *The Open Secret: An Introduction to the Theology of Mission*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1995, ISBN: 978-0802808295, \$18.41
- Lesslie Newbigin, *The Gospel in a Pluralist Society*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1989, ISBN: 978-0802804266, \$25.00
- Lesslie Newbigin, *Truth to Tell: The Gospel as Public Truth*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1991, ISBN: 978-0802806079, \$12.85
- Lesslie Newbigin, *Unfinished Agenda: An Updated Autobiography*. Wipf & Stock, 2009, ISBN: 978-1606088050, \$35.00

### **ASSIGNMENTS & GRADING:**

1. Weekly discussion questions on the readings;
2. A 15-20 page, double spaced imaginative research paper in which students will look at a particular Christian community in its context and ask them what Newbigin's missional theology would invite this congregation to see and say about God's mission in its midst.

**ATTENDANCE:** Required. The class will meet weekly synchronically online.