

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: Leading Communities into Mission

TERM: Spring 2023-2024

PROFESSOR: Hunter Farrell

CREDIT HOURS: 3

REGISTRATION: LIMITED TO: 20
AUDITORS: 20

UNLIMITED _____
NO AUDITORS _____

COURSE DESCRIPTION: The course will equip students to mobilize, train, and lead their congregation or non-profit organization to engage faithfully and effectively in God's mission as a central part of congregational/organizational identity. We will deconstruct colonial notions of *mission as charity* and postmodern assumptions of *mission as self-transformation* through a critical analysis of the most popular congregational mission strategies (mission trips, child sponsorship, development projects, orphanages, meal packaging, etc.). We will reflect on the foundations of mission theology, anthropology and development studies needed to engage more authentically and respectfully using case studies and interviews with innovative leaders.

CLASS OBJECTIVES:

1. Learn to critically assess common U.S. congregational mission strategies and lead congregations to engage in more effective mission work and relationships;
2. Reflect on the foundations of mission from the perspectives of mission theology, mission anthropology, and development studies;
3. Learn practical strategies to lead a congregation/organization in mission:
 - Plan and lead short-term mission trips;
 - Prioritize and fund mission projects;
 - Prepare members for the intercultural dimensions of mission;
 - Generate support for mission through stewardship;
 - Develop spiritual practices for one's self and for congregational mission leaders;
 - Develop leadership skills to help congregations discern and engage in local and global mission.
 - Explore intersections between congregational mission and social movements for justice.

PREREQUISITES: none (MI-210 recommended)

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS/READING:

1. Charles, Mark and Rah, Soong-Chan. *Unsettling Truths: The On-Going, Dehumanizing Legacy of the Doctrine of Discovery* (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2019). ISBN: 978-0830845255, \$17.99
2. Farrell, B. Hunter, with Khylllep, S. Balajiedlang. *Freeing Congregational Mission: Companionship, Cultural Humility & Co-Development* (Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press Academic, 2022). ISBN: 978-1514000687, \$19.59
3. Other readings posted on Canvas course page.

ASSIGNMENTS & GRADING:

- a. **Class Participation:** 10% of final grade
- b. **Reading Reflections:** 30% of final grade
- c. **Congregation in Context Project:** 20% of final grade
- d. **Leadership Training Project:** 40% of final grade

ATTENDANCE: Required.