

**Alabama Course of Study
At Huntingdon College
Winter Term 2010
January 29-30 & February 19-20
Assignments and Course Requirements**

Course: **COS 513 - Our Mission From God – Transforming Agent**
Instructor: Winston Worrell
Address: 6887 Magnolia Park Drive
Norcross, GA 30093

Please submit this entire assignment stapled on an “Alabama Course of Study Cover Sheet” to the instructor listed above.

COS 513 - Our Mission From God – Transforming Agent

The mission of the church is to serve God and neighbor by transmitting the Gospel for the redemption of the world. Redemption is God’s holy activity that transforms individuals, societies, and all of life. When faithful to its mission, the church serves as an agent of God’s transforming redemption. Based on the understanding of the nature of the church and its mission, this course seeks to help pastors gain theological understanding and practical ministry skills for leading congregations to carry out the mission of the church of God’s agents of transformation.

Objectives:

1. Development of a Biblical and theological framework for Christian mission.
2. Consideration of the Wesleyan understanding of personal piety and social holiness.
3. Examination of unjust social realities such as racism, sexism, and classism, that impact society and thus the mission of the church.
4. Exploration of the growing influence of social, economic, and political globalization in the world and its implications for the mission of the church.
5. Exposure to the United Methodist ecumenical, interreligious, and community programs that model effective social transformation in the spirit of the Gospel.
6. Analysis of the context of ministry of local congregations for the development of strategies and leadership skills for the transforming mission of the church.

Required Texts:

Fox, H. Eddie and Morris, George E. Prepared by. *The Faith-Sharing New Testament with the Psalms*, Cokesbury **revised and expanded edition** 1996. **ISBN: 0687067162.**

McNeal, Reggie. *The Present Future: Six Tough Questions for the Church*. John Wiley & Sons Inc. 2003. **ISBN: 0787965685**

Mead, Loren B. *The Once and Future Church: Reinventing the Congregation for a New Mission Frontier*. (An Alban Institute Publication: 1993). **ISBN: 1566990505**.

Van Rheenen, Gailyn. *Missions: Biblical Foundations & Contemporary Strategies*. Zondervan Publishing House. 1996. **ISBN: 0310208092**.

Pre-Work Assignment (due two weeks ahead of first class)

1. Read **Loren Mead's** text (book): "*The Once and Future Church*." Write a **5 page** critique and review of this text. Follow these guidelines: typed, double spaced (8 ½ x 11 paper). Critique the material in the text, and include answers to the four below questions in your review. Email this paper to the instructor (wworrel@emory.edu) two weeks ahead of the first class or mail postmarked two weeks ahead to: Dr. Winston Worrell, 6887 Magnolia Park Drive, Norcross, GA 30093 (30% of Grade). In case the instructor needs to be in touch with you, please include your telephone number and email address on your cover page(s).
 - a. What are the main points (theses) of the text (book)?
 - b. What are the major strengths of the text?
 - c. What are the major weaknesses of the text?
 - d. In what ways has this text helped you or might help you in the future?
Be specific.

2. Before the first class, read **van Rheenan's** text on "*Mission*." Bring to the first class a review of **Chapters 1 and 2** and explain how these two chapters may or may not shape your understanding of and your rationale for mission for yourself and your church (2 pages only).

Recommended Texts:

Cardoza-Orlandi, Carlos F. *An Introduction to Mission (Una Introducción a la Misión)* (English and Spanish). Nashville, Abingdon Press: 2003. **ISBN: 0687074177**.

Cobb, John, Jr., ed. *Progressive Christians Speak: a Different Voice on Faith and Politics*. Louisville, Westminster John Knox Press, 2003. **ISBN: 0664225896**.

Jenkins, Philip. *The Next Christendom: The Coming of Global Christianity*. Oxford University Press. 2002. **ISBN 0195146166**.

Jennings, Theodore W. Jr. *Good News to the Poor: John Wesley's Evangelical Economics*. Abingdon Press. 1990. **ISBN 0687155282**.

Sample, Tex. *Hard Living People & Mainstream Christians*. Nashville, Abingdon Press: 1993. **ISBN: 0687179319**.

Storey, Peter. *With God in the Crucible: Preaching Costly Discipleship*. Nashville, Abingdon Press: 2002. **ISBN: 068705253**.