

“The mission of Tyndale Seminary is to provide Christ-centred graduate theological education for leaders in the church and society whose lives are marked by intellectual maturity, spiritual vigour and moral integrity, and whose witness will faithfully engage culture with the Gospel.”

Semester, Year	FALL, 2025
Course Title	GOSPEL, CHURCH AND CULTURE: MISSIONAL LEADERSHIP IN THE POSTMODERN WORLD
Course Code	MISS 0782 1A
Date	From September 8, 2025 to December 5, 2025
Delivery Format	ASYNCHRONOUS ONLINE
Class information	This course is web-based asynchronous with no fixed class time. Lectures are posted online so students can learn based on their own schedule; the same flexibility is built into the weekly forum discussions. The professor plays an active role in moderating discussion, guiding research, and introducing topics and resources.
Instructor	WAFIK WAHBA, PhD
Contact Information	Telephone: (416) 226-6620 ext. 2132 Email: wwahba@tyndale.ca
Office Hours	By appointment via email only.
Course Materials	Access course material at classes.tyndale.ca or other services at Tyndale One . Course emails will be sent to your @MyTyndale.ca e-mail account only.

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

Preparing missional leaders requires careful examination of the ideologies and cultural milieu of contemporary society. This course examines the main features of the postmodern culture, the meaning of faithfulness to the gospel, the good news of God’s salvation, and the nature and mission of the Church. The church’s witness and service to the world is studied not as one of the functions of the church but as its essential nature. Missional leadership takes seriously the calling of all God’s people to minister in every sphere of life as faithful witnesses to the gospel of salvation.

II. LEARNING OUTCOMES

At the end of the course, students will be able to:

1. Apply an in-depth biblical-theological interpretation of the Gospel.

2. Examine theologically the relationship between the Gospel, the Kingdom of God and the Church.
3. Demonstrate the nature and mission of the people of God as a sign, instrument and foretaste of the Kingdom of God.
4. Analyze how culture shapes our understanding of Gospel, Church and ministry.
5. Formulate categories and concepts for cultural-social analysis of specific ministry context.
6. Identify major dynamics of Canadian culture, including an exploration of the meaning and implications of late/post-modernity for the church's witness and service.
7. Evaluate how the Gospel and the Church can address a multiethnic, pluralistic culture, using Toronto as a case study.
8. Integrate theological insights with cultural-social analysis in developing a theology to inform the Church's response to its local context.

III. COURSE REQUIREMENTS

A. REQUIRED READING

Newbigin, Lesslie. [*Foolishness to the Greeks*](#). Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1986. (ISBN 0-8028-0176-5)

Tizon, Al. [*Whole and Reconciled: Gospel, Church, and Mission in a Fragmented World*](#). Grand Rapids, MI: Baker, 2018. (ISBN Paper: 9780801095627/ ISBN E-book: 9781493415526)

Van Gelder, Craig. [*The Essence of the Church*](#). Grand Rapids, MI: Baker, 2000. (ISBN 0-8010-9096-2)

Selected articles to be posted on the course resource page at classes.tyndale.ca or accessed through the internet.

B. SUPPLEMENTARY / RECOMMENDED READING AND TOOLS

Tyndale recommends [STEPBible](#) – a free and reputable online resource developed by Tyndale House (Cambridge, England) – for word searches of original-language texts, as well as for topical searches, interlinear texts, dictionaries, etc. Refer to the library for other [online resources for Biblical Studies](#).

C. ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING

Careful completion of the assigned readings **in advance**, in conjunction with reflecting on their relation to the ideas presented in the lectures. It is expected that students will read all of the assigned reading prior to the scheduled lecture of the week.

More information regarding the assignments is posted on the course webpage.

1. Reflection Paper: Due on Friday, October 17, 2025; 25% of final grade.

1000-word reflection paper on the culture of modernity and its impact on the life and ministry of the church.

2. Discussion Comments: Dates vary; 25% of final grade.

Attendance in this course is demonstrated by regular log-ins and up-to-date participation in forums.

Discussion forums are a key aspect of this course. They are your opportunity to relate and reflect on major themes being studied, to share your ideas with your peers, and benefit from the ideas presented by your colleagues in the group. The purpose of this activity is to allow you to experience how our community's cross cultural and denominational backgrounds can help to broaden your perspective on areas where the gospel needs to challenge us, the church, and the society we live in. The aim is to make this a collaborative learning experience that functions as a prototype of how the church as body of Christ is intended to operate.

3. Integrative Term Paper: Due on Friday, December 5, 2025; 50% of final grade.

A 3000-word integrative term paper which applies central ideas from the readings and class discussions to your own ministry.

The integrative paper should:

- Focus on the main thesis: "what is the role of the church in communicating the message of the gospel in the postmodern context of North America."
- Draw on course material, including all assigned readings and lectures.
- Interact with key ideas about the nature of Gospel and its relation to culture.
- Provide your own personal reflections and constructive suggestions related to specific implications of a missional paradigm for holistic ministry.
- Suggest possible obstacles or assets in embracing such a paradigm.

D. SUMMARY OF ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING

Evaluation is based upon the completion of the following assignments:

Assignment	Due	%
1. Reflection Paper	Oct 17	25%
2. Discussion Comments		25%
3. Integrative Term Paper	Dec 5	50%
Total Grade		100 %

IV. COURSE SCHEDULE, CONTENT AND REQUIRED READINGS

Pre-reading is expected prior to start of class. Late registrants are responsible for the consequences of partial preparation.

Week 1: Introduction: What is Culture?

Readings:

Al Tizon, [*Whole and Reconciled*](#), Chapter 1.

Week 2: The Culture of the Early Church; Church & Mission after Christendom

Readings:

Newbigin, [*Foolishness to the Greeks*](#), Chapters 1&2.

Week 3: Modernity I

Readings:

Newbigin, [*Foolishness to the Greeks*](#), Chapters 3&4.

Week 4: Modernity II

Readings:

Newbigin, [*Foolishness to the Greeks*](#), Chapters 5&6.

Week 5: Postmodernity I

Readings:

Al Tizon, [*Whole and Reconciled*](#), Chapter 2.

Selected Articles

Week 6: Postmodernity II

Readings:

Al Tizon, [*Whole and Reconciled*](#), Chapter 3.

Selected Articles

READING BREAK – OCT 21-24, 2025

Week 7: The Gospel and the Kingdom of God

Readings:

Al Tizon, [*Whole and Reconciled*](#), Chapters 4 &5.

Week 8: The Nature of the Church

Readings:

Van Gelder, [*The Essence of the Church*](#), Chapters 1-4.

Week 9: The Ministry of the Church

Readings:

Van Gelder, [*The Essence of the Church*](#), Chapters 5-7.

Week 10: A Missional Understanding of the Church

Readings:

Al Tizon, [*Whole and Reconciled*](#), Chapters 8 & 9.

Week 11: Reconciling the World to God

Readings:

Al Tizon, [*Whole and Reconciled*](#), Chapters 6 & 7.

Selected Articles

Week 12:

Vocation and Ministry in Daily Life

Reading:

Al Tizon, [*Whole and Reconciled*](#), Chapters 10 & 11.

Selected Articles

The Church's Responsibility in Communicating the Gospel in Contemporary Canadian Context

Readings: Selected Articles

Assigned readings for each week are to be done prior to the class.

V. SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

Abraham, William. [*The Logic of Evangelism*](#). London, UK: Hodder & Stoughton, 1989.

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*Adams, Michael. *Sex in the Snow: Canadian Social Values at the End of the Millennium*. Toronto, ON: Penguin, 1998.

Adeney, Bernard T. *Strange Virtues: Ethics in a Multicultural World*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP, 1995.

Bakke, Ray. [*A Theology as Big as the City*](#). Downers Grove, IL: IVP, 1997.

Bauman, Zygmunt. [*Community: Seeking Safety in an Insecure World*](#). Cambridge: Polity, 2001.

_____. *Globalization: The Human Consequences*. Cambridge: Polity, 1998.

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Beeby, H.D. [*Canon and Mission*](#). Harrisburg, PA: Trinity Press International, 1999.

Bevans, Stephen B. *Models of Contextual Theology*. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis, 1992.

Bibby, Reginald. *Restless Gods: The Renaissance of Religion in Canada*. Toronto, ON: Stoddart, 2002.

_____. *Unknown Gods*. Toronto, ON: Stoddart, 1993.

_____. *Mosaic Madness*. Toronto, ON: Stoddart, 1990.

*Bosch, David. *Transforming Mission: Paradigm Shifts in Theology of Mission*. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis, 1991.

Braaten, Carl E. *The Flaming Center: A Theology of the Christian Mission*. Philadelphia, PA: Fortress, 1977.

Brownson, James V. [*Speaking the Truth in Love: New Testament Resources for a Missional Hermeneutic*](#). Harrisburg, PA: Trinity Press International, 1998.

* Clapp, Rodney. [*A Peculiar People: The Church as Culture in a Post-Christian Society*](#). Downers Grove, IL: IVP, 1996.

Clark, David, ed. *Changing World, Unchanging Church? An Agenda for Christians in Public Life*. London: Mowbray, 1997.

Dorr, Donal. *Mission in Today's World*. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis, 2000.

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Friedman, Thomas L. *The Lexus and the Olive Tree*. New York: Anchor Books, 1999.

Friesen, Duane K. *Artists, Citizens and Philosophers: Seeking the Peace of the City*. Scottsdale, PA: Herald Press, 2000.

Fuellenbach, John. *Church: Community for the Kingdom*. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis, 2002.

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Gay, Craig M. *The Way of the (Modern) World*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1998.

Gibbs, Eddie. [ChurchNext: Quantum Changes in How We Do Ministry](#). Downers Grove, IL: IVP, 2000.

Grenz, Stanley J. [A Primer on Postmodernism](#). Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1996.

Guder, Darrel. [Be my Witnesses](#). Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1985.

* _____. *Missional Church*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1998.

_____. [The Continuing Conversion of the Church](#). Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2000.

_____. *The Incarnation and the Church's Witness*. Harrisburg, PA: Trinity Press International, 1999.

_____. "Missional Theology for a Missionary Church." *Journal for Preachers* 22, no. 1. (Advent 1998).

_____. "The Missional Center of Reformed Worship." *Reformed Liturgy and Music* 32, no. 2 (spring 1998): 100-104.

Hammond, Pete, R. Paul Stevens & Todd Svano. [The Marketplace Annotated Bibliography: A Christian Guide to Books on Work, Business and Vocation](#). Downers Grove, IL: IVP, 2002.

Harvey, Barry. [Another City: An Ecclesiological Primer for a Post-Christian World](#). Harrisburg, PA: Trinity Press International, 1999.

Heath, Joseph. *The Efficient Society: Why Canada is as Close to Utopia as it Goes*. Toronto, ON: Penguin, 2001.

- Hegeman, David Bruce. [*Plowing in Hope: Toward a Biblical Theology of Culture*](#). Moscow, ID: Canon Press, 1999.
- *Hunsberger, George R., and Craig van Gelder, eds. *Church Between Gospel and Culture: The Emerging Mission in North America*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1996.
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- _____. [*What is Mission? Theological Explorations*](#). Minneapolis, MN: Augsburg Fortress, 2000.
- Kostenberger, Andreas J., and Peter T. O'Brien. *Salvation to the Ends of the Earth: A Biblical Theology of Mission*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP, 2001.
- Kraemer, Hendrik. *A Theology of the Laity*. Philadelphia, PA: Westminster Press, 1958.
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* Niebuhr, H. Richard. *Christ and Culture*. New York, NY: Harper, 1951.

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Yates, Timothy. [*Christian Mission in the Twentieth Century*](#). Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press, 1994.

VI. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS FOR ALL COURSES

A. EQUITY OF ACCESS

Students with permanent or temporary disabilities who need academic accommodations must [contact](#) the [Accessibility Services](#) at the [Centre for Academic Excellence](#) to [register](#) and discuss their specific needs. *New students* must self-identify and register with the Accessibility Office at the beginning of the semester or as early as possible to access appropriate services. *Current students* must renew their plans as early as possible to have active accommodations in place.

B. REQUIREMENTS FOR LIVESTREAM INTERACTION (*SYNCHRONOUS ONLINE COURSE ONLY*)

- Livestream attendance for the entire duration of the class at announced times
- Headphones (preferred), built-in microphone, and web-camera
- Well-lit and quiet room
- Stable high-speed internet connection, preferably using an Ethernet cable over Wi-Fi
- Full name displayed on Zoom and Microsoft Teams for attendance purposes*
- A commitment to having the camera on to foster community building*

**exceptions with permission from professor*

C. GUIDELINES FOR INTERACTIONS

Tyndale University prides itself in being a trans-denominational community. We anticipate our students to have varied viewpoints which will enrich the discussions in our learning community. Therefore, we ask our students to be charitable and respectful in their interactions with each other, and to remain focused on the topic of discussion, out of respect to others who have committed to being a part of this learning community. Please refer to “Guidelines for Interactions” on your course resource page at classes.tyndale.ca.

D. GUIDELINES FOR THE SUBMISSION OF WRITTEN WORK

Grading Rubric

Please consult the rubric provided for each assignment on your course resource page at classes.tyndale.ca.

Academic Integrity

Integrity in academic work is required of all our students. Academic dishonesty is any breach of this integrity and includes such practices as cheating (the use of unauthorized material on tests and examinations), submitting the same work for different classes without permission of the instructors; using false information (including false references to secondary sources) in an

assignment; improper or unacknowledged collaboration with other students, and plagiarism (including improper use of artificial intelligence programs). Tyndale University takes seriously its responsibility to uphold academic integrity, and to penalize academic dishonesty. Please refer to the [Academic Integrity website](#) for further details.

For proper citation style, consult [Citation Guides](#) for different styles. Students are encouraged to consult [Writing Services](#).

Students should also consult the current [Academic Calendar](#) for academic policies on Academic Honesty, Gender Inclusive Language in Written Assignments, Late Papers and Extensions, Return of Assignments, and Grading System.

Turnitin Text-Matching Software

Tyndale has a subscription to Turnitin, a text-matching software that ensures the originality of academic writing and verifies the proper citation of all sources. The instructor for this course will use Turnitin for assignments submitted through your course resource page at classes.tyndale.ca. Upon submission, you will receive a summary that includes your submitted files along with a similarity report generated by Turnitin. Please be aware that Turnitin can also detect AI-generated content from tools like Grammarly, so students should be mindful of when using such software. It's advisable to confirm with your instructor before using any AI tools into your assignments. Below are some useful resources:

- [Student](#) Guides for Turnitin via classes.tyndale.ca course resource page
- Interpreting Similarity ([Guide](#), [Video](#), [Spectrum](#))

Research Ethics

All course-based assignments involving human participants requires ethical review and may require approval by the [Tyndale Research Ethics Board \(REB\)](#). Check with the Seminary Dean's Office (seminaryoffice@tyndale.ca) before proceeding.

Late Papers and Extensions Policy

All papers and course assignments must be submitted by the due dates indicated in the course syllabus. Unless the instructor already has a policy on grading late papers in the course syllabus, grades for papers submitted late without an approved extension will be lowered at the rate of two-thirds of a grade per week or part thereof (e.g., from "A+" to "A-," from "B" to "C+"). Please note that some programs, such as cohort-based or intensive courses, may follow a different policy due to the nature of the program.

Faculty may not grant an extension beyond the last day of exams for the semester. Requests for extensions beyond this date must be addressed in writing to the Registrar by filling out the

[Extension Request Form](#). The application will be considered only in cases such as a death in the family, medical emergency, hospitalization of oneself or immediate family member or prolonged illness requiring treatment by a physician. Factors such as assignments for other courses, holidays, and technology-related difficulties are insufficient grounds for requesting an extension.

A temporary grade of incomplete (“I”) may be granted by the Registrar. Once an extension is granted, it is the student’s responsibility to contact the instructor and make satisfactory arrangements to complete the outstanding work. A grade of “F” will be recorded for students who do not complete the outstanding work by the deadline.

E. COURSE EVALUATION

Tyndale Seminary values quality in the courses it offers its students. End-of-course evaluations provide valuable student feedback and are one of the ways that Tyndale Seminary works towards maintaining and improving the quality of courses and the student’s learning experience. Student involvement in this process is critical to enhance the general quality of teaching and learning.

Before the end of the course, students will receive a MyTyndale email with a link to the online course evaluation. The link can also be found in the left column on the course page. The evaluation period is 2 weeks; after the evaluation period has ended, it cannot be reopened.

Course Evaluation results will not be disclosed to the instructor before final grades in the course have been submitted and processed. Student names will be kept confidential, and the instructor will only see the aggregated results of the class.

F. LIBRARY RESOURCES

[Tyndale Library](#) supports courses with [e-journals, e-books](#), and the [mail delivery of books](#) and circulating materials. See the [Library FAQ page](#).

G. GRADING SYSTEM & SCALE

For each course’s grading rubric, please refer to your course syllabus or [classes.tyndale.ca](#). For general grading guidelines, refer to Seminary [Grading System & Scale](#).