

REGENT COLLEGE
Distance Education

DE APPL 610 EMPOWERING THE CHURCH FOR FIRST WORLD
RE-EVANGELIZATION: THEOLOGICAL AND MISSIONAL THEMES

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Course email: de-appl610@regent-college.edu

3 graduate credit hours

Course website: www.regent-college.edu/classesonline

Your due date: _____

(Last page of your Student Handbook explains how to set your due date)

600-level courses are usually more advanced and focused than 500-level courses and generally assume the completion of some theological studies.

A course may be dropped within two weeks of the course start date for a 100% refund (less a \$25 drop fee). A course may be dropped between two and four weeks of the course start date for a 75% refund (less a \$25 drop fee). A course may be dropped between four and eight weeks of the course start date for no refund; after this time the student is committed to receiving a grade for the course. All course materials must be returned in original condition before a drop or refund will be approved.

Course Description

This course has in view the empowerment of the church in urban centers for mission and ministry. It recognizes the cultural, ethnic and social diversity of contemporary cities and the challenges this holds for effective witness and service. It is also mindful of the internal challenges facing the church with its religious consumer mentality, its lack of a corporate missional identity and its cultural captivity. At the same time, this course recognizes the missional identity of the church and its call to be the servant of God's Kingdom purposes. In order for this missional call to be strengthened and encouraged, this course seeks to develop a vision of the church rooted in Trinitarian and Kingdom theology. From this starting point, the course explores models of the church, strategies for effective witness and service, themes in holistic mission, and the contours of a missional spirituality. These themes are explored within the setting of the challenges, problems and possibilities of our urban environments.

Course Objectives:

- 1) Situate the church and its mission in Trinitarian and Kingdom theology.
- 2) Understand key dimensions of our urban and multi-cultural world and the challenges these pose for the church in mission.
- 3) Explore the dimensions of holistic mission and ministry and the empowerment of the whole people of God for witness and service.
- 4) Understand different models of effective missional churches and key strategies for evangelism and service.
- 5) Reflect on the missional strategies of key churches in the Greater Vancouver area.

- 6) Develop a strategy for empowering the church for witness and service.

Overview of Lectures

- 1) The Call and the Cost of a Missional Vision
- 2) The Contemporary Cultural and Social Setting: Issues and Challenges Facing the Church
- 3) Theological Foundations: The Trinity, the Kingdom of God and the Mission of the Church
- 4) The Church's Ministry in an Urban and Multi-Cultural World
- 5) Empowering the Church for Holistic Mission and Ministry
- 6) Mobilizing 'the Laity' for Mission
- 7) Models of Effective Missional Churches
- 8) Challenges Facing the Church in an Urban World
- 9) Empowering the Church for Change and Transformation
- 10) Towards a Missional Spirituality
- 11) Stories of Hope and Challenge from Church Leaders
- 12) Future Prospects, Possibilities and Resistances

Course Options

In order to make this course as adaptable as possible to the specific settings in which students find themselves, students are invited to choose one of three different tracks.

Track One – Leadership

This track is designed for church leadership teams who are taking the course together. (It is only necessary for one person to be taking the course for credit.) This is an ideal setting for taking the course as it provides a ready-made discussion group. The group will meet regularly during the study period to discuss and report on issues raised by the lectures. Discussion group materials will be provided.

Track Two – Group

This track is designed for students who are able to meet with others taking the course, or form their own discussion group. (It is only necessary for one person to be taking the course for credit.) Taking the course in a small group setting such as this is highly recommended. As with Track One, the group will meet regularly during the study period to discuss and report on issues raised by the lectures. Discussion group materials will be provided.

Track Three – Online

This track is designed for students who, while unable to meet with others in person, are able to take the course alongside others online. In this track students will participate in online forums, discussing the issues raised by the course on a variety of bulletin boards. Additionally, they will develop their ideas about church renewal, based on their reading and discussion, in a reflection paper.

Academic Requirements and Time Investment

	3 cr hrs
Lectures	30 hrs
Reading	40 hrs (800 pp from the Bibliography)
Research Paper	25 hrs (3,000 wds)
Track Assignments	40 hrs
TOTAL	135 hrs

Assignments:

All assignments are due (postmarked or submitted) **by your due date.**

Track One: Leadership	Track Two: Group	Track Three: Online
Lectures (30 hrs)		
① Reading (40 hrs)		
② Research Paper (25 hrs / 3,000 wds)		
③ Group Discussion (15 hrs)		⑤ Online Discussion (15 hrs / 1,200+ wds)
④ Group Report (25 hrs / 3,000 wds)		⑥ Reflection Paper (25 hrs / 3,000 wds)
Total: 135 hrs		

1. Reading.

Students in all tracks are to read 800 pages from the bibliography. (See below for details.)

2. Research Paper.

Students in all tracks are required to write a research paper on a theology of the church in mission and evangelism. At least two books from the Primary Textbooks section (I) and four books from the Secondary Recommended Books (II) must be drawn upon for the research paper. Depending on the specific themes of your paper these may be supplemented by books in the Additional Bibliography (III). While the focus of the paper is the development of a theological perspective, the paper must conclude with practical implications.

The length of this paper is 3,000 words.

3. Group Discussion.

Students in tracks one and two only are to meet with their discussion groups for a total of at least 15 hours. Individual discussion group meetings should be at least one hour in length. Discussion groups must include at least three people (including those registered for credit). Discussion group materials will be provided and may be copied for the use of group members. Students will also be supplied with a printed sheet on which to keep a record of their group meetings, to be submitted with outer course papers.

4. Group Report.

Students in tracks one and two only are to write a paper outlining the issues raised in their discussion groups. The paper is to focus on the practical ways in which the course can be implemented in the student's own situation. What were the themes with which the group wrestled? Were there areas of disagreement and how were these resolved? What key themes for your own situation emerged? How did the group feel that application of the lectures and reading could be made to real situations? The length of this paper is 3,000 words.

5. Online Discussion.

Students in track three only must contribute to the Empowering the Church Online Forum. (See Online Forums handout for instructions on using the course web site.) The purpose of the online forum is to promote genuine discussion of the issues, so students are encouraged to contribute to the notice boards freely, asking questions, raising issues, responding to one another, etc, as briefly or extensively as they wish. Nevertheless, students must post at least six responses of over 200 words, distributed over at least two different discussion boards.

Please print hard copies of your six responses of over 200 words and submit them with your other papers.

6. Reflection Paper.

Students in track three only must write a reflection paper outlining a practical process by which a local church may renew its (i) theological vision, (ii) church identity and (iii) missional strategies.

The length of this paper is 3,000 words.

Evaluation

Research Paper 50 %
Track Assignments 50%

<u>Track One: Leadership</u>	<u>Track Two: Group</u>	<u>Track Three: Online</u>
Research Paper 50%	Research Paper 50%	Research Paper 50%
Group Report 50%	Group Report 50%	Online Discussion 25%
		Reflection Paper 25%

NB: The Course Evaluation Form must also be completed and returned by your course due date.

Late Policy and Extensions (please read carefully!)

For every week that your course requirements are submitted late, there will be a deduction of a third of a letter grade per assignment accordingly. Only under circumstances that are both *unavoidable* **and** *unforeseeable* are extensions considered (please refer to your student handbook for specific details

<http://www.regent-college.edu/academics/cstudies/documents/StudentHandbook.pdf>).

Weddings and births do not count as *unavoidable and unforeseeable*. If you need to go beyond the six-month time limit, you must contact the Coordinator **first** for an extension. Contact information is provided in your **Student Handbook**. Please note that extensions are not automatically granted, and must be applied for before your original due date.

ACADEMIC HONOUR Regent College upholds the highest standards of academic responsibility as part of our commitment to Christ in all of life. Students are required to familiarize themselves especially with the discussion of “Academic Integrity” in the College Catalogue.

Bibliography

I. Primary Textbooks

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- Hirsch, Alan. *The Forgotten Ways: Reactivating the Missional Church*. Grand Rapids: Brazos Press, 2006.
- Moltmann, Jurgen. *The Trinity and the Kingdom of God*. London: SCM, 1981.
- Snyder, Howard A. *Models of the Kingdom*. Eugene: Wipf & Stock, 2001.
- Van Engen, Charles. *God's Missionary People: Returning the Purpose of the Local Church*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1991.

II. Secondary Recommended Books

- Clapp, Rodney. *A Peculiar People: The Church as Culture in a Post-Christian Society*. Downers Grove: IVP, 1996.
- Frost, Michael. *Exiles: Living Missionally in a Post-Christian Culture*. Peabody, Mass.: Hendrickson, 2009.
- Guder, Darrell L. *Missional Church: A Vision for the Sending of the Church in North America*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1998.
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- Ringma, Charles. *Catch the Wind: The Shape of the Church to Come*. Vancouver: Regent College, 2003.
- Sider, Ronald J. et al. *Churches that Make a Difference: Reaching your Community with Good News and Good Works*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2002.
- Van Gelder, Craig. *The Essence of the Church: A Community Created by the Spirit*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2000.

III. Additional Bibliography

- Bakke, Ray & J. Hart. *The Urban Christian: Ministry in Today's Urban World*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 1987.
- Banks, Robert & Julia. *The Church Comes Home*. Peabody, Mass.: Hendrickson, 1998.
- Barrett, Lois Y. (ed). *Treasure in Clay Jars: Patterns in Missional Faithfulness*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2004.
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- Bevans, Stephen B. & Roger P. Schroeder. *Constants in Context: A Theology of Mission for Today*. Maryknoll: Orbis, 2004.
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- Bonhoeffer, Dietrich. *Life Together*. San Francisco: Harper, 1954.

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- Campolo, Tony & Bruce Main. *Revolution and Renewal: How Churches Are Saving Our Cities*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox, 2002.
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- Dodd, Carley H. *Dynamics of Intercultural Communication*. Madison: Brown & Benchmark, 1995.
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- Dulles, Avery. *Models of the Church* (Expanded Edition). New York: Image, 2002.
- Escobar, Samuel. *The New Global Mission: The Gospel from Everywhere to Everyone*. Downers Grove: IVP, 2003.
- Fiddes, Paul S. *Participating in God: A Pastoral Doctrine of the Trinity*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox, 2000.
- Frazer, Randy. *The Connecting Church: Beyond Small Groups to Authentic Community*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2001.
- Frost, Michael & Alan Hirsch. *ReJesus: A Wild Messiah for a Missional Church*. Peabody, Mass.: Hendrickson, 2009.
- Frost, Michael & Alan Hirsch. *The Shaping of Things to Come: Innovation and Mission for the 21st-Century Church*. Peabody, Mass.: Hendrickson, 2003.
- Gibbs, Eddie & Ryan Bolger. *Emerging Churches: Creating Christian Community in Postmodern Cultures*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2005.
- Gibbs, Eddie. *Church Next: Quantum Changes in How We Do Ministry*. Downers Grove: IVP, 2005.
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- Halter, Hugh & Matt Smay. *The Tangible Kingdom: Creating Incarnational Community*. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass, 2008.
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