

Carey Theological College
INDS 610
Faith and Life Module: Church

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April 3 – June 9, 2017
3.0 graduate credit hours, 135 hours

While every effort has been made to be accurate as of January 1, 2017, syllabi produced before the beginning of class are subject to change.

Course Description

How does the Church fulfil God's plan for humanity and all of creation? This course invites you to reflect upon the identity and mission of the Church from the biblical view, the historical narrative, and the student's personal experience. Instead of a disengaged approach, this course seeks to create an integrative platform for you to grow in skilful articulation of your experience as part of the people of God, towards a more discerning discipleship within your context. Content will also include the experience of the global church.

Course Objectives

After completing this course, you will be able to:

1. Give an account of the Church's role in the fulfilment of God's plan for humanity and all creation.
2. Place conceptions of the Church historically and give an account of what the Bible teaches concerning the church.
3. Use biblical and historical concepts acquired to build up their Church community.
4. Love and serve the church for the sake of the Triune God and his love for his creation

Required Reading

Fee, Gordon. *Paul, the Spirit and the People of God*. Grand Rapids, Mi.: Baker Academic, 1996. Ebook edition 2011.

Gombins, Timothy. *The Drama of Ephesians: Participating in the Triumph of God*. Downers Grove, Ill.: InterVarsity Press, 2010.

Dickau, Tim. *Plunging into the Kingdom Way*. New Monastic Library: Resources for Radical Discipleship 7. Eugene, OR.: Cascade Books, 2011.

Hauerwas, Stanley. "A Story-Formed Community: Reflections on *Watership Down*." In *The Hauerwas Reader*. Edited by John Berkman and Michael Cartwright. Durham: Duke University Press, 2011.

Padilla, C. René. "New Testament Perspectives on a Simple Lifestyle" and "The Mission of the Church in Light of the Kingdom of God," in *Mission Between the Times: Essays on the Kingdom*. Carlisle, Cumbria: Langham Monographs, 2010.

Raistrick, Tulo. "The Local Church, Transforming Community," in *Holistic Mission: God's Plan for God's People*, edited by Brian Woolnough and Womsuk Ma. Oxford, England: Regnum Books International, 2010.

Snyder, Howard. *The Community of the King*. Second Edition. Downers Grove, Ill.: InterVarsity Press, 2004.

Walsh, Brian and Sylvia C. Keesmaat. *Colossians Remixed: Subverting the Empire*. Downers Grove, Ill.: InterVarsity Press, 2004

Wright, Christopher J. *The Mission of God's People: A Biblical Theology of the Church's Mission*. 96-127. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2010.

Academic Requirements and Time Investment

Academic Requirements

In this course, we will strive to become an online learning community. This means that both you and your professor are called to engage actively in the learning process taking place. This will be manifested through the weekly discussions and learning activities. In other words, rather than becoming a hub for the learning experience, your professor will construct a network of conversations and exchanges alongside you and your classmates. These will include our observations on the reality of the church, and the voices of Scripture, missiologists and biblical scholars.

You are required to read and respond to the assignments given by your professor (online posting, research, wikis, papers), as well as engage the contributions or observations of your peers according to the instructions provided weekly. Lack of participation, reading and writing, is considered as course withdrawal.

Some of the weekly assignments will require individual observation or reflection, including the final paper which will not be read exclusively by your professor, but will be made available to the entire class.

Time Investment

<i>Activity/Assignment</i>	<i>Hours</i>
Readings	50
Discussions, Postings, and Assignments	45
Collaborative Project	20
Final Paper	20
Total Hours	135

Please note: The amount of time taken by students will vary. This information is intended to be used as an approximation for planning purposes.

Evaluation

<i>Activity/Assignment</i>	%
Web platform submissions (online posting and assignments)	40%
Collaborative project	30%
Final paper	30%
Total Percentage	100%

Assignments

See course schedule below.

Course Schedule

Week 1	
Topic/Activity	Unit 1: Images of the Church <i>Topic 1.1: Placing ourselves in the Church, and the Church in the world</i>
Readings/Discussions	Snyder, <i>The Community of the King</i> (Introduction and Chapter 1) Walsh, Brian and Sylvia C. Keesmaat. <i>Colossians Remixed</i> (Chapter 1)
Assignments Due	Forum: Ecclesial autobiography Forum: Photo-based discussion: Church and Kingdom Choose an image that represents the way in which churches in Canada have understood or lived out their awareness of the Kingdom.
Week 2	
Topic/Activity	<i>Topic 1.2: Models of the Church</i>
Readings/Discussions	Snyder, <i>The Community of the King</i> (chapters 2-3—pp.11-60) Letter to the Ephesians, chapters 1-3
Assignments Due	Assignment: Interview the pastor or a leader of your local church. Explain to them the material you read by Snyder. Ask him what model he identifies their church with. Share your thoughts on the response. Forum: How helpful is Snyder's account on models of the church? What criteria would you add to better reflect the trends of the church in the XXI century? Include perspectives you gleaned from your interviews. Wiki: make a chart and fill it up according to the following columns based on Ephesian 1-3 1. What God did 2. What God will do 3. What was his purpose
Week 3	

Topic/Activity	Unit 2: A Missional Understanding of the Church <i>Topic 2.1: Towards a Narrative Ecclesiology</i>
Readings/Discussions	Gombis, <i>The Drama of Ephesians</i> (pp.9-84)
Assignments Due	Forum: Combining Snyder’s take on Kingdom awareness and Gombi’s project for understanding Ephesians, look for news articles or videos that show how the church is understanding its role in the shaping of history; commend or criticize what you present. Assignment: Using Gombi’s works and one other commentary of your choosing, summarize Ephesians 1-3. Discuss how the main topics are related.
Week 4	
Topic/Activity	<i>Topic 2.1 (cont.)</i>
Readings/Discussions	Wright, <i>The Mission of God</i> (chapters 6-7—aprox. 90 pages)
Assignments Due	Assignment: Summarize Wright (1000 words) Forum: make an illustration of how Wright conceives Mission and how contemporary churches think about mission. Discuss.
Week 5	
Topic/Activity	<i>Topic 2.2: The Church in God’s grand story</i>
Readings/Discussions	Snyder, <i>The Community of the King</i> (chapters 4-5—pp.62-88)
Assignments Due	Assignment: Summarize Snyder (1000 words) Forum: Using the wiki (chart) from Week 2, discuss your most interesting, confusing or meaningful discoveries from each column. Does Snyder address any of them? How?
Week 6	
Topic/Activity	<i>Topic 2.2 (cont.)</i>
Readings/Discussions	Walsh, Brian and Sylvia C. Keesmaat. <i>Colossians Remixed</i> (Chapter 2—pp.38-48)
Assignments Due	Collaborative Assignment: Targum of Ephesians 1-3 (wiki)
Week 7	
Topic/Activity	Unit 3: Trinitarian Articulation for an Integral View of the Church <i>Topic 3.1: The Church as the people that know the Father</i>
Readings/Discussions	Wright, <i>The Mission of God’s People</i> (chapters 9-10—pp. 151-178) Book of Micah
Assignments Due	Assignment (Reflection): How is my experience of God’s love reflected on the way I speak about God to others inside and outside the church? Skype conversation: how can we speak about trust, truth and healing in

	relationship to God in our contexts? After the conversation, submit a report of the learning you experiences (250 words)
Week 8	
Topic/Activity	<i>Topic 3.2: Living under the sovereignty of Christ and according to his example</i>
Readings/Discussions	Hauerwas, Stanley. "A Story-Formed Community: Reflections on <i>Watership Down</i> ." Padilla, C. René. "New Testament Perspectives on a Simple Lifestyle" (pp.184-198) Letter to the Ephesians, chapters 4-6
Assignments Due	Forum: What is the impact of our ecclesiology on social ethics? Have churches in North America compartmentalized these two? Share examples. Wiki: Beatitudes of leadership and lifestyle
Week 9	
Topic/Activity	<i>Topic 3.3: The Spirit's presence in the Church</i>
Readings/Discussions	Fee, Paul, <i>the Spirit and the People of God</i> , (Chapters 2 and 5) Dickau, Tim. <i>Plunging into the Kingdom Way</i> (Chapters 7 and 8—pp.100-130)
Assignments Due	Wiki: Using Padilla and Dickau as jumping boards, identifying Spirit-led practices for community-building and communal witness Assignment: Take time to reflect how you could adopt more wholly these practices. Write an email or make a phone call to your pastor or a mentor to share how you intend to do this. Present a report. Forum: Church—history and eschatology a) Write a parable about a church that lacks a historical sense to its mission b) write a parable about a church that lacks an eschatological sense to its mission
Week 10	
Topic/Activity	Workshop (as in the Moodle activity). Essay (2500 words): Towards a missiological ecclesiology for the XXI. Make sure you include a healthy proportion of the bibliography we have covered, including the reading assigned this week In a workshop, all students participate in evaluating their peers. This evaluation is part of the assignment.
Readings/Discussions	Raistrick, Tulo. "The Local Church, Transforming Community" (pp.137-148)
Assignments Due	

Bibliography

Recommended Reading

- Adams, Richard. *Watership Down: A Novel*. Oneworld Publications, 2014 (Kindle Edition)
- Foulkes, Francis. *Ephesians*. Tyndale New Testament Commentary. IVP Academic, 2015
- Kinnaman, David and Lyons, Gabe. *Unchristian: What a New Generation Really Thinks about Christianity... and Why It Matters*, Ada, MI: Baker Books, reprint 2012.
- Keller, Timothy. *Generous Justice: How God's Grace Makes Us Just*. New York: Dutton, 2010.
- Lausanne Movement. "The Cape Town Commitment."
<https://www.lausanne.org/content/ctc/ctcommitment>
- Mérida Rossetto, Claudia. *Words matter: Towards the development of fresh language for evangelism in a worshiping community active in social justice and integration*. DMin Dissertation. Vancouver, BC: Carey Theological College; 2014.
- Nelson, Gary V. *Borderland Churches: A Congregation's Introduction to Missional Living*. St. Louis: Chalice Press, 2008.
- Newbigin, L. (1995). *The open secret: an introduction to the theology of mission*, revised edition. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans.
- Peterson, Eugene H. *Practice Resurrection: A Conversation on Growing Up in Christ*. Eerdmans Publishing, 2010 (Kindle Edition)
- Stott, John. *The Message of Ephesians*. The Bible Speaks Today Series. IVP Academic, 2014 (Kindle Edition). Originally published under the title *God's New Society* in 1979.
- Woolnough, Brian and Womsuk Ma (eds.), *Holistic Mission: God's Plan for God's People*,. Oxford, England: Regnum Books International, 2010.

Academic Policies

Please see the **Carey Academic Catalog** for more details:

<http://www.carey-edu.ca/wp-content/uploads/2016/09/Academic-Catalog-2016-2017-FINAL.pdf>

Course Attendance

Students are expected to attend all scheduled class sessions to fulfil degree requirements. This includes on-line webinars and/or live-streamed portions of courses.

Carey Grading Scale

See the Carey Academic Catalogue for details on the Carey grading scale.

Course Withdrawal Policy

A student who withdraws after the period for which tuition refunds are available within the first half of the course will receive a “W” on their transcript. Beyond those dates, they will receive an “F.”

Extensions

Extensions for course work will only be granted in exceptional circumstances. If an extension will make it impossible for the professor to submit the final grade no later than one month following the final assignment, the student must petition the Registrar’s Office. If the Registrar’s Office grants such a request, the final extension deadlines will be clearly established. Work granted an extension may receive a grade reduction of up to one-third of the final mark.

Academic Integrity

Academic integrity is honest and responsible scholarship. Students are expected to submit original work and give credit to other peoples' ideas. Academic dishonesty is acting in a manner to gain unearned academic credit. Examples of academic dishonesty are:

- Plagiarizing by misrepresenting the work of another person (in whole or in part) as a student’s own work or failing to give credit for either wording or ideas that belong to another.
- Submitting the same material for credit in more than one course (whether the earlier submission was at Carey or another institution).
- Using unauthorized aids of any sort in examinations, completing work in unauthorized collaboration with others, or the unauthorized recording and use of class lectures.

Penalty for a lack of academic integrity may include a failing grade in the assignment, examination or course, depending on the severity of the offense. All students are responsible for knowing and practicing academic integrity and must become familiar with the plagiarism student resource at:

<http://learningcommons.ubc.ca/academic-integrity/>.

Gender Language

As language usage changes, the church must discern where its language must change in order to bear faithful witness to the gospel. Modern English usage has moved away from using masculine terms to refer to groups that include women. Using of such terms in worship, writing, or conversation miscommunicates the invitation of the gospel and the nature of the church. Assignments that don’t conform to the gender language policy will be returned to the student for resubmissions.

See the Carey Academic Catalogue for more details on this policy.