

IN 782: Gospel in Context

August 2022

3 Credits, letter grade only

Prerequisite: IN 520: God's Redeeming Mission

Instructors: Dr. Christopher James and Dr. Mary Emily Duba

Course Description

Wherever one does ministry, the character of the context shapes the forms of evangelism and mission that are viable, appropriate, and faithful. This course explores the work of contextualization—how the gospel is proclaimed and embodied contextually. This course includes an **immersion trip, August 12-16 in Dane County, WI**, as well as classroom sessions to help students develop an initial skill at exegeting contexts for Christian ministry. Building on a theological foundation, it considers how context is reflected in the forms of ministry and witness observed. A fee of \$400 per person covers meals and accommodations during the immersion, and will be billed to students by the student accounts office. Group assignments will be determined by the instructors.

Course Learning Objectives

By participating fully in this class, students will be able to:

1. Discuss the universal promise of the gospel and its necessary particularity in cultural and communal embodiments.
2. Explain the theological basis for and practical importance of attention to context in Christian mission and evangelism.
3. Experiment with practices and postures for faithful Christian witness including humility, attention, curiosity, initiative, and collaboration.
4. Interpret the ways in which congregations live their understanding of the gospel in word and deed.
5. Design a plan for exegeting a context for Christian mission.

M.Div. Curricular Goals

1. Evangelize the world with faithfulness and contextual sensitivity.
2. Educate and equip individuals and congregations to live and minister joyfully and faithfully as part of their own denomination and the ecumenical church.
3. Lead and nurture congregations to promote peace and justice in the public arena and encourage the witness and service of the church in mission to the world.

MAMD Curricular Goals

1. Develop, implement, and assess strategies for missional living in a specific cultural context.
2. Adopt spiritual practices that nurture personal lives as faithful disciples and witnesses.
3. Develop skills and capacities for faithful and competent Christian witness.

Required Reading

TBD