



Fall Term 2026
Proclamation, Church Growth and Social Justice
(Practical Theology 240)
LTh Course Syllabus
The Challenge of 21st Century Mission

Huron University College Land Acknowledgment

Huron is situated on the traditional lands of the Anishinaabeg, Haudenosaunee, Attawandaron, and Lenape peoples, whose sharing and stewardship of the land has been governed by the Dish with One Spoon treaty since time immemorial. We are guided by this treaty in the spirit of peace, friendship, and respect. Huron University College acknowledges its past role in perpetuating colonial and exclusionary relations. Because religious and ecclesial institutions were instrumental in such relations, we consider it our particular responsibility as a Faculty of Theology to work towards justice and reconciliation.

Course Dates: November 4, 11, 18, 25 and December 2, 9, 16, 23

Time: Wednesday from 7 – 9 P.M. (CT), 8 – 10 P.M. (ET)

Delivery: Hosted via Zoom

Instructor: Dr. Darcey R. Lazerte

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Course Description

As the relevance and place of church in society has changed in the Western World so has the opportunity of the church connecting with the wider society been transformed. While the place of the church in society was one time taken for granted, this is no longer so. The church now, along with many other institutions which make up our society, needs to create new connections with the world in which it dwells. While many have bemoaned the loss of Christendom, the truth is that the context is different and the church needs to embrace new

methods of mission; proclamation, church growth and social justice need to be reinvented in light of the new societal context. What this course will do is look at each of these areas of mission, examine where we have been and what we can learn from that, put it against the context of the present societal realities and present new paths forward for mission.

Course Objectives and Learning Outcomes

This course will provide a framework in which to exercise the mission of the church, clearly distinguishing between proclamation, church growth and social justice, within a congregational context. Students successfully completing the course will be able to accomplish the following:

1. To identify and appraise the three avenues of mission: proclamation, church growth and social justice.
2. Assess the state of the place of mission within the church, from the perspective of cultural appropriateness. [In-class discussion and short reflection paper]
3. Establish a framework for the practice of mission by the church [Final paper]
4. Finally, the student will be able to contrast between proclamation, church growth and social justice in order to employ ministry which is contextually appropriate and socially relevant.

Required Texts

All readings required for this course will be made available to the students in pdf format through the ChurchX class webpage. No additional texts need to be purchased

Course Outline/Plan

Week 1

Mission and Context

- Course overview
- History of Mission
- Missio Dei
- Present Challenges
- What is the Good News?
- Societal Shifts and Demographic Changes
- Challenges of Pluralism
- Canadian vs. American Context

Week 2

Proclamation Part 1: Background

- What is Proclamation?
- History and Present Practice of Proclamation

- Role of Parachurch Organizations

Reading: *Missio Dei: The Basis of Mission Theology or Wrong Path* by Wilhelm Richebacher

Week 3

Proclamation Part 2: Within the Church/Ministry Setting and Beyond

- Preaching and Teaching
- Proclamation within Traditional Ministry Settings
- Broadcasting
- Social Media/Internet
- Community Context

Readings: *Present Movements in the Mission of the Church Today* by Darcey Lazerte, p. 1-4.

Week 4

Church Growth Part 1: Background

- What is Church Growth?
- Church Growth Movement vs. Missional Church
- Trends in Church Participation
- Emergent Church

Readings: *Present Movements in the Mission of the Church Today* by Darcey Lazerte, p. 6-10.

Week 5

Church Growth Part 2: Implementation

- Intercultural Ministry
- Creating a Church Growth Strategy
- Tools for Church Growth

Church Growth Part 3: Marks of Mission

- An Examination of the Marks of Mission
- Ecumenical Dialogue
- Interfaith Partnership

Required Readings: *The Marks of Mission* and *Toward a Theology of Evangelism for the Pluralistic West* by Darcey Lazerte

Week 6

Social Justice Part 1: Background

- What is Social Justice?
- Social Justice in the context of the Welfare State
- Charity versus Justice
- Social Justice pointed inward at the unjust Institutional Structures
- A Framework for Social Justice: Local, National and International

Readings: *The New Evangelization and Social Justice*

Week 7

Social Justice Part 2: Community Partnerships

- Assessing your Community's Needs
- Identifying the Social Justice presently practiced
- Community Partnerships

Social Justice Part 3: The Church's Relationship to the Public Square

- What is the Public Square?
- Opportunities for Justice
- Partnering
- Creating an ethos of Social Justice within a Ministry Setting

Reading: *The Missional Church in the Public Square*

Week 8

The Intersection of Proclamation, Church Growth and Social Justice

- Recap of Main Tenets of the Course
- Looking at where Proclamation, Church Growth and Social Justice Intersect
- Creating a Mission Plan which includes all aspects of Mission for your Ministry Setting

Reading: Access your denominational publications, this includes a variety of online websites, local parish newsletters, diocesan and national newspapers/publications. Read through them and get a sense of what your church's understanding of mission is locally, nationally and internationally.

Method of Evaluation and Criteria for Grading

(only for students choosing to be evaluated for full course credit)

1. 10% Participation. Attendance will be tracked by the ChurchX platform which will evaluate student participation based on attendance and participation.
2. 10% Facilitating in-class discussion.
In-Class Discussion - topic TBD and assigned weekly, fifteen minutes in length.

3. 30% Short Reflection Paper
Short Reflection Paper - 500 words
An examination of the Marks of Mission from the perspective of how they form Anglican identity and its understanding of mission. Course readings are sufficient for research/theoretical foundations.
4. 50% Final Paper
Final Paper - length 1000 words
Critique your ministry setting from a missional perspective; analyzing its sense of mission from a proclamation, church growth and social justice perspective. Course readings are sufficient for research/theoretical foundations.

Further details regarding each of the evaluative components will be shared within the class lectures. Should students have any questions, they are welcome to email the course instructor.

Huron Grade Descriptors

A+	90-100	One could scarcely expect better from a student at this level
A	80-89	Superior work which is clearly above average
B	70-79	Good work, meeting all requirements, and eminently satisfactory
C	60-69	Competent work, meeting requirements
D	50-59	Fair work, minimally acceptable
F	below 50	Fail

Student Code of Conduct

Membership in the community of Huron University College and Western University implies acceptance by every student of the principle of respect for the rights, responsibilities, dignity and well-being of others and a readiness to support an environment conducive to the intellectual and personal growth of all who study, work, and live within it. Upon registration, students assume the responsibilities that such registration entails. While in the physical or online classroom, students are expected to behave in a manner that supports the learning environment of others. Please review the Student Code of Conduct at:

<https://huronatwestern.ca/sites/default/files/Res%20Life/Student%20Code%20of%20Conduct%20-%20Revised%20September%202019.pdf>.

Statement on the Recording of Class Activities

Students may not record or distribute any class activity, including conversations during office hours, without written permission from the instructor, except as necessary as part of approved accommodations for students with disabilities. Any approved recordings may only be used for the student's own private use.

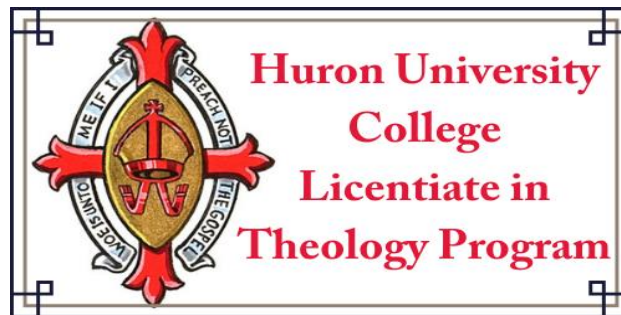
Online courses within the Licentiate in Theology Program are recorded for student engagement purposes. These recordings are only used by the registered students of the class and made available through a restricted video hosting site to respect both privacy and intellectual property. Should a student be uncomfortable with this practice, they can contact the course instructor or the LTh Program Director, Dr. Grayhame Bowcott at grayhame.bowcott@huron.uwo.ca

Statement of Prohibition on the Use of AI

As the primary purpose of Huron's Licentiate in Theology Program is to enable critical thinking, spiritual growth, the cultivation of individual ministry skillsets, and personal discernment for future ministry leadership, this means that we expect our students to offer up only their own ideas and original contributions of writing, assignments, and evaluative content. Any and all use of AI (Artificial Intelligence) is strictly prohibited within this program. Any student who violates this prohibition will be disqualified from receiving credit for the course they are taking. Any student who repeatedly violates this prohibition may risk expulsion from the LTh Program.

Support Services

For advice on course selections, degree requirements, and assistance with requests for medical accommodation, students should contact the LTh Coordinator, Chris Travers, at chris.travers@huron.uwo.ca



THIS COURSE HAS BEEN APPROVED BY HURON'S FACULTY OF THEOLOGY COMMITTEE
FOR THE FALL TERM OF THE LTH PROGRAM, 2026.