



MSSN 505
CHRISTIAN RESPONSES TO HUMAN NEEDS
Fall 2026

Daniel M. Duffis, PhD Candidate

This course explores biblical models, historical examples, and development paradigms for Christian involvement in incarnational ministries.

CLASS & CONTACT INFORMATION

Class location:	Southeastern California Conference. <u>This is an in-person class.</u>
Class meeting dates:	Fall 2026 (September 20-24)
Class meeting times:	Sunday, 5:00pm–9:00pm Monday–Thursday 8:00am–12:30pm; 1:30pm–6:00pm
Course Website:	http://learninghub.andrews.edu
Instructor Tel.:	(727)-403-6069
Instructor Email:	duffisgordo@andrews.edu

COURSE MATERIALS

Required Textbooks and Readings:

- Kuhn, Wagner. *Redemption and Transformation Through Relief and Development (RTRD): Biblical, Historical, and Contemporary Perspective of God's Holistic Gospel*. Berrien Springs, MI: Department of World Mission, Andrews University, 2013.
- Maier, Rudi, editor. *Church and Society: Missiological Challenges for the Seventh-day Adventist Church (CSMC)*. Berrien Springs, MI: Department of World Mission, Andrews University, 2015.
- White, Ellen G. *Welfare Ministry (WM)*.
- Myers, Bryant L. *Walking with the Poor: Principles and Practices of Transformational Development (WPTD)*. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books. 2011. (Optional for extra points)

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Pre-intensive requirements:

1. **Critical Book Review: *Redemption and Transformation (RTRD)*: Due Sunday, September 20.**
LearningHub submission is required: *Redemption and Transformation Through Relief and Development: Biblical, Historical, and Contemporary Perspective of God's Holistic Gospel [RTRD]*, by Wagner Kuhn (2013); 2,000 words are required for this critical book review. It is

important to note that the critical book review is NOT a book report. Most of the content in the review is for critique and analysis of the book; you can summarize the main points of the book but must engage in analysis and critique of the main ideas.

Please refer to and follow the rubric on LearningHub for guidance on how you will be evaluated.

*Each critical book review will be single-spaced, font 12, with the following heading and no cover page: **Critical Book Review**; **Date of Submission: Sunday, September 20, 2026**; **Your Name**; LearningHub submission is required.

2. **Journal/Annotated Reading of the Book: *Welfare Ministry (WM)*: Due Sunday, September 20. LearningHub (Moodle) submission is required:** At least 2,000 words are required for this journal/annotated report. Each student will read the book *Welfare Ministry* and write a report of the book in form of a journal entry/annotated reading (reviewing/interacting). The report/journal will respond and interact with the subject of the book. One report to be submitted single space and font 12. Please follow the format above for #1*. The journal should include (but not limited to) the following elements:

- A candid, energetic engagement and interaction with the material in each part of the book.
- Points that stood out or that were new (“Aha!” moments)
- Points of agreement or disagreement, and/or points needing clarification
- Statements of syntheses and conclusion that tie together with concepts dealt with in the classroom and/or studied in other required readings
- Applications of concepts to personal life and ministry
- General remarks about the material, affirming or suggesting possible changes/additions

Requirements during intensives:

3. **Two (2) Chapter/Article PPT Preparation and Class Presentations** from the book: *Church and Society - Missiological Challenges for the Seventh-day Adventist Church [CSMC]*, by Rudy Maier. Each student will choose two chapters/articles that are directly related to the class topics, from the book *Church and Society*, and will read carefully and then make a 10 mins class presentation on each. Each class presentation needs to have about 15 PPT slides, and should cover the following:
 - A clear summary points of the topic and content of the article.
 - Why is the article relevant and important for the SDA Church (in particular) and society in general?
 - Questions and issues the article is addressing. What is the problem? Challenges?
 - Answers and/or solutions that the writer provides to solve the problem he/she is addressing. How can this issue be dealt with? What are some risks involved?
 - What are other possible solutions you can think of to deal with this challenge. Would you want to get involved in order to be part of the solution? How can you do that? And why is it important for you?

The instructor will assign each student a date for your presentation: **Due (week of Sept. 20-24, 2026).**

4. **One Midterm Examination** will cover the material discussed in class (PPT), and *in Redemption and Transformation Through Relief and Development: Biblical, Historical, and Contemporary Perspectives of God's Holistic Gospel*, by Wagner Kuhn (2013).

Date of Exam: Thursday, September 24, 2026.

Post-intensive requirements:

5. **One Final Paper/Exam** (exam week) is a written **Bible Study** on a topic directly related to the course content, and it should include resources from lectures and discussion materials covered in classes; Various Bible references, Ellen White (*Ministry of Healing & Welfare Ministry*), Rudy Maier (*CSMC*), and Wagner Kuhn (*RTRD*). **Final due: Sunday, November 15, 2026.**

6. Grading

The final grade will be based on the following (for 3 credits):

- Book Review (W. Kuhn-*RTRD*) 15%
- 2 Articles PPT Class Presentation (Rudy Maier-*CSMC*) 10%
- Midterm Examination 30%
- Journal/Annotated Reading (Ellen G. White (*WM*) 15%
- Final Exam: Bible Study 30%

The following scale is used in evaluating assignments and determining grades:

A = 95-100	B+ = 87-89	C+ = 77-79		
A- = 90-94	B = 83-86	C = 73-76	D = 60-69	F = 0-59
	B- = 80-82	C- = 70-72		

REVISION STATEMENT

The instructor reserves the right to revise the syllabus for the benefit of the learning process with appropriate notification to the students.

COURSE OVERVIEW

Course topics and assignments have been selected to contribute to learning and evaluating these Course Learning Outcomes (CLOs) as follows:

MA in Pastoral Ministry (MAPM) English & Spanish Program Outcomes

1. Delivers effective biblically based sermons.
2. Demonstrates proper biblical interpretation skills.
3. Understands the historical-theological development of the Adventist Church.
4. Capable of training church members for evangelism.
5. Demonstrates an understanding of how to empower church members for leadership.
6. Capable of reaching specific social groups.

Student Learning Outcomes (SLO) The student will:

1. Understand and explain major demographic dimensions of the unfinished task of world mission
2. Summarize assigned chapters and specified class lectures
3. Analyze reading and lecture content and state reasons for agreement or disagreement
4. Demonstrate ability to apply concepts and principles to ministry situations
5. Value cultural differences and show sensitivity to those of other cultures
6. Explain basic mission principles

Date	Class Schedule - Topics	Readings/Tasks	Assignments Due
Sunday Sep 20	- Course Overview and Requirements - Concepts of Holistic Ministry	Class Presentations	Critical Book Review on Wagner Kuhn (<i>RTRD</i>) Due Monday, September 20, 2026 Annotated Report on Ellen G. White (<i>WM</i>) Due Monday, September 20, 2026
Monday Sep 21	- The Biblical Plan: Social Welfare - Relief and Development in the Old Testament	Class Presentations	
	Christ's Method and Ministry in the New Testament the Holistic Gospel		
	The Practice of Charity, Relief, and Development in Historical Perspective		
Tuesday Sep 22	- Evangelical Revivals and the Missionary Movement - Christian Social Transformation	Class Presentations	
	- Development in Contemporary Perspective - Rediscovering the Whole Gospel		
	The Role of a Christian in the Secular World - Mission in Response to Human Need		
Wednesday Sep 23	Poverty and its Many Causes: Why so Many People are Poor	Class Presentations	
	Definitions and Perspectives on Development - Different Views		

	Christian Witness as Development: Community Development and Christian Social Transformation		
Thursday Sep 24	ADRA's Global Mission: Changing the World One Life at a Time		
	Challenges in a Global World	Class Presentations	
	Midterm Exam		Midterm Exam Due Thursday, September 24, 2026
Sunday Nov 15	Final Exam - Paper (Bible Study)		Exam / Bible Study: Due Sunday, November 15, 2026.
Thursday Nov 19			60 days from the first day of class. All assignments are due by Thursday, November 19, 2026. Failure to submit all assignments by this date will result in an <u>F</u> grade.

ATTENDANCE

Class Absences

"Whenever the number of absences exceeds 20% (10% for graduate classes) of the total course appointments, the teacher may give a failing grade. Merely being absent from campus does not exempt the student from this policy. Absences recorded because of late registration, suspension, and early/late vacation leaves are not excused. The class work missed may be made up only if the teacher allows. Three tardies are equal to one absence. Registered students are considered class members until they file a Change of Registration form in the Office of Academic records." (*Current AU Bulletin.*)

Class Attendance

"Regular attendance at all classes, laboratories and other academic appointments is required for each student. Faculty members are expected to keep regular attendance records. Whenever the number of absences exceeds 10% of the total course appointments, the teacher may give a failing grade. Merely being absent from campus does not exempt the student from this policy. Absences recorded because of late registration, suspension, and early/late vacation leaves are not excused. The class work missed may be made up only if the teacher allows. Three tardies are equal to one absence." (*Current AU Bulletin.*)

Excused Absence

“Excuses for absences due to illness are granted by the teacher. Proof of illness is required. Residence hall students are required to see a nurse on the first day of any illness which interferes with class attendance. Non-residence hall students should show written verification of illness obtained from their own physician. Excuses for absences not due to illness are issued directly to the dean’s office. Excused absences do not remove the student’s responsibility to complete all requirements of a course. Class work is made up by permission of the teacher.” (*Current AU Bulletin.*)

TIME EXPECTATIONS FOR THE COURSE

Schedule for class meetings: September 15-19, 2024			
			Running total
Sunday	5-9 p.m.	3 hours	4
Monday	8:00-12:30 p.m. 1:30-6:00 p.m.	4.5 hours 4.5 hours 9	13
Tuesday	8:00-12:30 p.m. 1:30-6:00 p.m.	4.5 hours 4.5 hours 9	22
Wednesday	8:00-12:30 p.m. 1:30-6:00 p.m.	4.5 hours 4.5 hours 9	31
Thursday	8:00-12:30 p.m. 1:30-6:00 p.m.	4.5 hours 4.5 hours 9	40
Pre-session and Post-session	Lectures to be viewed on-line	5 hours 5	45

Credit-Hour Definitions

A professional 3-credit course taken at the SDA Theological Seminary requires a total of 135 hours for course lectures, reading requirements and written assignments.

Estimated Time for this Class—MAPM---3 credit (135 hours)		
Class Lectures face to face	40	45 hours total
Pre/Post Online	5	
Independent Completion of Assignments		
Book review and reading (<i>Redemption and Transformation</i> , Kuhn)	20 hours	

Journal/annotated reading (<i>Welfare Ministry</i>)	20 hours
2 Articles PPT Presentation	20 hours
Midterm Exam	10 hours
Final / Bible Study	20 hours
Total Hours	135 hours

*Assignments Due Date: Read Carefully

Late Submission - The following penalties will be applied for late submission of assessment items:

Assessments received by due date:	(possible A grade)
Delay up to 10 days:	(no better than an A- grade)
Delay up to 20 days:	(no better than a B grade)
Delay up to 30 days:	(no better than a C grade)

SUGGESTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Allen, E. Anthony, Kenneth L. Luscombe, Bryant L. Myers, and Eric R. Ram. *Health, Healing and Transformation*. Monrovia, CA: MARC, 1991.
- Banerjee, Abhit, Roland Benabou, and Dilip Mookherjee. *Understanding Poverty*. Oxford University Press: New York, NY, 2006.
- Bradshaw, Bruce. *Bridging the Gap: Evangelism, Development and Shalom*. Monrovia, CA: MARC, 1993.
- Chambers, Robert. *Ideas for Development*. London: Earthscan, 2005.
- _____. *Whose Reality Counts? Putting the First Last*. IT Publications (UK), 1997.
- Christian, Jayakumar. *God of the Empty-Handed: Poverty, Power and the Kingdom of God*. Monrovia, CA: MARC, 1999.
- Corbett, Steve and Brian Fikkert. *When Helping Hurts: How to Alleviate Poverty Without Hurting the Poor and Yourself*. Chicago, IL: Moody Publishers, 2009.
- Freidman, John. *Empowerment: The Politics of Alternative Development*. Cambridge, MA: Blackwell, 1992.
- Greenway, Roger S. *Together Again: Kinship of Word and Deed*. Monrovia, CA: MARC, 1998.
- Kilbourn, Phyllis and Marjorie McDermid, editors. *Sexually Exploited Children, Working to Protect and Heal*. Monrovia, CA: MARC, 1998.
- Korten, David C., and Rudi Klauss. *People Centered Development: Contributions Toward Theory and Planning Frameworks*. West Hartford, CN: Kumarian Press, 1984.
- LCWE. "Christian Witness to the Urban Poor." Wheaton, IL: LCWE, 1980.
- Lindenberg, Mark, and Coralie Bryant. *Going Global: Transforming Relief and Development NGOs*. Bloomfield, CT: Kumarian Press, Inc., 2001.
- Maier, Rudi (editor). *Church and Society: Missiological Challenges for the Seventh-day Adventist Church*. Berrien Springs, MI: Department of World Mission, Andrews University, 2015.
- _____. *Working with the Poor: Selected Passages from Ellen G. White on Social Responsibility*. Berrien Springs, MI: Department of World Mission, AU, 2007.

- Myers, Bryant L. (editor). *Working with the Poor: New Insights and Learnings from Development Practitioners*. Monrovia, CA: World Vision, 1999.
- Myers, Bryant L., Dufault-Hunter, Erin, and Voss, Isaac B. (editors). *Health, Healing, and Shalom: Frontiers and Challenges for Christian Healthcare Missions*. Pasadena, CA: William Carey Library, 2015.
- Myers, Bryant L. *Walking with the Poor: Principles and Practices of Transformational Development*. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books. 2011.
- _____. *Engaging Globalization: The Poor, Christian Mission, and Our Hyperconnected World*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker, 2017
- Narayan, Deepa, et al. *Voices of the Poor: Crying Out for Change*. New York, NY: Oxford University Press, 2000.
- Novogratz, Jacqueline. *The Blue Sweater: Bridging the Gap Between Rich and Poor in an Interconnected World*. New York, NY: Rodale, 2009.
- Platt, David. *Radical Together: Unleashing the People of God for Purpose of God*. Colorado Springs, CO: Multnomah Books, 2011.
- Prunier, Gérard. *Darfur: A 21st Century Genocide*. Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press, 2008.
- Samuel, Vinay and Chris Sugden, editors. *Mission as Transformation: A Theology of the Whole Gospel*. Pasadena, CA: Wipf & Stock Publishers, 2009.
- Sider, Ronald J. *Good News and Good Works: A Theology for the Whole Gospel*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, [1993] 2007.
- _____. *Rich Christians in an Age of Hunger: Moving from Affluence to Generosity*. Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson, 2005.
- _____. *One-Sided Christianity*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House, 1993. Stearns, Richard. *The Hole in Our Gospel*. Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson, 2009.
- Trenda, Cory. *Reflections from Afar*. Federal Way, WA: World Vision, 2010. White, Ellen G. *Ministry of Healing (MH)*.
- White, Ellen G. *Welfare Ministry (WM)*.
- Worline, Monica C. and Jane E. Dutton. *Awakening Compassion at Work: The Quiet Power That Elevates People and Organizations*. Okland, CA: BK Publishers, 2017.

ABOUT YOUR INSTRUCTOR



Daniel M. Duffis was born in Colombia but spent his formative years on the Dutch Caribbean island of Curaçao as part of a missionary family. Holding an MDiv since 2016, he is currently completing his PhD in Religion and Intercultural Theology. Throughout his ministry, Daniel has engaged with diverse ethnic and non-Christian communities, particularly supporting immigrants and refugees. His recent endeavors include collaborating with the NAD Adventist-Muslim Relations team in Metro-Detroit, USA, and participating in ministry initiatives in Puerto Rico, Brazil, and New York. He is fervently committed to equipping Christians with the cultural intelligence and religious sensitivity needed to build Godly relationships with individuals from various faith traditions.

OTHER COURSE-RELATED POLICIES

Academic Integrity

The Seminary expects its students to exhibit rigorous moral integrity appropriate to ministry leaders representing Jesus Christ. Complete honesty in academic matters is a vital component of such integrity. Any breach of academic integrity in this class is subject to discipline. Consequences may include receipt of a reduced or failing grade, suspension or dismissal from the course, suspension or dismissal from the program, expulsion from the university, or degree cancellation. Disciplinary action may be retroactive if academic dishonesty becomes apparent after the student leaves the course, program or university. A record of academic integrity violations is maintained by the University Student Academic Integrity Council. Repeated and/or flagrant offenses will be referred to an Academic Integrity Panel for recommendations on further penalties.

Academic Dishonesty includes:

- Plagiarism in which one fails to give credit every time use is made of another person's ideas or exact words, whether in a formal paper or in submitted notes or assignments. Credit is to be given by use of:
 - Correctly designed and inserted footnotes each time one makes use of another individual's research and/or ideas; and
 - Quotation marks placed around any exact phrases or sentences (3 or more words) taken from the text or speech of another individual.
- Presenting another's work as one's own (e.g., placement exams, homework assignments);
- Using materials during a quiz or examination other than those explicitly allowed by the teacher or program;
- Stealing, accepting, or studying from stolen quizzes or examination materials;
- Copying from another student during a regular or take-home test or quiz;
- Assisting another in acts of academic dishonesty
- Submitting the same work or major portions thereof, without permission from the instructors, to satisfy the requirements of more than one course.

For additional details see: https://www.andrews.edu/academics/academic_integrity.html

Academic Accommodations

If you qualify for accommodation under the American Disabilities Act, please see contact Student Success in Nethery Hall 100 (disabilities@andrews.edu or 269-471-6096) as soon as possible so that accommodations can be arranged.

Use of Electronics

No recording or streaming is permitted in seminary courses. Courtesy, respect, and professionalism dictate that laptops and cell phones are to be used only for class-related activities during class time.

Communications and Updates

Email is the official form of communication at Andrews University. Students are responsible for checking their Andrews University e-mail, Moodle, and iVue alerts regularly.

LearningHub Access

Andrews University Learning Hub hosts this course online. Your Learning Hub username and password are the same as your Andrews username and password. Use the following contact information if you need technical assistance at any time during the course, or to report a problem with Learning Hub.

Username and password assistance	helpdesk@andrews.edu	(269) 471-6016
Technical assistance with Learning Hub	dlit@andrews.edu	(269) 471-3960
Technical assistance with your Andrews account	http://andrews.edu/hdchat/chat.php	

Emergency Protocol

Andrews University takes the safety of its student seriously. Signs identifying emergency protocol are posted throughout buildings. Instructors will provide guidance and direction to students in the classroom in the event of an emergency affecting that specific location. It is important that you follow these instructions and stay with your instructor during any evacuation or sheltering emergency.

Please Note: The instructor reserves the right to revise the syllabus, with the consensus of the class, at any time during the semester for the benefit of the learning process. The up-to-date Course Description for this course may be found at www.learninghub.andrews.edu.

APPENDIX 1: INTERPRETING LETTER GRADES

THE B GRADE

The B grade is a sign that you have competently fulfilled all of the requirements stipulated for an assessment or competency evaluation. It is a very good grade and demonstrates a high level of the knowledge, insight, critical competence and professional presentation standards essential for an individual wishing to pursue a career as a professional leader in ministry.

THE A GRADE

An A grade is given only when a student not only fulfills the criteria for a B grade, but in doing so demonstrates an advanced academic aptitude for content knowledge, critique, synthesis and independent insight, while exhibiting highly developed communication skills and professional publication standards that would allow them to pursue a highly competitive academic career.

THE C GRADE

The C grade differs only from a B grade in that the traits outlined in the B grade above are not consistently applied. However, with diligence and by applying feedback from your lecturer, the academic process can provide opportunity for a student to improve their consistency, and hence, their grade.

THE D GRADE

The D grade points to a limited level of knowledge, insight, and critique, as well as to inadequate quality of written work. This may be because of a lack of time management on the part of the student, difficulty grasping the concepts being taught, use of English as a second language, or a personal issue that is affecting one's concentration and motivation levels. Again, with diligence, applying feedback from your lecturer, and seeking services offered by the University like the writing lab or the counseling center, the academic process can provide an opportunity for a student to significantly improve their performance.

THE F GRADE

A failing grade is given when very limited or no demonstrable competency has been observed or when the final assignment is not submitted within the dates indicated in the Course Overview Table.

