

THE CONTENT OF THIS DESCRIPTION IS NOT A LEARNING CONTRACT AND THE INSTRUCTOR IS NOT BOUND TO IT. IT IS OFFERED IN GOOD FAITH AND INTENDED AS A HELPFUL GUIDE TO THE STUDENT.

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**TITLE:** Being Church in a Post-Christian World

**TERM:** Spring 2024-2025

**PROFESSOR:** Edwin Chr. van Driel

**CREDIT HOURS:** 3

**REGISTRATION:** LIMITED TO: 16  
# AUDITORS: 4

UNLIMITED \_\_\_\_\_  
NO AUDITORS \_\_\_\_\_

Priority is given to those students who have committed to participation in a study trip to the Netherlands in June 2025. Six additional spots are available to students who would like to take the class but cannot participate in the trip.

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

How does a church live faithfully in a culture for which not just Christianity, but any form of religious faith has become implausible or irrelevant? What does this mean for the praxis of congregational life, denominational organization, and theological education? By way of weekly Zoom interviews with pastors, church planters, denominational leaders, journalists, opinion makers, and academics, this course will explore what stories churches in post-Christian cultures tell about themselves, the gospel, and God, and what the church in North America might learn from this.

The class focuses on church life in the Netherlands, one of the most secularized countries on earth, but also a place where the church has invested in new church plants, missional redevelopment of congregations, and different approaches to theological education.

**CLASS OBJECTIVES:**

- To gain a better understanding of the nature of a post-Christian culture and what life in a post-Christian society looks like;
- to develop a missional intelligence;
- to broaden our understanding of Christianity in other contexts;
- to deepen our missional and theological imagination;
- to gain facility in intercultural engagement.

**PREREQUISITES:** none

**REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS/READINGS:**

TBD. Students will read literature about being church in a post-Christian world as recommended by our Dutch conversation partners.

**ASSIGNMENTS & GRADING**

Students will participate in the production of a weekly podcast in which we will share the interview materials with a broader audience while reflecting on the insights we received from our Dutch conversation partners.

**ATTENDANCE:** Online/Required.