

ASSEMBLIES OF GOD THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

**MCSI/MSSI/PTHI/THEI 604 MINISTRY ON THE EDGE:
THE MISSION TO POST-CHRISTIAN AMERICA**

AN AGTS VIDEO COURSE

Featuring:

**Dr. Stanley Grenz
Dr. Joseph Castleberry
Dr. Earl Creps**

Independent Studies Program

COURSE SYLLABUS

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This video course focuses on the changing cultural and theological church scene. The innovations needed to be a missionary to post-Christian America will be explored. Leadership arts will be developed to: 1) read and interpret culture, 2) live and communicate cross-culturally, 3) grow organic, missional ministries, 4) learn from emerging ministry models, and 5) live a Pentecostal spirituality in a postmodern context. This course is designed for individual study, as opposed to the similar course, PTHI 620, which is offered for an online group learning experience.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

The video course is an arena for learning and growth of several kinds:

- *Cultural exegesis*: understanding and interpreting major forms of cultural influence that are creating the context in which the Christian gospel must be lived out.
- *Theological reflection*: hearing culture as posing critical theological questions and exercising the reflective skills needed to begin the process of developing meaningful answers.
- *Personal reframing*: seeing personal and corporate communicative ministry as an evolving, holistic, missional calling rather than a set of static roles played by executing a list of functions.
- *Professional networking*: developing relationships with other leaders devoted to the challenge of communicating the gospel in emerging culture in an environment that maximizes long-term peer learning.

- *Ministry enhancement*: growing in the character, skills, and gifts associated with effective ministry to emerging culture.

COURSE READINGS

MCSI/MSSI Version

- Dodd, Carley H. *Dynamics of Intercultural Communication*, 5th ed. Boston, MA: McGraw-Hill, 1998. (289 pages)
- Kallenberg, Brad. *Live to Tell: Evangelism in a Postmodern Age*. Brazos, 2004. (144 pages)
- Kimball, Dan. *The Emerging Church*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2003. (272 pages)
- Lingenfelter, Judith and Sherwood G. *Teaching Cross-Culturally: An Incarnational Model For Learning and Teaching*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 2003. (134 pages)
- McManus, Erwin R. *An Unstoppable Force: Daring to Become the Church God Had in Mind*. Loveland, CO: Group, 2001. (224 pages)
- Morgenthaler, Sally J. *Worship Evangelism*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1999. (320 pages)
- Nash, Robert N. *An 8-Track Church in a CD World: The Modern Church in the Postmodern World*. Macon, Georgia: Smyth & Helwys Publishing, 2001. (144 pages)
- Newbigin, Leslie. *The Gospel in a Pluralistic Society*. Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans, 1989.
- Shaw, R. Daniel and Charles E. van Engen. *Communicating God's Word In a Complex World: God's Truth or Hocus Pocus?* Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, 2003. (259 pages)
- Stetzer, Ed, *Planting Churches in a Postmodern Age*. Broadman & Holman, 2003.
- Sweet, Leonard, Brian McLaren and Jerry Haselmayer. *A is for Abductive: The Language of the Emerging Church*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2003. (338 pages)
- _____. *Carpe Manana: Is Your Church Ready to Seize Tomorrow?* Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2001. (208 pages)
- _____. *Postmodern Pilgrims: First Century Passion for the 21st Century Church*. Broadman & Holman, 2000. (224 pages)

Towns, Elmer and Warren Bird. *Into the Future: Turning Today's Church Trends into Tomorrow's Opportunities*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2000. (244 pages)

PTHI Version

Bridges, James K. ed. *Pentecostal Gifts and Ministries in a Postmodern Era*. Springfield, MO: Gospel Publishing House, 2004. (226 pages)

Grenz, Stanley J. *Created for Community: Connecting Christian Belief with Christian Living*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1998.

Johnston, Graham. *Preaching to a Postmodern World*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2001. (189 pages)

Kallenberg, Brad. *Live to Tell: Evangelism in a Postmodern Age*. Brazos, 2004. (144 pages)

Kimball, Dan. *Emerging Worship: Creating Worship Gatherings for New Generations*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2004. (192 pages)

_____. *The Emerging Church*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2003. (272 pages)

Lose, David J. *Confessing Jesus Christ: Preaching in a Postmodern World*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2003. (264 pages)

Martoia, Ron. *Morph! The Texture of Leadership for Tomorrow's Church*. Group, 2002. (207 pages)

McManus, Erwin R. *An Unstoppable Force: Daring to Become the Church God Had in Mind*. Loveland, CO: Group, 2001. (224 pages)

Morgenthaler, Sally J. *Worship Evangelism*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1999. (320 pages)

Nash, Robert N. *An 8-Track Church in a CD World: The Modern Church in the Postmodern World*. Macon, Georgia: Smyth & Helwys Publishing, 2001. (144 pages)

Newbigin, Leslie. *The Gospel in a Pluralistic Society*. Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans, 1989.

Redman, Robb. *The Great Worship Awakening: Singing a New Song in the Postmodern Church*. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass, 2003. (224 pages)

Stetzer, Ed, *Planting Churches in a Postmodern Age*. Nashville, TN: Broadman & Holman, 2003. (365 pages)

Sweet, Leonard, Brian McLaren and Jerry Haselmayer. *A is for Abductive: The Language of the Emerging Church*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2003. (338 pages)

_____. *Carpe Manana: Is Your Church Ready to Seize Tomorrow?* Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2001. (208 pages)

_____. *Postmodern Pilgrims: First Century Passion for the 21st Century Church*. Broadman & Holman, 2000. (224 pages)

Towns, Elmer and Warren Bird. *Into the Future: Turning Today's Church Trends into Tomorrow's Opportunities*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2000. (244 pages)

THEI Version

Adam, A. K. M. ed. *Handbook of Postmodern Biblical Interpretation*. St. Louis, MO: Chalice Press, 2000. (275 pages)

Grenz, Stanley J., and John R. Franke. *Beyond Foundationalism: Shaping Theology in a Postmodern Context*. Westminster: John Knox, 2000. (298 pages)

Grenz, Stanley J. *Renewing the Center: Evangelical Theology in a Post-Theological Era*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2000. (366 pages)

_____. *Created for Community: Connecting Christian Belief with Christian Living*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1998. (335 pages)

_____. *A Primer on Postmodernism*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1996. (204 pages)

McLaren, Brian D. *A Generous or+Hodoxy: Why I Am a Missional, Evangelical, Post/Protestant, Liberal/Conservative, Mystical/Poetic, Biblical, Charismatic/Contemplative, Fundamentalist/Calvinist, Anabaptist/Anglican, Methodist, Catholic, Green, Incarnational, Depressed-yet-Hopeful, Emergent, Unfinished Christian*. El Cajon, CA; Grand Rapids, MI: Emergent YS; Zondervan, 2004. (297 pages)

(**Note:** do not select books read previously. Substitute readings can be found in the bibliography at the end of this syllabus.)

COURSE OUTLINE

Video sessions feature Dr. Stanley Grenz, with additional sessions by Dr. Joseph Castleberry and Dr. Earl Creps.

Session 1-5 with Dr. Stanley Grenz
 Session 6 with Dr. Joseph Castleberry
 Session 7 with Dr. Earl Creps

Stanley Grenz, D. Th.
Professor at Carey Theological Seminary

Joseph Castleberry, Ed. D.
Dean, Assemblies of God Theological Seminary

Earl Creps, Ph. D., D. Min.
Director of the Doctor of Ministry Program, Assemblies of God Theological Seminary

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. Reading: *Choosing from the corresponding course code:*

- Read at least 1500 pages from the Text list.
- Turn in a Reading Bibliography, including pages read.

(*Note:* do not select books read previously. Substitute readings can be found in the bibliography at the end of this syllabus.)

2. Reading Responses:

- Write a 7-10 page response to the readings.

The reflection paper should briefly describe some of the major themes in the readings and then discuss those that are most significant for your ministry context. The nature of the paper is to be synthetic, applying the readings to your life and ministry, and describing some of the challenges faced in those applications.

Email your reading bibliography and reflection paper to the professor.

3. Video Sessions:

Watch all video sessions and do a 1 page reflection on each session answering these questions: What the strengths/weaknesses of the session? What are the main thoughts in the session? How can these main thoughts be integrated into a local church context? The purpose of these session reflection papers are NOT to give a summary, but a reaction to the sessions.

4. Projects:

Choose 3 of the following 7 options.

(*Note:* if you have participated in other courses on this theme, you must select Project options or topics which you have not previously used.)

1. *Reading Reflection*: read an additional text selected from the attached bibliography (choosing texts from the corresponding course code) and write a 7-10 page paper that outlines the author's central thesis and responds to it in terms of your ministry context. This is to be a high-quality reflective essay, not a library research assignment.
2. *Ministry Development Plan*: write a 7-10 page paper detailing your plan for developing communication skills for ministry in emerging culture. This should include background research, personal growth, training, skill enhancements sought, implementation challenges, and a timeline.
3. *Sermons*: using insights gained from the video materials, write two sermons of significant length designed to reach a pre-Christian emerging culture audience. *Do not recycle old messages!* You may do either a manuscript, or a very, very detailed outline. While all sermons must be turned in hard copy, they may be accompanied by audiocassette and/or media support (e.g., PowerPoint, video clips, etc.) If you speak without notes, an audiocassette is required.
4. *Research Paper*: choose a major theme related to the video materials and write a 7-10 page research paper. The paper should identify and reflect upon key ideas related to the topic, report on some of the major literature in the area, and apply conclusions to your ministry context. Supporting footnotes and a 15-item bibliography are required.
5. *Internet Project*: research internet-based models of ministry to emerging culture and prepare a 7-10 page paper on your findings. The presentation should include a brief review of the literature, descriptions of the various models, web links, and other key features. Draw conclusions about their use of the internet itself, and the application (if any) of their ministry model to your own (i.e., what you learned from them that could be applied in your context).
6. *Multimedia Project*: using the video materials as a starting point, develop a brief multimedia (Web-based, PowerPoint, etc.) presentation that would accomplish either of two goals: making the emerging church comprehensible to the mainstream church, or, making the gospel comprehensible to a postmodern audience.
7. *Self-Designed Project*: every student has the option of proposing one or more Self-Designed credit projects that relate specifically to a ministry or research interest relevant to the course subject matter. These projects must be approved in advance by the professor.

All written assignments are to be typed, double-spaced, represent high-quality, original, graduate-level work, and follow the *Turabian* style manual, 6th edition.

All assignments can be emailed to the professor with a title page that includes your name, address, phone and email, course number, and title.

Due date: All assignments are to be postmarked no later than 15 weeks after course registration (check your course release form for the exact due date). Grades for late work will be lowered by one letter grade for each week by which it exceeds the deadline.

(Note: the participant will be charged a \$30 change-of-grade fee if work is turned in after the due date stipulated on the syllabus, even if permission has been given by the instructor.)

GRADING PROCEDURE

Reading Responses:	100
Session Responses:	7 x 25 = 175
Project options:	3 x 100 = 300
	Total = 575 possible points

BIBLIOGRAPHY

MCSI/MSSI Resources

Bakke, Raymond J., and Jim Hart. *The Urban Christian: Effective Ministry in Today's Urban World*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1987.

Bosch, David Jacobus. *Transforming Mission: Paradigm Shifts in Theology of Mission* American Society of Missiology Series; No. 16. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books, 1991.

Brueggemann, Walter. *Biblical Perspectives on Evangelism: Living in a Three-Storyed Universe*. Nashville, TN: Abingdon Press, 1993.

Clark, David. *Urban World/Global City*. 2nd ed. New York, NY: Routledge, 2003.

Conn, Harvie M. *Evangelism: Doing Justice and Preaching Grace*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1982.

_____. *Eternal Word and Changing Worlds: Theology, Anthropology, and Mission in Dialogue*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1984.

Dyrness, William A. *How Does America Hear the Gospel?* Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1989.

_____. *Learning About Theology from the Third World*. Grand Rapids, MI: Academic Books, Zondervan, 1990.

_____. *Invitation to Cross-Cultural Theology: Case Studies in Vernacular Theologies*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1992.

Gellner, Ernest. *Postmodernism, Reason and Religion*. London; New York: Routledge, 1992.

Hunsberger, George R., and Craig Van Gelder. *The Church between Gospel and Culture: The Emerging Mission in North America*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1996.

Hunter, George G. *How to Reach Secular People*. Nashville, TN: Abingdon Press, 1992.

_____. *Church for the Unchurched*. Nashville, TN: Abingdon Press, 1996.

Mouw, Richard J., and S. Griffioen. *Pluralisms and Horizons: An Essay in Christian Public Philosophy*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1993.

Journal Articles

Trueheart, Charles. "Welcome to the Next Church." *The Atlantic Monthly* 278, 2 (August 1996): 37-58.

Van Gelder, C. "Defining the Center - Finding the Boundaries: The Challenge of Re-Visioning the Church in North America for the 21st Century." *Missiology: An International Review* 22, 3 (July, 1994): 317-337.

West, C. "Gospel for American Culture: Variations on a Theme by Newbigin." *Missiology: An International Review* 19, 4 (October 1991): 431-441.

PTHI Resources

Emerging Church/Emerging Culture: A Select Resource List is available at Dr. Earl Creps' AGTS faculty web page. A downloadable pdf version is also available there.

http://www.agts.edu/faculty/faculty_publications/bibliographies/creps_bibliography/index.html

THEI Resources

Bacote, Vincent, Laura C. Miguâelez, and Dennis L. Okholm. *Evangelicals & Scripture: Tradition, Authority, and Hermeneutics*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2004.

Grenz, Stanley J. *Revisioning Evangelical Theology: A Fresh Agenda for the 21st Century*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1993.

_____. *Theology for the Community of God*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2000.

SPECIFIC DATA

Original course syllabus prepared by Dr. Earl Creps. Syllabus revised for video course delivery by Dr. Randy Walls and Monty Galloway Spring 2005.