

ASSEMBLIES OF GOD THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
Southeastern College Branch Campus
1000 Longfellow Blvd.
Lakeland, FL 33801
January 6 – April 21, 2005
Resident Cohort #3

MCSB 529 FOUNDATIONS OF CROSS-CULTURAL MINISTRIES
(3 Credits)
REVISED 11/22/04

Rodney White, D. Min

Spring 2005

COURSE SYLLABUS

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This interdisciplinary course is designed to introduce the student to the complexities of ministry in cross-cultural settings. Foundational issues related to applied missions, anthropology, inter-cultural communication, and contextualization will be addressed.

OBJECTIVES

Upon the successful completion of this course, the student should be able to:

1. Demonstrate knowledge of the basic concepts of communication theory and its application to cross-cultural situations.
2. Recognize the various ways in which one communicates, both verbally and non-verbally.
3. Demonstrate knowledge of the basic terminology of applied missions anthropology and its application to cross-cultural contexts.
4. Recognize one's own cultural presuppositions and values and the effect they have on successful cross-cultural communication of the Gospel.
5. Demonstrate knowledge of the basics of contextualization with particular emphasis on both Scriptural and theoretical models.
6. Recognize and identify practical applications of contextualization in a variety of methodological areas including worship and leadership.

TEXTBOOKS

Adeney, Bernard T. Strange Virtues: Ethics in a Multicultural World. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1995.

Hiebert, Paul G. Anthropological Insights for Missionaries. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Book House, 1985.

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(Textbooks continued)

Kraft, Charles H. Communication Theory for Christian Witness. Rev. ed. Nashville, TN: Abington Press, 1994.

Lewis, Richard D. When Cultures Collide. London: Nicholas Brealey Publishing, 2000.

REVISED 11/22/04: Reid, T.R. Confucius Lives Next Door. New York: Random House, 1999.

BASIC OUTLINE

- I. Introduction to the Disciplines of Inter-cultural Communication and Anthropology
- II. Cultural Adaptation and Communication Accommodation
 - A. Adapting to Culture
 - B. Inter-cultural Competencies: Effectiveness and Conflict
 - C. Inter-cultural Communication, Innovation, and Change
- III. Perceiving Cultural and Social Diversity
 - A. Cultural Systems and Micro-cultures
 - B. Social Identification and Group Relations
- IV. Understanding Inter-cultural Information
 - A. Linguistic Diversity
 - B. Inter-cultural Communication and Nonverbal Messages
 - C. Networking and Information Flow
- V. Contextualization: Meaning, Methods, and Models

METHODOLOGY

- 1. Lectures
- 2. Class Discussion and Interaction
- 3. Case Studies
- 4. Student Presentations
- 5. Written Reaction Papers
- 6. Multimedia Presentations

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. Reading of the Adeney, Hiebert, Kraft, Lewis, and Van Rheezen texts and submit a two-page "Reaction Paper" on each of the four texts mentioned above.

Due Dates - Adeney - January 20
Hiebert - February 17
Kraft - March 3
Lewis - March 31
Van Rheezen April 14

2. A twelve-fifteen page "Cultural Study" on an approved people group. **Due Feb 10**

The Cultural Study must deal with the following topics:

- A. An introduction and historical presentation of the people group.
 - B. A detailed presentation of their cultural perspectives.
 - C. A reflection on the necessary bridge-building methods to communicate cross-culturally on a relational level with this people group.
 - D. Ways and means of sharing Christ with them.
 - E. A comparison of this culture with the North American culture.
 - F. An evaluation of the culture and worldviews of this people group including the perceived difficulty of reaching this culture with the gospel.
3. Develop a 20-30 minute oral report highlighting findings from the Cultural Study and present the report in class, utilizing a multimedia format (power point presentation, film clips, photos, websites, etc.). **Due Feb 10**
 4. 400 pages of outside reading in conjunction with the Cultural Study. Report on the reading using the following format:
 - A. Student's Name
 - B. The Bibliographic Information
 - C. The Affirmation: "I have spent "x" minutes reading "x" number of pages from this source.
 - D. A two-three paragraph observation, reaction, or evaluation of each source utilized.
 5. Comprehensive Final Exam - Last Day of Class – April 21, 2005

GRADING PROCEDURE

1. Reading of the five texts and two-page critiques - 50%
2. 12-15 page research paper - 20%
3. Oral Presentation - 10%
4. 400 pages outside reading - 10%
5. Final Exam - 10%

There will be a one-letter grade penalty for each class session an assignment is late. All assignment must be turned in by the last day of class, April 21, 2005 as grades will be submitted to AGTS the next day.

SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

Austin, Clyde N., ed. Cross-Cultural Re-entry: A Book of Readings. Abilene, TX: Abilene Christian University, 1986.

Bauml, Betty J. A Dictionary of Gestures. Metuchen, NY: Scarecrow Press, 1975.

Benthall, Jonathan, and Ted Polhemus. The Body as a Medium of Expression. New York: Dutton, 1975.

Berlo, David K. The Process of Communication. New York: Holt, Rinehart, and Winston, 1960.

Blubaugh, Jon, and D. Pennington. Crossing Differences . . . Interracial Communication. Columbus, OH: Merrill, 1976.

Brislin, Richard, W. Cross-Cultural Encounters: Face-to-Face Interaction. Boston, Allyn and Bacon, 1981.

Casse, Pierre. Training the Cross-Cultural Mind. 2nd. ed. SIETAR, 1981

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- Loss, Myron. Culture Shock: Dealing with Stress in Cross-Cultural Living. Winona Lake, IN: Light and Life Press, 1983.
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- Reed, Lyman E. Preparing Missionaries For Inter-cultural Communication: A Bicultural Approach. Pasadena: William Carey Library, 1985.
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SPECIFIC DATA

Prepared by W. Rodney White October 28, 2004, revised November 22, 2004.