

ASSEMBLIES OF GOD THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
Continuing Education Course
Northwest College, Kirkland, WA
September 23-27, 2002

MCCE 630 INTERCULTURAL PATTERNS OF COMMUNICATION

Del Tarr, Ph.D.

Fall 2002

COURSE SYLLABUS

COURSE DESCRIPTION

An exposition of the inherent problems encountered by a communicator attempting meaningful dialogue in a cross-cultural setting. Variations in basic cultural values are seen as factors in interpersonal relations. Cultural encapsulation, ethnocentrism and non-verbal assumptions are other elements to be considered.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Upon termination of this study, the student will be able to:

1. Describe basic communication theory.
2. Show the relationship of his/her own cultural encapsulation with verbal and non-verbal communications.
3. Speak about personal ethnocentrism, identify it in others, and show its effect on human perceptions and communications.
4. Describe human cultural value systems and the significance of their variations to understanding people.
5. Discover his/her own cultural speech habits as a basis upon which to suggest methods of improving communication in a foreign environment.

TEXTBOOKS

Required Textbooks:

Hesselgrave, David J. *Communicating Christ Cross-Culturally*, 2nd ed. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1991.

Tarr, Del. *Cross-cultural Communications: A Study Guide*. ICI, 1996. (See session requirements #2 for selected chapters.)

Tarr, Del. *Double Image: Biblical Insights from African Parables*. Mahwah, NJ: Paulist Press, 1994.

Required Selected Readings:

NOTE: This material will be located on reserve at the D.V. Hurst library. Consult session requirements #3 for selected chapter.

Kraft, Charles. *Christianity in Culture*. Maryknoll: Orbis Books, 1981.

COURSE OUTLINE

- I. Traditional Models of Communication
- II. Ethnicity and its boundaries
- III. Ethnicity and Non-verbal communication
- IV. Value orientations of cultural variables
- V. Worldview and ethnocentricity

COURSE METHODOLOGY

Lecture
Student Participation
Visuals

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

A. Pre-session

1. Read the assigned textbooks. (Pages 1-524 in Hesselgrave. All of Tarr's *Double Image*; Lessons 2, 6, 10, and 13 in Tarr's Study Guide (see below).)
2. Read and integrate the material by Tarr and Hesselgrave.

NOTE: The lessons in Tarr (Study Guide) you will be responsible for are Chapters 2, 6, 10, &13. They represent material generally not covered in Hesselgrave. The glossary at the end of Tarr's Study Guide will be of great help in reading Hesselgrave for those who do not already have a working knowledge of communication jargon.

3. Reading Assignments in Tarr's Study Guide (ICI):
Lesson 2 - Attitudes About Change
Lesson 6 - Variations in Value Orientations
Lesson 10 - Indirection as a Tool in Effective Speaking
Lesson 13 - Kinship vs. Individualism

B. Session

1. Attendance at all sessions.
2. Participation in class discussion.
3. Read and be prepared to discuss the following material. It is on reserve in the D.V Hurst library:

Kraft, Charles. *Christianity in Culture*.
Chapter 8, Communicating Within Cultures (pp. 147-166)

C. Post-Session

1. Completion of a take-home final exam.
DUE: Exam must be postmarked no later than:
2. Complete a 12-15-page paper on the projected personal adjustment needed to communicate effectively with a specific foreign target audience (chosen by student, approved by instructor).
DUE: All post-session assignments must be postmarked no later than:

Absenteeism or delinquency on due dates for class assignments will reduce the student's grade at the discretion of the teacher.

Submit all assignments to: AGTS Continuing Education
ATTN: Dr. Del Tarr
1435 North Glenstone Avenue
Springfield, MO 65802

NOTE: All work received after the post-session due date will result in a change of grade fee (\$15.00) being charged, even though an extension has been granted by the instructor.

GRADING PROCEDURE

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|---------------------|-----|
| Class Participation | 20% |
| Final Exam | 40% |
| Research Paper | 40% |

SPECIFIC DATA

Syllabus prepared by Del Tarr, April 2001. Revised August 2002.

SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

*** Special Note: The following bibliography lists sources that are primarily written by Western authors but has much value for all students of Cross-Cultural Communications. Even material slanted to the ethnocentrism of Westerners can bring great insight into western thinking, which should be one of the goals of non-westerners today, as we all live in a "Global Village".

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

Alexander, Yonah. *The Role of Communications in the Middle East conflict: Ideologic and Religious Aspects*. New York, 1974.

Amin, Samir. *Modern Migrations in West Africa*. Oxford: International African Institute, 1974.

Asante, Molefi Kete, and Williams B. Gudykunst, Eds. *Handbook of Intercultural Communication*. Newbury Park: Sage Publications, 1989.

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

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

Barrett, David. *World Class Cities and World Evangelization*. Birmingham, AL: New Hope, 1986.

Bauman, Richard, and Joel Sherzer. *Explorations in the Ethnography of Speaking*. London: Cambridge University Press, 1974.

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

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- Cleveland, Harlan, Gerald J. Mangone, and John C. Adams. *The Overseas Americans: A Report on Americans Abroad*. New York: McGraw-Hill, 1960.

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SPECIFIC DATA:

Developed by Dr. Del Tarr – August 2002