

**Assemblies of God Theological Seminary
Continuing Education
VALLEY FORGE CHRISTIAN COLLEGE
BRANCH CAMPUS
1401 Charlestown Road
Phoenixville, Pennsylvania
October 14-18, 2002**

PTHB 630 THE CHURCH AND CONTEMPORARY SOCIETY

Randy C. Walls, D. Min. (cand.)

Fall 2002

COURSE SYLLABUS

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course will focus on the nature and mission of the local church in relation to the changing cultural norms of American society.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

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

1. Articulate a biblical basis for the nature and mission of the local church.
2. Define the cultural influences that shape the community in which the local church ministers.
3. Develop a ministry strategy to address the spiritual needs of the one or more cultural subgroups within the local community.
4. Develop a leadership-training program to instruct and equip key church leaders to understand and reach out to the culture of their local community.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS

Guder, Darrell L., and Lois Barrett. *Missional Church: A Vision for the Sending of the Church in North America*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1998.

Hall, Douglas. *The End of Christendom and the Future of Christianity*. Harrisburg, PA: Trinity Press International, 1995.

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Hunter, George. *The Celtic Way of Evangelism: How Christianity Can Reach the West—Again*. Nashville, TN: Abingdon, 2000.

McLaren, Brian. *The Church on the Other Side*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2001.

COURSE METHODOLOGY

The course materials will be presented through lecture, group discussion, case studies, and reading assignments. The instructor prefers interactive dialogue and inductive discussion to lecture intensive content presentation. Course participants will be expected to contribute to the flow and direction of the course materials based upon their academic, personal and ministry experiences.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Pre-Session:

1. Read the textbooks and prepare a two to three-page reflection paper for each text on the significance and/or relevance of the subject matter for your current ministry.

NOTE: The Due Date for all pre-session assignments is the first day of class, October 14, 2002.

Session:

1. Attend all class sessions and actively participate in the discussion for each session.
2. Take notes of significant discussions for use in your post-session project.
3. Complete short reading assignments in the course notebook in advance of each day's discussion.

Post-Session:

1. Prepare an eight to ten-page evaluating the alignment of your current ministry setting with the ideas and models proposed in the course session. Be reflective, honest, and critical about both the course materials and your ministry. The project should provide you with some insight into the steps needed to implement change initiatives in your ministry setting.
2. Read an additional 750 pages from the selected bibliography and prepare a reading report of your readings. This extra reading should be strategically focused on the areas that you believe will best provide the resources needed to create your ministry project paper. (See attached document for template)

3. Prepare a project (twenty-five pages minimum) that creates a new paradigm or revises the current paradigm for your ministry based upon the course materials. Attention should be given to the biblical, cultural and missional issues that impact the development of the project. The intent of this project is to provide the participant with a resource that can be used for implementing the new model. The project may be comprehensive for the total ministry area, or it may focus on particular area of ministry within the larger ministry sphere.

All written projects should follow the guidelines established the by the Turabian style manual, 6th edition. The written projects will be evaluated for style, format, spelling, and grammar, as well as for content. Papers submitted with poor editing in these areas will receive a grade no higher than a B, regardless of content.

NOTE: The due date for all post-session assignments is January 20, 2003 (postmarked or e-mailed). A \$15 change of grade fee may be charged for work that exceeds this due date, even if an extension is granted by the instructor.

Submit all course requirements to:

**Regular mail submission:
AGTS
ATTN: Randy C. Walls
1435 N. Glenstone Avenue
Springfield, MO 65802**

**E-Mail submission:
rwalls@agts.edu**

COURSE EVALUATION

The grade for the course will be based upon the successful completion of each assignment and weighted as follows:

Pre-Session Reading/Writing Assignment	25%
8-10 page Ministry Evaluation Paper	20%
Post-Session Reading Report	15%
25 page Church Ministry Project	40%

SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

Anderson, Leith. *A Church for the 21st Century*. Minneapolis, MN: Bethany House, 1992.

_____. *Dying for Change: The New Realities Confronting Churches and Para-Church Organizations*. Minneapolis, MN: Bethany House, 1990.

Bruce Bradshaw. *Change Across Cultures: A Narrative Approach to Social Transformation*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2001.

Clegg, Tom and Warren Bird. *Lost in America: How You and Your Church can Impact the World Next Door*. Loveland, CO: Group Publishing, 2001.

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

Gibbs, Eddie. *ChurchNext: Quantum Changes in How We Do Ministry*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2000.

Guder, Darrell L. *The Continuing Conversion of the Church*. The Gospel and Our Culture Series. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2000.

Guder, Darrell L., and Lois Barrett. *Missional Church: A Vision for the Sending of the Church in North America*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1998.

Harrison, Lawrence E. and Samuel P. Huntington, Eds. *Culture Matters: How Values Shape Human Progress*. New York : Basic Books, c2000.

Hofstede, Geert. *Culture and Organizations: Software of the Mind*. New York, NY: McGraw-Hill, 1997.

Hunter, George. *The Celtic Way of Evangelism: How Christianity Can Reach the West—Again*. Nashville, TN: Abingdon Press, 2000.

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

_____. *How to Reach Secular People*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1992.

Kraus, C. Norman. *An Intrusive Gospel?: Christian Mission in the Postmodern World*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1998.

Lingenfelter, Sherwood G. *Transforming Culture: A Challenge for Christian Mission*. 2nd ed. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 1998.

McLaren, Brian. *The Church on the Other Side*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2001.

McManus, Erwin. *The Unstoppable Force: Daring To Become The Church God Had In Mind*. Loveland, CO: Group, 2001.

Smith, Chuck, Jr. *The End of the World as We Know It: Clear Direction for Bold and Innovative Ministry in a Postmodern World*. Colorado Springs, CO: Waterbrook Press, 2001.

John G. Stackhouse, Jr., Ed. *No Other Gods Before Me?: Evangelicals and the Challenge of World Religions*. Grand Rapids, Mi: Regent College Pub., 2001.

Sweet, Leonard. *Postmodern Pilgrims: First Century Passion for the 21st Century World*. Nashville, TN: Broadman & Holman, 2000.

_____. *Aquachurch: Essential Leadership Arts for Piloting Your Church in Today's Fluid Culture*. Loveland , CO: Group Publishing, 1999,

Van Gelder, Craig. *Confident Witness--Changing World: Rediscovering the Gospel in North America*. The Gospel and Our Culture Series. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1999.

Warren, Rick. *The Purpose-Driven Church*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1995.

SPECIFIC DATA

Syllabus prepared by Randy C. Walls, June 2002.

ASSEMBLIES OF GOD THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
A Reading Report Submitted in Partial Fulfillment of the Course Requirements for
PTHB 630 The Church and Contemporary Society
(Date)

I hereby certify that I have read the required number of pages for each of the following texts:

[Examples:]

Smith, John. *A Biblical Theology of Mission in the 21st Century*. Grand Rapids, MI:
Zondervan Publishing House, 2002. – 175 pages.

Smythe, Jon. *A Practical Theology of Mission in the 21st Century*. Wheaton, IL:
InterVarsity Press, 2001. – 178 pages.

Total pages read: 353

Name: Juan Smeth

(Signature)