

Assemblies of God Theological Seminary
Southeastern Branch Campus
Lakeland, Florida
January 9 – April 24, 2003

MCS/PTHB 529 Foundations for Cross-Cultural Ministry

Rodney White, D. Min

Spring 2003

COURSE SYLLABUS

Course Description

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

Course 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.

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

Van Rheenen, Gailyn. Missions: Biblical Foundations and Contemporary Strategies. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House, 1996.

Course Outline

- I. Introduction to the Disciplines of Inter-cultural Communication and Applied Anthropology
- II. Perceiving Cultural and Social Diversity
 - A. Cultural Systems and Micro-cultures
 - B. Social Identification and Group Relations
- III. Understanding Inter-cultural Information
 - A. Linguistic Diversity
 - B. Inter-cultural Communication and Nonverbal Messages
 - C. Networking and Information Flow
- IV. Cultural Adaptation and Communication Accommodation
 - A. Adapting to Culture
 - B. Inter-cultural Competencies: Effectiveness and Conflict
 - C. Inter-cultural Communication, Innovation, and Change
- 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, Kraft, and Van Rheenen texts and submit a two-page “Reaction Paper” on each of the three texts mentioned above.

Due Dates - Adeney - January 23
Kraft - February 27
Van Rheenen March 27

2. A12-15 page “Research Paper” on an approved people group. This paper will be orally presented in class. **The paper is due Feb 13.**

Course Requirements (continued)

3. A fifteen-twenty minute oral presentation about the specific people group, dealing with the following topics:
 - A. An introduction and historical presentation of the people group.
 - B. A brief survey of their cultural perspectives.
 - C. A reflection on the necessary bridge-building methods to communicate cross culturally 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.

4. 400 pages of outside reading in conjunction with the research paper. Report on the reading using the following format:
 - A. The 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.

Course Evaluation

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| 1. | Reading of the three texts and two-page critiques - | 30% |
| 2. | 10-12 page research paper - | 30% |
| 3. | Oral Presentation - | 10% |
| 4. | 400 pages outside reading - | 30% |

All course work must be turning in according to the policy set by AGTS.

Selected Bibliography

- Adeney, Benard T. Strange Virtues: Ethics in a Multicultural World. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1995.
- 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.
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- Elmer, Duane. Cross-Cultural Conflict: Building Relationships for Effective Ministry. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1993.
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Lingenfelter, Sherwood. Agents of Transformation: A Guide for Effective Cross-Cultural Ministry. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Book House, 1996.

Loewen, Jacob A. Culture and Human Values. Pasadena, CA: Wm. Carey Library, 1985.

Loss, Myron. Culture Shock: Dealing with Stress in Cross-Cultural Living. Winona Lake, IN: Light and Life Press, 1983.

Prosser, Michael H. Intercommunication Among Nations and People. Harper and Row, 1973.

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