

ASSEMBLIES OF GOD THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
Southeastern College Branch Campus
Lakeland, Florida
August 11, 12, 14, 15, 2003

MCSB 529 FOUNDATIONS FOR CROSS-CULTURAL MINISTRY
(3 Credits)

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Summer 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.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS

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

Anderson, W. T. *Reality isn't what it used to be*. San Francisco: Harper and Row, 1992.

Frankl, V. E. *Man's search for meaning*. Riverside, NJ: Simon & Schuster, 1984.

Grenz, S.J. *Theology for the community of God*. Nashville: Broadman & Holman, 1994.

Lingenfelter S. G. *Transforming culture: a challenge for Christian mission*. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1998.

Sarup, M. *An introductory guide to post-structuralism and postmodernism*. Athens, GA: The University of Georgia Press, 1993.

Storti, C. *The art of crossing cultures*. Yarmouth, Maine: Intercultural Studies Press, 1990.

COURSE OUTLINE

- I. Introduction
- II. Perceiving Cultural and Social Diversity
 - A. Referents and Language
 - B. Postmodernism and Post Structuralism
- III. Culture and Message
- IV. Socially Created Realities
- V. Incarnational Ministry

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 assigned pages in text. Read all books completely except for those designated with page numbers. Some of the texts will be used extensively in class so bring your textbooks with you.

Paper #1: Pre-Course Reading Reaction Paper Due on day 1

Write a 500-word paper, focusing on the issues of speaking the gospel to people of other cultures. Make use of the information available in the assigned readings and pay attention to how the picture of culture and message might affect your ministry in the next ten years. This is the only assignment to turn in related to your reading.

Anderson, W. T. *Reality isn't what it used to be*. San Francisco: Harper and Row, 1992.
Read pages 1-52; 231-269

Grenz, S.J. *Theology for the community of God*. Nashville: Broadman & Holman, 1994.
Read pages 563 – 742

Sarup, M. *An introductory guide to post-structuralism and postmodernism*. Athens, GA: The University of Georgia Press, 1993.

2. A fifteen-twenty minute oral presentation to be shared on the next to last day of class about a specific target (ethnic or generational) group dealing with the following topics:
 - A. An introduction and description of the target 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. Various methodologies of sharing Christ with them.

3. Analysis of a ministry already in existence reaching a specific target group. Your paper should include some of the following but does not have to contain all. The list below is to help you get started in measuring the effectiveness of the ministry in reaching it's designed target. This assignment is to encourage you to integrate immediately into your own ministry the concepts we are learning here.

In this paper you will:

- a. Explain why this ministry should or should not exist.
 - b. Discuss whether in your opinion they adequately do what they said they do;
 - c. Consider what the ministry is not doing that you think they could given their goals and purpose statement (e.g. creative new ideas the ministry could implement to be more effective in ministry);
 - d. Critique what you think they are doing well and what may be some weaknesses;
 - e. Briefly discuss the population of the area where the ministry is located;
 - f. Compare the population the ministry serves to the population of the geographical location of the ministry.
 - g. Relate the content of your paper to class lectures, discussions and readings.
 - h. Include an appendix with the following information:
 - i. Name of the ministry or ministries you studied
 - ii. Address and contact information for the ministries
 - iii. An explanation of your rationale for your choice of ministries
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4. Personal Philosophy of Culture and Message Paper

Write a 1500-word paper that outlines your own approach to culture and message. Demonstrate how your own philosophy relates to themes and material discussed in the course and in the readings. Draw from personal experience and outlook, including (if you wish) your personal philosophy of life, your ethical standards and values, your career plans, ministry giftings and callings, or your view of growth and self-development. Address how your philosophy might be applied your local

leadership assignment. This paper should include quotes from all your class textbooks integrated into your personal philosophy of culture and message.

5. Team Project

At the beginning of the week the class will divide into teams for reflection and discussion. The team project will be completed during the week (at the discretion of the professor). Team Project Worksheets will be passed out when groups are formed. The objectives of the team project will be as follows:

1. Explain what is meant by culture from a Biblical perspective.
2. Appreciate culture as a holistic, integrated but always interacting and changing system.
3. Understand culture as a gift from God to humankind, influenced by sin and redeemed in Christ.
4. Understand, appreciate and respect other cultures and its people.
5. Understand and view life and ministry in a cross-cultural perspective.
6. Understand and work with the concept of contextualization.
7. Begin to understand and know how to present the gospel to someone from another culture/religion.
8. Understand and know how to deal with culture-shock.

All course work is due by November 15, 2003

SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

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