

# 1 ASSEMBLIES OF GOD THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

## MCS 630 MISSIONS ANTHROPOLOGY

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Visiting Professor of Missions  
Time: 1:00-2:15 p.m. Tuesday & Thursday

Spring 2004

### COURSE SYLLABUS

#### COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

A study of the principles of cultural anthropology and their application to a cross-cultural ministry context. Social structures, worldview, religion, and economics are applied to a missionary setting in order to achieve effective communication of the Gospel.

Prereq: MCS/PTH 529 or equivalent.

#### COURSE OBJECTIVES

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

1. Utilize the Human Relations Area Files for developing strategies for overcoming cultural barriers to missionary communication of the Gospel.
2. Integrate cultural anthropology as a social science with theology, a non-empirical science, and fuse them into a multi-disciplinary tool for missionary service.
3. Apply the principles of cultural anthropology to the Christian proclamation of the Good News across cultures.
4. Demonstrate a knowledge of the basic terminology of cultural anthropology and its application to cross-cultural situations.
5. Articulate the differences found in various cultures studied during the semester.
6. Explain the patterning of human behavior and how it affects the encoding and presentation of the Gospel in largely non-Christian cultures.
7. Verbalize universally valid concepts and principles which arise from the concrete cultures and cultural examples studied in class.
8. Locate and make effective use of published ethnographic material and develop basic ethnographic files.

#### TEXTBOOKS

##### **Required**

Angeloni, Elvio (ed.). *Anthropology (Annual editions 04/05) 27<sup>th</sup> edition*. McGraw-Hill/Pushkin, 2004.  
Hiebert, Paul. *Anthropological Insights For Missionaries*. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1985.

##### **Recommended**

Kraft, Charles H. *Anthropology for Christian Witness*. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books, 1996.  
Hiebert, Paul. *Anthropological Reflections on Missiological Issues* ed. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1994.  
\_\_\_\_\_. *Cultural Anthropology*. 2d ed. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1983

#### BASIC OUTLINE

1. Introduction to cultural anthropology
2. Applying anthropology to missions
3. Anthropological research: Human Relations Area Files

4. Material culture: description and explanation
5. Gospel and Culture
6. Cultural differences and the missionary
7. Symbolism and communication
8. Statuses, roles, and relationships
9. Life cycles and rites of passage
10. Kinship systems and family groups
11. World View
12. Religious beliefs and practices
13. Bicultural missionary

## **METHODOLOGY**

Lecture  
Video presentations  
Electronic HRAF  
World Wide Web  
Guest lecturers

## **COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

### Research paper

The paper should consist of 12-15 pages excluding the bibliography.  
There will be a reduction of one letter grade for papers turned in after the due date.  
The topic must be approved by the professor.  
Two copies will be submitted, the marked one will be returned.  
Details will be provided in a separate handout.  
The style guide must conform to seminary requirements.  
The *e-Human Relations Area Files* must be used and cited in your paper.

Reading of the required textbooks.

Reading: James Michener's *Hawaii*, chapter 3, "From the Farm of Bitterness."

Completion of a mid-term and final exam

Active participation in class discussions and interactions

Demonstrate competency in the use of the **e-HRAF Files** by successfully integrating your research in the required paper.

Attendance is required as per the seminary catalog.

## **GRADING PROCEDURE**

Required readings including the textbooks 25%

Research paper: 35%

Two exams 40%

## **SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY**

Benedict, R. *Patterns of Culture*. Boston: Houghton, 1934.

Ferraro, Gary. *Cultural Anthropology: An Applied Perspective*. Belmont, CA: Wadsworth Publishing, 1998.

Foster, George M. *Traditional Societies and Technological Change*. 2d ed. New York: Harper & Row, 1973.

Fox, R. *Kinship and Marriage: An Anthropological Perspective*. New York: Penguin, 1967.

Harris, M. *The Rise of Anthropological Theory*. New York: Ty Crowell, 1968.

Hall, Edward. *Beyond Culture*. New York: Anchor Press, 1976.

Hiebert, Paul. *Anthropological Insights for Missionaries*. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1987.

———, ed. *Anthropological Reflections on Missiological Issues*. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1994.

———. *Cultural Anthropology*. 2d ed. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1983.

Hiebert, Paul, Daniel Shaw, and Tite Tienou, eds. *Understanding Folk Religion: A Christian Response to Popular Beliefs and Practices*. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1999.

- Keesing, R. M., and F. M. Kessing. *New Perspectives in Cultural Anthropology*. New York: HR & W, 1971.
- Kraft, Charles H. *Christianity in Culture: A Study in Dynamic Biblical Theologizing in Cross-Cultural Perspective*. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books, 1980.
- \_\_\_\_\_. *Anthropology for Christian Witness*. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books, 1996.
- Lingenfelter, Sherwood. *Agents of Transformation: A Guide for Effective Cross-Cultural Ministry*. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 1996.
- \_\_\_\_\_. *Transforming Culture: A Challenge for Christian Mission*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 1998.
- \_\_\_\_\_, and Marvin K. Mayers. *Ministering Cross-Culturally: An Incarnational Model for Personal Relationships*. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1986.
- Luzbetak, Louis J. *The Church and Cultures: New Perspectives in Missiological Anthropology*. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books, 1988.
- Mayers, Marvin K. *Christianity Confronts Culture*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishing House, 1974.
- Michener, James A. *Hawaii*. New York: Fawcett Crest, 1959.
- Podolefsky, Aaron, and Peter J. Brown. *Applying Cultural Anthropology*. Mountain View, CA: Mayfield, 1994.
- Smalley, W. A. *Readings in Missionary Anthropology*. Tarrytown, NY: Practical Anthropology, 1967.
- \_\_\_\_\_. *Readings in Missionary Anthropology II*, enlarged 1978 edition. Pasadena, CA: Wm Carey Library, 1978.
- Wallace, Anthony F. C. *Religion: An Anthropological View*. New York: Random House, 1966.
- Welsch, Robert and Kirk Endicott (eds). *Taking Sides: Clashing Views on Controversial Issues in Cultural Anthropology*. Guilford, Connecticut: McGraw-Hill/Dushin, 2003.

### **SPECIFIC DATA**

Prepared by Dr. Warren Newberry, November, 2003