

Assemblies of God Theological Seminary
MCS/PTH 529 FOUNDATIONS OF CROSS-CULTURAL MINISTRY
COURSE SYLLABUS

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

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

COURSE OBJECTIVES

At the end of this course, the student should be able to:

1. Recognize his/her cultural presuppositions and values and their impact on the effective cross-cultural communication of the Gospel.
2. Utilize the various disciplines that comprise the processes of missiology including selected facets of the social sciences which facilitate cross-cultural ministries.
3. Explain the unique contribution of Pentecostal missiology and its understanding of the role of the Holy Spirit in the missionary task.
4. Demonstrate an understanding of the essential concepts of cultural anthropology, cross-cultural communication, and contextualization.
5. Identify and discuss the components of culture and various worldviews.
6. Appreciate the dynamics of theological and missiological contextualization.
7. Develop a personal theology and model for cross-cultural ministry.

TEXTBOOKS

Required textbooks:

Dyrness, William A. Invitation to Cross-Cultural Theology. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1992.

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

Lingenfelter, Sherwood and Marvin Mayers. Ministering Cross-Culturally: An Incarnational Model for Personal Relationships. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker, 1986.

Shaw, R. Daniel and Charles Van Engen. Communicating God's Word in a Complex World. Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield, 2003.

Recommended Textbooks:

Dyrness, William A. Learning About Theology From the Third World. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1990.

Elmer, Duane. Cross-Cultural Conflict: Building Relationships for Effective Ministry. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity, 1993.

Elmer, Duane. Cross-Cultural Connections: Stepping Out and Fitting in Around the World. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2002.

BASIC OUTLINE (subject to change)

Introduction

An incarnational model of ministry

Cross-cultural models of communication

Elements of culture

Missiological and theological contextualization

Pentecostal models of contextualization

Doing theology and ministry in a cross-cultural context: A personal assessment.

METHODOLOGY

Lectures, discussion, video presentation(s), case studies, book reviews, interviews.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. Reading of the required textbooks. A report must be submitted for each text as outlined in the addendum. (Lingenfelter X 2 **Due Sept. 30**; Dyrness, Shaw and Van Engen **Due Oct. 28**)
2. Faithful attendance to class (as per the Student Handbook) and participation in discussions/groups.
3. Prepare a book review per instructions provided in the addendum of a missionary biography. **Due Oct. 28**
4. Personal cultural inventory: **Due Sept. 30**. Students are to read the Lingenfelter/Mayers text and complete the questionnaire on pages 29-33, the analysis on page 34, and the personal profile graphs on page 35. Based on the results of the profile, write a 2-4 page Personal Cross-cultural Inventory. The paper should show what you learned about yourself, possible explanations or illustrations of your profile, how you have changed from a previous time in your life, the validity of your results, etc. Please address all six areas of the profile, citing your coordinates.
5. A case study will be presented in class at the close of which each group will turn in their observations.
6. Conduct an interview with a missionary or foreign national and present a written essay per instructions which will be provided. **Due within two weeks of the end of class sessions.**
7. Successful completion of the comprehensive take home final examination.
 - A. The paper is **due within 30 days of the end of class sessions.**
 - B. There will be a deduction of one (1) letter grade if the paper is turned in late.
 - C. There will be a hand-out detailing the requirements for the paper. The paper should be 15-20 pages in length, double spaced, 12 point font size and in accordance with Turabian Style formatting.

GRADING PROCEDURE

1. Book reviews of textbooks (4 @ 5%)	20%	Due Sept. 30, Oct. 28
2. Book review of a missionary biography	5%	Due Oct. 28
3. Personal cultural inventory	20%	Due Sept. 30
4. Case study review	5%	In class
5. Interview essay	20%	Due 2 weeks post-class
6. Comprehensive final examination	30%	Due 30 days post-class

GRADING SCALE

A+ (10)		A (96)	100-94	A- (93)	93-90
B+ (89)	89-87	B (86)	86-84	B- (83)	83-80
C+ (79)	79-77	C (76)	76-74	C- (73)	73-70
D+ (69)	69-67	D (66)	66-64	D- (63)	63-60
F	59 or below				

INITIAL SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

Anthropology

- Benedict, R. Patterns of Culture. Boston: Houghton, 1934.
- 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.
- Gilliland, Dean S., ed. The Word Among Us: Contextualizing Theology for Mission Today. Dallas, TX: Word Publishing, 1989.
- Grunlan, Stephen A. and Marvin K. Mayers. Cultural Anthropology: A Christian Perspective, 2nd ed. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1988.
- Harris, M. The Rise of Anthropological Theory. New York: Ty Crowell, 1968.
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- _____. Anthropological Insights for Missionaries. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1987.
- _____, ed. Anthropological Reflections on Missiological Issues. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1994.
- Hiebert, Paul and Eloise H. Meneses. Incarnational Ministry: Planting Churches in Band, Tribal, Peasant, and Urban Societies. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker, 1995.
- Hiebert, Paul, Daniel Shaw, and Tite Tienou, eds. Understanding Folk Religion: A Christian Response to Popular Beliefs and Practices. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1999.
- Keesing, R. M., and F. M. Keesing. 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.
- 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, 1974.
- Smalley, W. A. Readings in Missionary Anthropology. Tarrytown, NY: Practical Anthropology, 1967.
- Wallace, Anthony F. C. Religion: An Anthropological View. New York: Random House, 1966.

Communications

- Engel, James F. Contemporary Christian Communications: Its Theory and Practice. Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson, 1979.
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- Hall, Edward T. The Silent Language. Garden City, NY: Doubleday, 1959.
- _____. The Hidden Dimension. Garden City, NY: Doubleday, 1966.
- Hesselgrave, David. Communicating Christ Cross-Culturally: An Introduction to Missionary Communication. second. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1991.
- Kraft, Charles H. Communication Theory for Christian Witness, Rev. ed. Maryknoll: Orbis, 1994.
- _____. "God's Model For Cross-Cultural Communication—The Incarnation." Evangelical Missions Quarterly (EMQ) 9 (summer 1973a): 205-16.
- _____. "The Incarnation, Cross-Cultural Communication, and Communication Theory." EMQ 9 (fall 1973b):277-84.
- _____. Communicating the Gospel God's Way. Pasadena, CA: William Carey Library, 1979.
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- Littlejohn, Stephen W. Theories of Human Communication. Columbus, OH: Charles E. Merrill Publishing Co., 1978.
- Nida, Eugene A. Message and Mission: The Communication of the Christian Faith. revised. Pasadena, CA: William Carey Library, 1990.
- Richardson, Don. "Finding the Freeway Into the Heart." EMQ 15, no. 2 (April 1979): 89-96.
- Smith, Donald K. Make Haste Slowly: Developing Effective Cross-Cultural Communication. Portland, OR: Institute for International Christian Communication, 1984.

Contextualization

- Bevans, Stephen. "Models of Contextual Theology." Missiology 13, no. 2 (April 1985): 185-202. Conn, Harvie M. "Contextualization: Where Do We Begin?" In Evangelicals and Liberation, edited by Carl E. Armerding, 90-119. Phillipsburg, NJ: Presbyterian and Reformed, 1977.
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SPECIFIC DATA

Prepared by DeLonn Rance, July 2005.

ADDENDUM
Guidelines for Text/ Biography and Book Review

1. Present the bibliographic information.

e.g.:

Lingenfelter, Sherwood and Marvin Mayers. Ministering Cross-Culturally: An Incarnational Model for Personal Relationships. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker, 1986.

2. Cite the pages read.

3. Articulate the major thesis.

4. Briefly outline the major sections of the book.

5. Articulate missiological issues related to cross-cultural ministry raised by the book.

6. Quote what you consider the most significant or impacting citation.

7. Describe why this citation is significant.

8. Would you recommend this book? Why?