

# ASSEMBLIES OF GOD THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

## MCS 630 MISSIONS ANTHROPOLOGY

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Fall 2006

Time: 7:30-10:15 a.m. Tuesday

### 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.

#### 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 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 06/07) 29<sup>th</sup> edition*. McGraw-Hill, 2006.

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

Lingenfelter, Sherwood. *Transforming Culture: A Challenge for Christian Mission* 2<sup>nd</sup> edition. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 1998.

\_\_\_\_\_. *Agents of Transformation: A guide for Effective Cross-Cultural Ministry*. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 1996.

## **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.  
Late work is subject to penalty.  
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 as per the seminary's policy and catalog.

### **GRADING PROCEDURE**

Required readings including the textbooks 25%

Research paper: 35%

Two exams 40%

All work will be given a percentage grade and translated into a corresponding letter grade.

### **AGTS Approved Grading Scale**

Publishable = A+      79% - 77% = C+

100% - 94% = A      76% - 74% = C

93% - 90% = A-      73% - 70% = C-

89% - 87% = B+      69% - 67% = D+

86% - 84% = B      66% - 64% = D

83% - 80% = B-      63% - 60% = D-

### **ACADEMIC INTEGRITY**

It is assumed that students at AGTS will endeavor to be honest and of high integrity in all matters pertaining to Seminary life. A lack of respect and integrity is evidenced by cheating, fabricating, plagiarizing, misusing facilities, removing books and other property not one's own, and disrupting classes.

Cheating is defined as "intentionally using or attempting to use unauthorized materials, information or study aids in any academic exercise." It is assumed that whatever is submitted by a student is the work of that student. Fabrication is "intentional and unauthorized falsification or invention of any information or citation in an academic exercise or form." Plagiarism is "intentionally or knowingly representing the words or ideas of another as one's own in any academic exercise." One who facilitates any of the above is equally responsible with the primary violator.

Penalties may include restitution, an "F" on an individual paper, exam, or course; loss of campus employment; disciplinary probation; removal from extracurricular activities; and suspension. (AGTS Student Handbook, p.4)

## **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. 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.
- . *Anthropology for Christian Witness*. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books, 1996.
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- , *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, June 2006