

# ASSEMBLIES OF GOD THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

## PTH 620 MINISTRY IN EMERGING CULTURE (3 Credit Hours)

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Summer 2008

### COURSE SYLLABUS

#### COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course explores the potential of Pentecostal ministry in a rapidly morphing, globalized culture. The focus is on learning to discern culture as opportunity for cooperating with the mission of Jesus, and for discerning ministry as opportunity for Spirit-empowered expressions of that mission.

#### COURSE SCHEDULE

The Class meets Monday-Friday, May 19 - 23, 2008 at the following times:

Monday - Friday: 8:00 – 5:00

#### COURSE OBJECTIVES

The course is an arena for personal growth of several kinds:

- *Character development:* **humbling** ourselves as the Spirit uses the twin instruments of culture and ministry to form greater dependence on God.
- *Cultural exegesis:* **interpreting** major forms of cultural influences that are creating the context in which the Christian gospel must be communicated.
- *Theological reflection:* **hearing** culture posing critical theological questions that call for reflective skills that are true both to Scripture *and* context.
- *Personal reframing:* **seeing** personal and corporate ministry as an evolving, holistic calling rather than a set of static roles and functions.
- *Community formation:* **relating** to other believers in a community that simulates the challenge of integrating identity, mission, and context in field ministry.
- *Ministry enhancement:* **discerning** opportunities to cooperate with the Spirit in the fulfillment of Christ's mission through our own calling.

- *Ongoing growth: equipping* with self-sustaining skills that can inform all of the objectives above during future ministry.

### COURSE READING OPTIONS

Backman, Richard. *Bible and Mission: Christian Witness in a Postmodern World*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2004. (128 pages)

Cole, Neil. *Organic Church: Growing Faith Where Life Happens*. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass, 2005. (272 pages)

Creps, Earl. *Off-Road Disciplines: Spiritual Adventures of Missional Leaders*. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass/Leadership Network, 2006. (185 pages)

Frost, Michael and Alan Hirsch. *The Shaping of Things to Come: Innovation and Mission for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Church*. Hendrickson, 2003. (250 pages)

Gibbs, Eddie and Ryan Bolger. *The Emerging Churches*. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 2005. (352 pages)

\_\_\_\_\_. *LeadershipNext: Leadership Changes in a Changing Culture*. Downers Grove, Ill.: InterVarsity, 2005. (237 pages)

Guder, Darrell. *The Continuing Conversion of the Church*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2000. (222 pages)

Hirsch, Alan. *The Forgotten Ways: Reactivating the Missional Church*. Brazos Press, 2007. (304 pages)

Kimball, Dan. *They Like Jesus but Not the Church: Insights from Emerging Generations*. Brazos Press, 2007. (304 pages)

\_\_\_\_\_. *Emerging Worship: Creating Worship Gatherings for New Generations*. El Cajon, CA: emergentYS, 2004. (238 pages)

Lewis, Richard and Wayne Cordeiro. *CultureShift: Transforming Your Church from the Inside Out*. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass, 2005. (256 pages)

Lindsley, Art. *True Truth: Defending Absolute Truth in a Relativistic World*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 2004. (180 pages)

McNeal, Reggie. *Practicing Greatness: Seven Disciplines of Extraordinary Spiritual Leaders*. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass, 2006. (192 pages)

- \_\_\_\_\_. *The Present Future: Six Tough Questions for the Church*. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass, 2003. (151 pages)
- Miller, Rex. *The Millennium Matrix: Reclaiming the Past, Reframing the Future of the Church*. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass, 2004. (256 pages)
- Rainer, Thom S. *Simple Church: Returning to God's Process for Making Disciples*. Broadman & Holman, 2006. (272 pages)
- Roxburgh, Alan. *The Missional Leader: Equipping Your Church to Reach a Changing World*. Jossey-Bass, 2006. (240 pages)
- Rusaw, Rick and Eric Swanson. *The Externally Focused Church*. Group, 2004. (224 pages)
- Stetzer, Ed. *Breaking the Missional Code: Your Church Can Become a Missionary in Your Community*. Broadman & Holman, 2006. (240 pages)
- \_\_\_\_\_. *Planting New Churches in a Postmodern Age*. Nashville: Broadman and Holman, 2003. (384 pages)
- Sweet, Leonard, ed. *The Church in Emerging Culture: Five Views*. El Cajon, Ca.: emergentYS, 2003. (263 pages)
- Sweet, Leonard, Brian McLaren and Jerry Haselmayer. *A Is for Abductive: The Language of the Emerging Church*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2002. (338 pages)
- Webber, Robert E. *Ancient-Future Faith: Rethinking Evangelicalism for a Postmodern World*. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 1999. (239 pages)
- \_\_\_\_\_. *Ancient-Future Evangelism: Making Your Church a Faith-Forming Community*. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 2003. (219 pages)

## **COURSE BIBLIOGRAPHY**

*Emerging Church/Emerging Culture: A Select Resource List* is available at my AGTS faculty web page. A downloadable pdf version is also available there.  
[http://www.agts.edu/faculty/faculty\\_publications/bibliographies/creps\\_bibliography/index.html](http://www.agts.edu/faculty/faculty_publications/bibliographies/creps_bibliography/index.html)

## **COURSE OUTLINE**

- |               |   |
|---------------|---|
| Mon., May 19  | <i>Reality Check: The Arrival of Post-Christianity</i>                    |
| Tues., May 20 | <i>Ozzie &amp; Harriet Meet Ozzy &amp; Sharon: Culture as Opportunity</i> |
| Wed., May 21  | <i>On Two Wheels: Ministry in the Postmodern Turn</i>                     |

Thurs., May 22

*Leading and Communicating in a De-centered World*

Fri., May 23

*Models of Ministry in Emerging Culture*

## **COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

### **1. Pre-session:**

- a. *Read:* 1000 pages from the Course Reading Options list. No books read previously should be counted toward the course reading requirement.  
[A Reading Credit Report will be distributed on the last day of class to be returned with the post-session projects no later than **Aug 9, 2008**. The percentage of reading completed will be multiplied by 100 points.]
- b. *Write:* of a Reading Reflection paper of 3-5 pages summarizing the key ideas from the pre-course reading that you found most important, disturbing, and/or enlightening. Summarize the key arguments briefly and then reflect on how they apply to your present or future ministry context. This paper is due on the first day of class, **May 19**, and is worth 100 points. Students will present an oral summary of their papers in class.

### **2. During the session:**

- a. *Attendance:* at all course sessions is required.
- b. *Participation:* in all classroom discussions, exercises, and field trips is required. The class may travel several times during the week to visit emerging culture/ministry venues.

### **3. Post-Session:**

- a. *Field research:* visit a ministry actively engaged in reaching emerging culture. Keep a written journal of this experience to be turned in with other post-session assignments. Write a 7-10 page response to our field experiences integrating personal journals, course readings, class sessions, and personal reflection. The purpose of the paper is to use the experience to reflect on the nature of today's culture, the ministry that will be needed to reach it, and the specific implications for your ministry. 400 points are available for this paper journal. **Due date: August 9.** [Option: field visits during the course are eligible for this assignment.]
- b. Choose *one* of the following options (400 points): **Due date: August 9, 2008.**
  - 1) *Produce a multi-media documentary:* on some significant feature of emerging culture and/or the ministry that is rising up to engage it. Examples could include documenting a non-traditional local church in-depth, surveying and evaluating significant internet ministries, on-the-street interviews with "natives" of emerging

culture, the influence of popular culture, sampling various preaching styles in non-traditional worship services, comparing young adult ministries, etc. Documentaries must be multi-media in format and approximately 5-10 minutes in length.

- 2) *Write a scenario:* depicting the development of a relatively new and significant cultural force, or a new ministry that addresses emerging culture. Examples could include a plan for church planting, the establishment of a web-based ministry, creating a ministry to post-moderns within an existing church, etc. Write a 10-page paper that presents your scenario in a credible, specific way.
- 3) *Write an in-depth reading reflection:* read an additional book from the Course Reading Options list and write a 10-page paper that outlines the author's central thesis and responds to it in terms of your ministry context. This is to be a high-quality reflective essay, not a library research assignment, and must feature specific applications to your ministry context and or your theology of ministry.
- 4) *Devise a self-development plan:* write a 10-page paper detailing your plan for developing the skills for ministry in emerging culture. This should include background research, personal growth, training, skill enhancements sought, implementation challenges, evaluation methods, and a timeline.
- 5) *Create sermons:* using insights gained from the class, write two sermons of significant length designed to reach a pre-Christian emerging culture audience. *Do not recycle old messages!* You may do either a manuscript, or a very, very detailed outline. While all sermons must be turned in hard copy, they may be accompanied by audiocassette and/or media support (e.g., PowerPoint, video clips, etc.) If you speak without notes, an audiocassette is required.
- 6) *Write a research paper:* choose a major theme related to the course and write a 10-page research paper. The paper should identify and reflect upon key ideas related to the topic, report on some of the major literature in the area, and apply conclusions to your ministry context. Supporting footnotes and a 15-item bibliography are required.
- 7) *Report on internet ministries:* research internet-based models of ministry and prepare a 10-page paper on your findings. The presentation should include a brief review of the literature, descriptions of the various models, web links, and other key features. Draw conclusions about their use of the internet itself, and the application (if any) of their ministry model to your own (i.e., what you learned from them that could be applied in your context).
- 8) *Design a multimedia project:* using the course as a starting point, develop a brief multimedia (Web-based, PowerPoint, etc.) presentation that would accomplish either of two goals: making the emerging church comprehensible to the mainstream church, or, making the gospel comprehensible to a postmodern audience.

9) *Propose a self-designed project*: every student has the option of proposing one or more Self-Designed credit projects that relate specifically to a ministry or research interest relevant to the course subject matter. These projects must be approved in advance by the professor.

All written assignments are to be typed, double-spaced, represent high-quality, original, graduate-level work, and follow the *Turabian* style manual, 6<sup>th</sup> edition.

All assignments can be emailed to the professor ([earlcreps@gmail.com](mailto:earlcreps@gmail.com)) with a title page that includes name, address, phone and email, course number, title, and site.

***Due date*: all post-session assignments must be emailed or postmarked no later than August 9, 2008.** Grades for late work will be lowered by one letter grade for each week by which the project exceeds this deadline.

(***Note***: the participant will be charged a \$30 change-of-grade fee if work is turned in after the due date stipulated on the syllabus, even if permission has been given by the instructor.)

### **GRADING PROCEDURE**

### **Points**

Required Reading Credit Report	100
Reading Reflection Paper	100
Field Research Journal and Reflection Paper	400
Post-Session Project Option	400
<b>TOTAL POINTS AVAILABLE:</b>	<b><u>1000</u></b>

### **SPECIFIC DATA**

Course syllabus prepared by Earl Creps, April 2008.



**PTHB 620 MINISTRY IN EMERGING CULTURE  
STUDENT GRADING PROFILE**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

<b><u>GRADING ELEMENTS</u></b>		<b><u>Points</u></b>
Pre-session reading [Due date: February 9, 2008]	( _____ % completed x 100 points =)	_____
Reading Reflection Paper [Due date: February 9, 2008]	(100 points available)	_____
Post-Session Field Research Paper [Due date: February 9, 2008]	(400 points available)	_____
Post-Session Project Option [Due date: February 9, 2008]	(400 points available)	_____
<b>TOTAL POINTS:</b>	(1000 points available)	_____
<b>LETTER GRADE:</b>		=====

**AGTS Grading Scale**

Publishable = A+  
100% - 94% = A  
93% - 90% = A-  
89% - 87% = B+  
86% - 84% = B  
83% - 80% = B-  
79% - 77% = C+  
76% - 74% = C  
73% - 70% = C-  
69% - 67% = D+  
66% - 64% = D  
63% - 60% = D-