

ASSEMBLIES OF GOD THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

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PTH 620 MINISTRY IN EMERGING CULTURE  
(3 Credit Hours)

Fall 2003

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COURSE SYLLABUS

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course explores the potential of Pentecostal ministry in a rapidly evolving, 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 course meets on most Thursdays, from 2:30-5:30 pm, during the fall 2003 semester. Specific meeting dates are as follows:

September 4, 11, 18, 25  
October 2, 9, 16, 23,  
November 6, 13, 20,  
December 4, 11 (final exam)

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 in our hearts.
- *Cultural exegesis:* **interpreting** major forms of cultural influence that are creating the context in which the Christian gospel must be communicated.



- *Theological reflection*: **hearing** culture posing critical theological questions calling forth the reflective skills needed to develop meaningful answers that are true to Scripture *and* connected to context.
- *Personal reframing*: **seeing** personal and corporate ministry as an evolving, holistic, missional calling rather than a set of static roles played by using power to execute a list of functions.
- *Community formation*: **relating** to other believers in a community that simulates the way field ministry struggles to connect ministry with its context.
- *Ministry enhancement*: **discerning** opportunities to cooperate with the Spirit in the fulfillment of Christ's mission in culture.
- *Ongoing growth*: **equipping** with self-sustaining field research skills that can feed experience and insight into all of the objectives above in future ministry.

## **COURSE READINGS**

### **Required Readings:**

Clegg, Tom, and Warren Bird. *Lost in America: How You and Your Church Can Impact the World Next Door*. Loveland, Colo.: Group, 2001. (176 pages)

Romanowski, William D. *Eyes Wide Open: Looking for God in Popular Culture*. Grand Rapids: Brazos, 2001. (171 pages)

Roxburgh, Alan. *Crossing the Bridge: Church Leadership in a Time of Change*. Precept Group, 2000. (161 pages)

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

Sweet, Leonard. *Soul Tsunami: Sink or Swim in New Millennium Culture*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1999. (446 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://agts.edu/faculty/faculty\\_publications/bibliographies/creps\\_bibliography/index.html](http://agts.edu/faculty/faculty_publications/bibliographies/creps_bibliography/index.html)

The free Acrobat reader required to read pdf files is available at:

<http://www.adobe.com/products/acrobat/readstep.html>

**COURSE OUTLINE** (all dates are Thursday, 2:30 pm – 5:30 pm)

September 4	<i>Reality Orientation: Course Overview &amp; Team Formation</i>
September 11	<i>Ozzie &amp; Harriet Meet Ozzy &amp; Sharon: Culture as Opportunity</i> <b>[Teams turn in Credit Project proposals]</b>
September 18	<i>Reality Check: The Arrival of Post-Christianity</i> <b>[Reading Reflection Paper Option #1—<i>Lost in America</i>]</b>
September 25	<i>On Two Wheels: Taking the Postmodern Turn</i>
October 2	<i>McPostmodernism—The Americanization of a Worldview</i>
October 9	<i>Generational Gaps, Shifts, Theories &amp; Ministries</i>
October 16	<i>On Our Watch: Post-Boomers &amp; Post-Rurals in a Post-Seeker Age</i>
October 23	<i>Unpopular Culture: Media as Mirror on the Church</i> <b>[Reading Reflection Paper Option #2 due—<i>Eyes Wide Open</i>]</b>
November 6	<i>Lost Continent: The Internet as Culture</i>
November 13	<i>Leading and Communicating in a De-centered World</i>
November 20	<i>Models of Ministry in Emerging Culture</i>
December 4	<i>Defining a Pentecostal Future in Emerging Culture</i>
December 11	<b>[Final Exam]</b> <b>[Required Reading Credit Report distributed]</b>

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

1. *Attendance:* at all course sessions. Every unexcused absence will deduct 50 points from the student's point total.
2. *Participation:* in all classroom discussions, exercises, and projects.
3. *Reading of all Required Texts:* a Reading Credit Report will be distributed on the last day of class (December 11) to record the percentage of reading completed and receive points accordingly. Books from the Alternative Text list (distributed on the first day of class) should be substituted for Required books read previously.

4. *Writing*: of a Reading Reflection paper of 3-pages on *either* the Clegg *or* Romanowski texts (not both). This paper should summarize the author's argument, reviewing the ideas that are most significant or most challenging, and reflect on how they apply to your present or future ministry context. The due dates for the paper options are as follows:

RR Paper Option #1—*Lost in America* September 18, 2003

RR Paper Option #2—*Eyes Wide Open* October 23, 2003

Students should be prepared to participate in a discussion of their papers in class.

5. *Team Credit Project*: each student will participate fully in a Team Credit Project described below. The TCP will be due on a date designated on the first day of the course.
6. *Final Exam*: this test will focus on integrating course content and experience. The exam will be administered during the last class session on December 11, 2003.

### **TEAM CREDIT PROJECT**

1. *Project Team Formation*: every student will become part of a small team (3-5 people) responsible for creating and presenting a high quality research project. Teams will form on the first day of class, and will submit a written Project Proposal on the second day (September 11).
2. *Project Focus*: each TCP is to be an in-class multi-media presentation on one of the following: (The theme of the Project must be approved by the professor in advance.)
  - A) *A documentary*: on some significant feature of emerging culture and/or the ministry that is rising up to engage it. Examples would 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.
  - B) *A scenario*: depicting the development of a relatively new and significant important 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 and existing church, etc. This form of the TCP presents the future scenario of an emerging culture trend or ministry, making it predictive rather than descriptive.
  - C) *Team design*: each team has the option to propose a TCP of its own design to the professor.

3. *Project Components*: each Team Credit Project is to be composed of:

- A) *A multi-media documentary*: to be presented in class during the fall semester. This presentation media such as video tape, PowerPoint, live internet, video-conferencing, graphic arts, photography, etc. The presentation will be evaluated on the basis of its creativity, uniqueness, clarity of expression, and ability to give the audience both an understanding and a “feel” for the subject. The presentation should be approximately 30-minutes in duration, and may involve the whole team in various roles.
- B) *A 20-page overview paper*: to be distributed to the class on the day of the documentary presentation. The paper is to be a team effort, providing an overview of the TCP and explaining its goals, methods, and style of presentation. The paper should be carefully researched and footnoted, and include a bibliography of at least 10 book sources, 10 journal sources, and 10 internet sources.
- C) *An action step*: in which the team actually becomes involved in some form of ministry to emerging culture, related to the TCP.

4. *Project Evaluation*: points will be earned for the TCP as follows:

Documentary Presentation:	100
Overview Paper:	100
Action Step	100
Team Mutual Evaluation:	100
Peer Project Evaluation:	100
TCP TOTAL POINTS:	<u>500</u>

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

Assignments can be emailed to the professor ([ecreps@agts.edu](mailto:ecreps@agts.edu)) with a title page that includes your name, mailing address, phone, email address, and the course number.

### **CREDIT PROJECT DUE DATES**

The Team Credit Project schedule will be established on the first day of class, with each group having an assigned due date to be no earlier than the first class session in October. The project grade will drop by one level for every week of delay beyond the due date.

**GRADING PROCEDURE****Points**

Required Reading Credit Report (4 books x 25)	100
Reading Reflection Papers (2 papers x 50)	100
Team Credit Project	500
Final Exam	300
 TOTAL POINTS AVAILABLE:	 <u>1000</u>

Grading will be on a percentage basis, with 90% of the total points required for an A, 80% of the points required for a B, etc. Plusses and minuses will be used for point totals within 2% of any grade level. Every unexcused absence will deduct 50 points from the student's total.

**SPECIFIC DATA**

Course syllabus prepared by Earl Creps, July 2003.