

Assemblies of God Theological Seminary

MCS/PTH 529 FOUNDATIONS OF CROSS-CULTURAL MINISTRY

COURSE SYLLABUS

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Fall 2001

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

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

COURSE OBJECTIVES

1. Understand the role of selected facets of social science in cross-cultural ministries
2. Demonstrate an understanding of significant terminology used in the discipline of missiology.
3. Demonstrate an understanding of the essential concepts of cultural anthropology, cross-cultural communication, and contextualization.
4. Study the implications of societal typologies for cross-cultural ministry.
5. Identify and discuss the components of culture and various worldviews.
6. Recognize his/her cultural presuppositions and values and their impact on the effective cross-cultural communication of the Gospel.
7. Appreciate the dynamics of theological contextualization.
8. Explore issues that challenge the fullest impact of cross-cultural ministry.

TEXTBOOKS

Required Textbooks:

Heibert, Paul and Meneses, Eloise Heibert. Incarnational Ministry: Planting Churches in Band, Tribal, Peasant and Urban Societies. Baker Book House, 1995 (HHM)

Lingenfelter, Sherwood and Mayers, Marvin. Ministering Cross-Culturally. Baker Book House, 1986 (L-M)

Ramachandra, Vinoth. Faiths in Conflict? Christian Integrity in a Multi-Cultural World. Inter-Varsity Press, 1999 (VR)

Transformation Vol. 16, No. 2. April/June 1999 (TR)

Selected Readings. Compiled by Byron D. Klaus. 2001 (BDK)

Recommended Textbooks:

Conn, Harvey and Ortiz, Manuel. Urban Ministry. Inter-Varsity Press. 2001 (CO)

Rhodes, Stephen. Where the Nations Meet. Inter-Varsity Press. 1999 (SR)

COURSE SCHEDULE

- August 30 A Biblical Root
Mission and the Incarnation as Basic Theological Themes for Cross-cultural Ministry.
- Readings: BDK Week 1
 VR Chap. 3
- September 6 Religion as a universal reality
The Integrity of Christianity in a Multi-Cultural World
- Readings: BDK Week 2
 VR Chap. 4-5
- September 13 Communicating Cross-culturally I
Understanding Culture using Anthropological Lenses
- Readings: BDK Week 3
 HHM Intro and Chap. 1
- September 20 Communicating Cross-Culturally II
Dynamics in Communicating Across Cultures
- Readings: BDK Week 4
 HHM Chap. 2-5
- September 27 Communicating Cross-culturally III
Personal Cultural Awareness
- Readings: BDK Week 5
 LM (entire volume) complete self exam
 VR Chap. 1
- October 4 Communicating Cross-culturally IV
Societal Typologies
- Readings: BDK Week 6
 HHM Chap. 6-7
- October 11 Present Realities in Ministering Cross-Culturally I
Globalization and Urbanization
- Readings: BDK Week 7
 HHM Chap. 8-9
- October 18 Case Study Exam #1

October 25 Present Realities in Ministering Cross-Culturally II
Immigration – 1.5 generations

Readings: BDK Week 9
Recommended CO & SR

November 1 Present Realities in Ministering Cross-Culturally III
Poverty, Injustice and the Majority World

Readings: BDK Week 10
TR entire journal
Recommended CO & SR

November 8 Strategic Dynamics in Cross-cultural Ministry I
Missiology as a Discipline
Emergence of 3rd Era Strategic Efforts

Readings: BDK Week 11
VR Chap. 2
HHM Chap. 10

November 15 Strategic Dynamics in Cross-cultural Ministry II
Missiological Issues at the Forefront
The Unfinished Task?

Readings: BDK Week 12

November 22 THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY

November 29 Group Reports

December 6 Case study exam II

December 13 Group Reports

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

- 5% 1. Readings are assigned weekly. Graduate study assumes readings are complete and you are conversant in the content. Reading reports will be submitted at each case study exam.
- 10% 2. Personal, cross-cultural inventory.
Due October 18th

- 20% 3. Case study exam #1 (Aug. 30 – Oct. 4 content)
October 18 (in class case evaluation)
- 20% Case study exam #2 (Oct. 11 – Nov. 15 content)
December 6 (in class case evaluation)
- 40% 4. Group Project
Presentations Nov. 29, and Dec. 13, as assigned.
All case studies and research on selected topics is due by Nov. 21 for
electronic posting.
- Presentations based on case study development from topical theme
- 5% 5. Attendance

SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

Anthropology

- Benedict, R. Patterns of Culture. Boston: Houghton, 1934.
- Foster, George M. Traditional Societies and Technological Change. 2nd 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.
- Hiebert, Paul. Cultural Anthropology. 2d ed. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1983.
- _____. Anthropological Insights for Missionaries. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1987.
- _____, ed. Anthropological Reflections on Missiological Issues. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1994.
- 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.
- Lingenfelter, Sherwood G., 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.
- 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.
- _____. Getting Your Message Across. Bloomingdale, IL: Media Associates International, 1988.
- Hall, Edward T. The Silent Language. Garden City, NY: Doubleday & Co., 1959.
- _____. The Hidden Dimension. Garden City, NY: Doubleday & Co., 1966.

- Hesselgrave, David. Communicating Christ Cross-Culturally: An Introduction to Missionary Communication. second. Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishing House, 1991.
- Kraft, Charles H. "God's Model For Cross-Cultural Communication --- The Incarnation." Evangelical Missions Quarterly 9 (summer 1973a): 205-16.
- _____. "The Incarnation, Cross-Cultural Communication, and Communication Theory." Evangelical Missions Quarterly 9 (fall 1973b): 277-84.
- _____. Communicating the Gospel God's Way. Pasadena, CA: William Carey Library, 1979.
- 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." Evangelical Missions Quarterly 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: An International Review 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 Publishing Company, 1977.
- _____. "Contextualization: A New Dimension for Cross-Cultural Hermeneutic." Evangelical Missions Quarterly 14, no. 1 (January 1978): 39-46.
- Connor, John H. "When Culture Leaves Contextualized Christianity Behind." Missiology: An International Review 19, no. 1 (January 1991): 21-29.
- Engle, Richard W. "Contextualization in Missions: A Biblical and Theological Appraisal." Grace Theological Journal 4 (1983): 85-107.
- Fleming, Bruce C. E. Contextualization of Theology. Pasadena, CA: William Carey Library, 1980.
- Glasser, Arthur F. "Help From an Unexpected Quarter or, the Old Testament and Contextualization." Missiology: An International Review 7, no. 4 (October 1979): 403-10.
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Provided by Dr. Warren Newberry – AGTS Visiting Professor of Missions

WEBSITES

- www.strategicnetwork.org- multiple e-zines on cross-cultural issues – huge site
- www.missiology.org - connected to Dr. Gailyn Van Rheezen at Abilene Christian University
- www.gmi.org - site for the Global Mapping project
- www.omsc.org - site for Overseas Ministries Study Center at Yale University.
- www.ad2000.org - site focused on world evangelization plan
- www.gsmweb.org - site for American Society of Missiologists
- www.mislinks.org - site of Scott Moreau, editor of massive Evangelical Dictionary of Mission
- www.ethnicharvest.org - key links to ethnic church planting in the U.S.
- www.gocn.org - site for Gospel and Culture Network