

Assemblies of God Theological Seminary

MCS 630 MISSIONS ANTHROPOLOGY

COURSE SYLLABUS

Warren B. Newberry, D.Th.
Visiting Professor of Missions
Time: 8:55-10:10 a.m. Tuesday & Thursday

Spring 2003

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.

Prereq: MCS/PTH 529 or equivalent.

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 a 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 effects 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

Kraft, Charles H. *Anthropology for Christian Witness*. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books, 1996.

Angeloni, Elvio ed. *Anthropology (Annual editions 01/02) 26th edition*. McGraw-Hill/Pushkin, 2003.

Recommended

Hiebert, Paul. *Anthropological Reflections on Missiological Issues* ed. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1994.

Hiebert, Paul. *Anthropological Insights For Missionaries*. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1985.

BASIC OUTLINE

1. Introduction to cultural anthropology
2. Anthropological research: Human Relations Area Files
3. Fieldwork and ethnographic approaches
4. Material culture: description and explanation
5. Cultural ecology: types of adaption and levels of subsistence
6. Symbolism and communication
7. Statuses, roles, and relationships
8. Life cycles and rites of passage
9. Social groups and institutions
10. Kinship systems and family groups
11. Associations
12. Geographic groups: crowds, communities, tribes and nations
13. Economic organization
14. legal systems
15. Political organizations
16. World views
17. Religious beliefs and practices
18. Applying anthropology to missions

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.

There will be a reduction of one letter grade for papers turned in after the due date.

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.

Collateral reading (500 pages minimum) with reports submitted following Professor's style guide.

Completion of a mid-term and final exam

Active participation in class discussions and interactions

Attendance is required as per the seminary catalog.

GRADING PROCEDURE

Required reading of both the textbook and collateral reading: 25%

Research paper: 35%

Two exams 40%

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.

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.

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.

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.

Wallace, Anthony F. C. *Religion: An Anthropological View*. New York: Random House, 1966.

SPECIFIC DATA

Prepared by Dr. Warren Newberry, December, 2002