

ASSEMBLIES OF GOD THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

MCS 544 Dynamics of Cross-Cultural Adjustment

Billie Davis

Summer, 2003

COURSE SYLLABUS

COURSE DESCRIPTION

An interdisciplinary study of the challenges associated with living and functioning effectively as Christian workers in cross-cultural settings. Special attention is given to human temperament and interpersonal relationships.

OBJECTIVES

The comprehensive objective of this course is to help the student understand psychological principles that relate to adjustments in cross-cultural situations, and be able to apply the knowledge personally, and/or in the context of missionary administration and education. Upon completion of the course the student should be able to:

1. Identify major psychological concepts related to interpersonal relationships. Explain what is meant by applied psychology, and make specific applications to cross-cultural ministry.
2. Describe aspects of the missionary experience that require special adjustment.
3. Evaluate individual psychological and spiritual strengths and weaknesses that can enhance or hinder ministry in a cross-cultural context.
4. Demonstrate spiritual attitudes, appreciations, insights, and skills that facilitate interpersonal and cross-cultural relations and communication.
5. Understand attitudes and skills required to enhance relationships among persons and groups, and resolve individual and group anxieties and conflicts.

TEXTBOOKS

Required:

Jones, Marge, with E. Grant Jones. *Psychology of Missionary Adjustment*. Springfield, MO: Logion. Gospel Publishing House, 1995.

Quinn, Virginia N. *Applying Psychology*. New York: McGraw-Hill, 3rd edition, 1996.

Suggested:

Davis, Billie. *The Dynamic Classroom* [group dynamics for Christian workers], Springfield, MO.: Gospel Publishing House, 1987.

_____. *Renewing Hope: Helps for Helping Others*, Springfield, MO.: Gospel Publishing House, 1995.

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BASIC OUTLINE

- I. Review of relevant psychological principles.
- II. Role expectations and preliminary adjustments in cross-cultural situations.
- III. Factors that affect relationships.

- IV. Personality development.
- V. Relationships, interpersonal and professional.
- VI. Families in cross-cultural situations.
- VII. Intercultural appreciations and communication.

METHODOLOGY

In addition to lectures, emphasis will be on discussion and interaction as a “learning community.”

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. Maintain consistent and punctual attendance.
2. Read assignments previous to class session and be prepared to participate in discussion.
3. Do a research project, to be written and reported to the class. Choose a real-life situation that you may face in ministry and address it in the context of this course material. Establish your conclusions on the basis of research. This is an exercise in applying research, with the objective of enhancing personal ministry and being able to teach others. Length of the paper should be at least ten pages, not including references.
4. Final examination.

GRADING

Class participation	30%
Research report	40%
Final exam	30%

The nature of this course makes it propitious for all work to be done within the scheduled time for the course. Extra time may be arranged for submission of final draft of report.

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SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

Allbritton, Bert, *Victory Over Depression*, Pittsburgh: Whitaker House, 1981.

Augsburger, David W. *Pastoral Counseling Across Cultures*, Philadelphia: The Westminster Press, 1986.

Belgum, David R. *Guilt: Where Religion and Psychology Meet*, Minneapolis, MN: Augsburg Publishing House, 1970.

Birkey, Verna. *You Are Very Special: A Biblical Guide to Self-Worth*, Old Tappan, NJ: Revell, 1977.

Brewster, Tomas and Elizabeth. *Bonding and the Missionary Task*, Pasadena: Lingua House

Press, 1982.

_____. *Community Is My Language Classroom*, Pasadena: Lingua House Press, 1982.

Brislin, Richard W. And Paul Pederson. *Cross-cultural Orientation Programs*, New York: Gardner Press, Inc., 1976.

Buffam, C. John. *The Life and Times of an MK*, Pasadena: William Carey Library, 1985.

Carroll, Raymonde. *Cultural Misunderstandings: The French-American Experience*, Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 1990.

Cloud, Henry and John Townsend. *Boundaries: When to Say Yes-When to Say No-To Take Control of Your Life*, Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishing House, 1992.

Coleman, Robert E. *The Great Commission Lifestyle: Conforming Your Life to Kingdom Priorities*, Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1992.

Collins, Gary R. *The Rebuilding of Psychology: An Integration of Psychology and Christianity*, Wheaton, IL: Tyndale House Publishers, Inc. 1977.

_____. *The Biblical Basis of Christian Counseling for People Helpers*, Colorado Springs: Navpress, 1993.

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Cosgrove, Mark R. And James D. Mallory, *Mental Health: A Christian Approach*, Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishing House, 1997.

Crabb, Lawrence J. *Effective Biblical Counseling: A Model for Helping Caring Christians Become Capable Counselors*, Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishing House, 1997.

_____. *Inside Out*, Colorado Springs: Navpress, 1998.

Dillard, John M. *Multicultural Counseling*, Chicago: Nelson-Hall, 1983.

Dobbins, Richard D., *Your Spiritual and Emotional Power*, Old Tappan: Fleming H. Revell Company, 1984.

Echerd, Pam and Alice Arathoon (Eds.), *Planning for MK Nurture*. Pasadena: William Carey Library, 1989.

_____. *Understanding and Nurturing the Missionary Family*, 1989.

Foyle, Marjory F., *Honorably Wounded: Stress Among Christian Workers*, London: MARC, BMMF Interserve, 1987.

Hall, Edward T. And Mildred Reed Hall, *Understanding Cultural Differences*, Yarmouth: Intercultural Press, 1990.

Hesselgrave, David J. *Counseling Cross-culturally*, Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1984.

Hofman, Samuel. *Mission Work in Today's World: Insights and Outlook*, Pasadena: William Cary Library, 1992.

Huges, Kent and Barbara. *Common Sense Parenting: The Essentials of Building a Christian Family*, Wheaton, IL: Tyndale House Publishers, Inc., 1995.

Janssen, Gretchen. *Women Overseas: A Christian Perspective on Cross-cultural Adaptation*, Yarmouth: Intercultural Press, 1989.

Johnson, David. *Reaching Out--Interpersonal Effectiveness and Self-actualization*, Englewood Cliffs, NJ: Prentice Hall, 1990

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Jordan, Peter. *Re-entry: Making the Transition from Missions to Life at Home*, Seattle: YWAM Publishing, 1992.

Joy, Donald M. *Bonding: Relationships in the Image of God*, Dallas: Word Publishing, 1985.

Kenny, Betty Jo. *The Missionary Family*, Pasadena: William Carey Library, 1983.

Lingenfelter, Sherwood G. And Maravin K. Mayers. *Ministering Cross-culturally: An Incarnational Model for Personal Relationships*, Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1986.

_____. *Transforming Culture: A Challenge for Christian Missions*, 1992.

Muck, Terry C. *Those Other Religions in Your Neighborhood*, Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1992.

O'Donnell, Kelly S and Michele L. (Eds.), *Helping Missionaries Grow: Readings in Mental Health and Missions*, Pasadena: William Carey Library, 1988.

Palmer, Donald C. *Managing Conflict Creatively: A Guide for Missionaries and Christian Workers*, Pasadena: William Carey Library, 1991.

Perkins, Spencer and Chris Rice, *More Than Equals: Racial Healing for the Sake of the Gospel*, Downers Grove, IL: Intervarsity Press, 1993.

Petersen, William, Michael Novak, and Philip Gleason, *Concepts of Ethnicity*, Cambridge, MS: Belknap, Harvard University Press, 1982.

Smith, Donald K. *Creating Understanding*, Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishing House, 1992.

Sowell, Thomas. *Race and Culture*, New York: Basic Books, Harper Collins Publishers, 1994.

Stigler, James W, Richard A Shweder, and Gilbert Herdt, *Cultural Psychology*, New York: Cambridge University Press, 1990.

Tournier, Paul. *Guilt and Grace*, New York: Harper and Row, 1962.

Ward, Ted. *Living Overseas*, New York: Free Press, 1984.

Weeks, Dudley. *The Eight Essential Steps to Conflict Resolution*, New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons, 1992.

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READING PLAN

Objective of the reading plan is to integrate materials from the two textbooks:

Quin, Virginia N. *Applying Psychology*, New York: McGraw Hill Publishing Co., 1996.

Jones, Marge, with E. Grant Jones. *Psychology of Missionary Adjustment*, Springfield, MO: Logion, Gospel Publishing House, 1995.

The stated purpose of Quin is to present basic topics in psychology and “describe their application across a broad range of everyday experiences, including--but not limited to--work, education, consumer concerns, community and civic programs, social and environmental interests, sports, mental health, human relations, forensics, and a variety of vocational interests.”

The stated purpose of Jones is “to look at the total psychological problem of missionary adjustment, from the moment of feeling a call . . .to the ultimate time of retirement.”

When the two works are brought together, Jones provides a specific area of concern (missionary adjustment) to which Quin can be applied. The idea of the reading plan is to synchronize the two bodies of material, and thus practice application of psychological research and principles to various aspects of cross-cultural adjustment. The student will need to do some personal orientation, browsing through the materials and making individualized applications.

Topics to be considered	Quin	Jones
Methods of Psychology	Chapter 1	Introduction
Motivation	7	Chapter 1
Understanding Emotions	8	2 and 5
Learning and Changing Behavior	3	3
Identifying Problem Behavior	10	7 and 8
Thinking and Problem Solving	5	9
Adjusting	9	4 and 6
Communicating	13	9
Using Attitude Theories	14	4
Perceiving	2	
Working With Groups	15	
Developing	6	10 and 11

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STUDY GUIDE FOR FINAL EXAM

Review OBJECTIVES in the course syllabus.

Review significant concepts in textbooks as follows:

Quin, *Applying Psychology*

Chapter 1 Five major views of psychology.

- 2 Definition of *perception*. Factors affecting interpretation.
- 3 Definition of *learning*. Difference between classical and operant conditioning.
- 5 Functions of the brain. Kinds of thinking.
- 6 Parenthood. Basic understanding of developmental stages.
- 7 Definition of *motivation*. How needs affect motivation. Common motivators.
- 8 Basic types of emotion. Handling stress.
- 9 Definitions: *adjustment*; *self-concept*; *defense mechanisms*.
- 10 Definition of *abnormal*. Anxiety disorders. Mood disorders. Personality disorders.
- 13 Listening. Denotations and connotations. Body language. Patterns of communication.
- 14 Definitions: *attitude*; *prejudice*; *discrimination*. Influencing and changing attitudes.
- 15 Definition of *group*. The nature of groups. Leadership.

Jones, *Psychology of Missionary Adjustment*

Chapter 1 What is meant by the use of the term *pedestal*?

- 2 Major sources of stress for first-term missionaries.
- 3 Factors that affect language learning.
- 4 What is meant by *bonding*? What are the alternative responses?
- 5 Name ways of avoiding the *letdown*.
- 6 Understand cultural differences in the concept of *privacy*.
- 7 What are some positive and negative modes of adjustment to feeling out of place?
- 8 What are some conditions that cause guilt feelings?
- 9 Describe some sources of conflict for missionaries.
- 10 and 11 Describe attitudes that lead to ultimate victory and satisfaction.