

ASSEMBLIES OF GOD THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
Continuing Education Course
Valley Forge Christian College
Phoenixville, PA
September 15-19, 2003

MCSB/PTHB 529 FOUNDATIONS OF CROSS-CULTURAL MINISTRY
(3 Credits)

Barbara Cavaness, Ph.D.

Fall 2003

COURSE SYLLABUS

COURSE DESCRIPTION

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

COURSE OBJECTIVES

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

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS

Dyrness, William A. *Invitation to Cross-Cultural Theology*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1992. (168)

Lingenfelter, Sherwood. *Agents of Transformation: A Guide for Effective Cross-Cultural Ministry*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker, 1996. (275)

Lingenfelter, Sherwood. *Transforming Culture: A Challenge for Christian Mission*. 2nd ed. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker, 1998. (181)

Lingenfelter, Sherwood and Marvin Mayers. *Ministering Cross-Culturally: An Incarnational Model for Personal Relationships*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker, 1986. (124)

RECOMMENDED TEXTBOOKS

Elmer, Duane. *Cross-Cultural Conflict: Building Relationships for Effective Ministry*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity, 1993.

Dyrness, William A. Learning About Theology from the Third World. Grand Rapids, MI: Academie, 1990.

Hiebert, Paul and Eloise H. Meneses. *Incarnational Ministry: Planting Churches in Band, Tribal, Peasant, and Urban Societies*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker, 1995.

BASIC OUTLINE

- 15 Sep Introduction: The Biblical Foundation
- Personal Cultural Awareness
 **Personal Cross-cultural Inventory paper due.
- Values and Worldview
- 16 Sep Religion as a Universal Reality
 **Personal Grid/group Assessment paper due.
- Case Study Methodology
- Understanding Culture Using Anthropological Lenses
- 17 Sep Transforming Culture
 **Lingenfelter: Agents of Transformation interaction due.
- Dynamics of Communicating Across Cultures
- 18 Sep Contextualization Foundations
 **Dyrness: Invitation to Cross-cultural Theology interaction due.
- 19 Sep Strategies for Cross-Cultural Ministry and Two-Thirds World Missions
- Final Exam

METHODOLOGY

Lectures, small group discussion, video presentation(s), book interactions, case study analysis and quizzes, research/case study paper, and final exam.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. Reading of the required textbooks and assigned readings, with reading interactions—one to two pages—on the Dyrness and Lingenfelter: Agents texts. Assigned collateral readings will be placed on reserve in the library for reading or photocopying. Graduate study assumes readings are complete and the student is conversant in the content. Students will be asked to affirm the completion of readings at exam time.
2. Successful completion of case study quizzes and a final exam.
3. Papers to be written (typed, double-spaced, including your name and the title of the paper):
 - a. Pre-session I: Students are to read the Lingenfelter/Mayers text and complete the questionnaire on pages 29-33, the analysis on page 34, and the personal profile on page 35. Based on the results of the profile, write a 2-3-page personal cross-cultural inventory. The paper should show what you learned about yourself, possible explanations or illustrations of your profile, how you have changed from a previous time in your life, the validity of your results, etc. Please address all six areas of the profile, citing your coordinates. **DUE DATE: Monday, September 15, 2003.**
 - b. Pre-session II: Students are to read the Lingenfelter Transforming Culture text and complete the questionnaire on pages 38-48 and the personal grid/group assessment on pages 49-50. Based on the results of the assessment, write a 2-3-page description of the social games which are typical of your workplace, household, and church. The paper should show what you learned about your group interactions, the implications the games for your ministry, and your reflection on the usefulness of this tool, etc.
DUE DATE: Tuesday, September 16, 2003.
 - c. & d. The interactions with Lingenfelter/Agents and Dyrness/Invitation texts can also be done pre-session or else handed in on Wed and Thurs as the student prefers. The 2-3-page interaction should affirm that the student completed the reading of the book, cite some of its strengths and weaknesses, evaluate its significance, reflect on how the book applies to the student's present or future ministry, etc. Please do not retell the content of the book. **DUE DATE: Thursday, September 18, 2003.**
 - e. Research/Case study paper (case study to be approved by instructor by Sept 19): **Paper to be sent to the instructor postmarked no later than Dec 19** (10-15 pages). Please note that the grade will be reduced one letter grade per week for late

work. Further details and instructions for the paper will be explained in class. They are to be typed in a 12-point font, double spaced, according to Turabian's 6th edition guidelines. Please include a title page, table of contents page, and references cited page. Electronic copies may be sent by email to bcavaness@agts.edu

DUE DATE: December 19, 2003.

4. Faithful attendance to class (as per the Student Handbook) and participation in discussions/groups.

GRADING PROCEDURE

Attendance and class participation	10%
Two textbook interactions	20%
Cross-cultural inventory paper	10%
Grid/group assessment paper	10%
Quizzes	10%
Research/case study paper	20%
Final exam	20%

SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

Anthropology

Benedict, R. Patterns of Culture. Boston: Houghton, 1934.

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.

Grunlan, Stephen A. and Marvin K. Mayers. Cultural Anthropology: A Christian Perspective, 2nd ed. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1988.

Harris, M. The Rise of Anthropological Theory. New York: Ty Crowell, 1968.

Hiebert, Paul. Cultural Anthropology. 2d ed. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1983.

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Hiebert, Paul, Daniel Shaw, and Tite Tienou, eds. Understanding Folk Religion: A Christian Response to Popular Beliefs and Practices. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1999.

Keessing, R. M., and F. M. Kessing. 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.

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, 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.

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Hall, Edward T. The Silent Language. Garden City, NY: Doubleday, 1959.

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Hesselgrave, David. Communicating Christ Cross-Culturally: An Introduction to Missionary Communication. second. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1991.

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_____. "The Incarnation, Cross-Cultural Communication, and Communication Theory." EMQ 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." EMQ 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 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, 1977.

_____. "Contextualization: A New Dimension for Cross-Cultural Hermeneutic." EMQ 14, no. 1 (January 1978): 39-46.

Connor, John H. "When Culture Leaves Contextualized Christianity Behind." Missiology 19, no. 1 (January 1991): 21-29.

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_____. New Horizons In World Mission: Evangelicals and the Christian Mission in the 1980s. Papers and Responses Prepared for the Consultation on Theology and Mission. Trinity Evangelical Divinity School, School of World Mission and Evangelism. March 12-22, 1979. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1979.

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Ingleby, Jonathan. "Trickling Down or Shaking the Foundations: Is Contextualization Neutral?" Missiology 25, no. 2 (April 1997): 183-87.

Kinsler, F. Ross. "Mission and Context: The Current Debate About Contextualization." EMQ 14, no. 1 (January 1978): 23-29.

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Whiteman, Darrell L. "Contextualizing the Gospel." Missiology 25, no. 1 (January 1997): 3-4.

(Bibliography from Dr. Warren Newberry—Visiting Professor of Missions)

WEBSITES

www.strategicnetwork.org—multiple e-zines on cross-cultural issues

www.missiology.org—connected to Dr. Gailyn Van Rhee 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

SPECIFIC DATA

Prepared by Barbara L. Cavaness, June, 2003.