

ML 537: LEADERS AND CHURCH IN CULTURE (4 units)

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DESCRIPTION:

The objective of this course is to enable students to describe and understand the social context of any church, and to grasp how it imposes powerful limitations on leaders and leadership. The course examines four prototype social games that define the cultural parameters of the organization and life of the church. Focusing on the social context of community life and leadership, the lectures and class discussions draw extensively from texts in the Old Testament that illuminate the changing social organization of Israel, and the leadership of Moses in bringing them through these substantive changes.

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

The student should achieve the following learning outcomes upon completion of the course:

- Master the social games theory applied to leadership & the church's cultural expressions.
- Develop skill in using questionnaires and interviews to gather data.
- Develop skill in data analysis using the theory of social games.
- Analyze the social context of a local church and draw applications for leadership.
- Critically evaluate the discontinuities between the social and cultural expectations for leadership and the metaphors for ministry leadership developed in scripture.
- Create a plan for leadership that incorporates a dynamic tension between the social game of the church and biblical metaphors of ministry.

COURSE FORMAT:

Students should read Lingenfelter (*Transforming Culture*) and Snyder (*Mapping*), and complete the three questionnaires in chapter two of *Transforming Culture* before arriving in Pasadena for the course. Classes are designed to facilitate student learning through additional reading, discussion, clarifying lectures and research. Students should expect to read assignments and do ethnographic research in their ministry context after returning home. This is a one-week intensive that forms part of the Global Leadership Seminar 1, a required two-week intensive course for the MA in Global Leadership – Cohort.

REQUIRED READING:

- Snyder, Howard A. *Decoding the Church: Mapping the DNA of Christ's Body*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Book House, 2002.
- Lingenfelter, Sherwood G. *Transforming Culture*. Second edition. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 1998.
- Collected Case Studies of Mission and Church Organizations (unpublished research reports).

ASSIGNMENTS:

Classes include student research with peers as basis for five daily reports, and also a writing reflection exercise on the readings and the class discussions each day. After the intensive class sessions are completed, students work in their home ministry context to conduct research, observing and interviewing leaders and followers in a local church or mission organization. From this data students write a major field research paper as the final project for the course.

PREREQUISITES: This course is only available to those who are accepted into Cohort 1 of the MA in Global Leadership.

RELATIONSHIP TO CURRICULUM: A required course for the Cohort portion of the MA in Global Leadership. *NO AUDITORS*.

FINAL EXAMINATION: None.

Last updated January 2005.