

ME500: COMMUNICATING AND SERVING CROSS-CULTURALLY (4 units)

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DESCRIPTION:

God's heart is for developing relationship with people whom He created, and for communicating His message to them. In sending Jesus, He gave us a model for communicating with people in their own cultural context. People in ministry, cannot afford the luxury of having a monocultural outlook. Skills in intercultural relationships and in culture learning are essential, whether you are a pastor ministering in a multicultural context or needing to give your congregation a missionary vision, a Christian worker in the inner city, a cross-cultural missionary, or a lay person planning a short-term ministry. This is a practical hands-on culture-learning course to help you develop cultural self-awareness, a positive approach toward other cultures, and intercultural interaction and communication skills. It is therefore essential that each student must certify that they are able to access a community of people from a culture different from your own within *their* cultural setting, and find one or more people of that culture to interview for the field experiences.

LEARNING OUTCOMES: Upon the successful completion of the course, students will have:

- Developed a holistic view of serving cross-culturally
- Developed an initial understanding of doing mission in context
- Learned the basics of communicating the Gospel cross-culturally
- Cultivated cross-cultural sensitivities
- Developed an understanding of the role of culture in the communication of the Gospel
- Begun to apply skills of culture learning in intercultural communication

COURSE FORMAT:

The class will be conducted on the Internet using a 10-week lesson program aligned with Fuller's academic calendar. Each week, students and the instructor will interact with the material and each other through journaling, threaded discussions, and web-based research. Lectures for each lesson will be available online. Class activities include planning and debriefing fieldwork for experiential culture learning activities.

REQUIRED READING:

- Brewster, E Thomas & Elizabeth S. *Bonding and the Missionary Task*. Lingua House, 1982
- Kraft, Charles. *Communicating Jesus' Way*. William Carey, 1999.
- Law, Eric H.F. *The Wolf Shall Dwell with the Lamb*. St. Louis, Chalice Press, 1993.
- Smith, Donald K. *Creating Understanding*. Zondervan, 1992.
- Sogaard, Viggo. *Media in Church and Mission*. Gabriel Resources, 1993.
- Read biographies of at least 2 persons in cross-cultural ministry (Book list supplied to those registered for the class)

RECOMMENDED READING:

- Hunter, David and MaryAnn B. Foley. *Doing Anthropology*. Harper & Row, 1976.
- Lingenfelter, Sherwood. *Transforming Culture: A Challenge for Christian Mission*. Baker Books, 1998.
- Mains, David. *8 Survival Skills for Changing Times* (chapter 4). Wheaton, 1992.
- Mains, David and Melissa Mains Timberlake. *Getting Beyond "How are You?" – Learning to Connect in a Disconnected World*. Wheaton: Victor Books, 1992.
- Spradley, James P. *The Ethnographic Interview*. Holt, Rinehart & Winston, 1979.
- Stafford-Yilmaz, Lynn. *A to Zany Community Affairs*. U of Michigan Press, 1998.
- Volf, Miroslav. *Exclusion and Embrace*. Abingdon Press, 1996.
- Zimmerman, W. *How to Tape Instant Oral Biographies*. New York: Guarionex Press, 1999.
- Kivel, Paul. *Uprooting Racism: How White People Can Work for Racial Justice*. New Society Publishers, 2002.

ASSIGNMENTS:

1. Weekly threaded discussions (25%)
2. Reading interactions, reports and journaling, (10%)
3. Plan and carry out regular fieldwork in community, reflect and report on what has been learned, share the experience and reflections with the class (25%).
4. A 3,000-word paper describing the participant's strategy for cross-cultural communication, learning, and ministry (40%).
5. Th.M.: Greater analytical depth in writing assignments. In addition, choose one of these:
 - Carry out one additional complete field experience, with written report
 - Read 150 additional pages from the recommended readings with a written reading interaction.
 - Write an additional 1250 words for the strategy paper

PREREQUISITES:

No academic prerequisites, however the student must certify that they are able to access a community of people from a culture different from your own within their cultural setting, and find one or more people to interview for the field experiences. NO AUDITORS.

RELATIONSHIP TO CURRICULUM: Required for MA-CCS and MA-ICM programs; Ministry Focus Elective for MA in Global Leadership.

FINAL EXAMINATION: None.

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