

Western Seminary
DIS 501N - Communicating Christ in Culture

Start Date: April 5, 2010
Intensive Seminar Dates: April 28-30, 2010
End Date: July 9, 2010

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

Ministry is communication. The content must be known and experienced so the proclamation will have substance and credibility. After learning what we are to communicate, we must also learn how to communicate. This course imparts fundamental concepts that will equip the student to communicate across personal and cultural barriers. 2 hours.

COURSE GOALS

By the end of the course, you will be able to integrate basic principles of human communication with skills of cultural analysis, demonstrated by your ability to:

- Identify and use communication principles to communicate the Gospel clearly, accurately and convincingly to diverse audiences.
- Identify major cultural characteristics of one's own and other cultures by using cultural lenses.
- Be able to define culture (including worldview), identifying the cultural elements of specific audiences.
- Develop a relationship with someone from another culture.

COURSE FORMAT

This course emphasizes collaborative learning. Students will participate in class and small group discussions. The course will use a variety of resources to provide the necessary information to enhance adult learning. The course is designed to be interactive. Students will participate in ways that are best for them, while engaging in group learning.

TEXTBOOKS

Kelley, Colleen, and Judith Meyers. *The Cross-Cultural Adaptability Inventory* (1992)
Lane, Patty. *A Beginner's Guide to Crossing Cultures* (2002)
Vanhooser, Kevin J., Charles A. Anderson and Michael J. Sleasman, eds. *Everyday Theology*. (2007)

COLLATERAL READING

Althen, Gary. *American Ways* (2003)

Detweiler, Craig and Barry Taylor. *A Matrix of Meanings : Finding God in Pop Culture* (2003)

De Zengotita, Thomas. *Mediated : How the Media Shapes Your World and the Way You Live in It* (2005)

Elmer, Duane. *Cross-Cultural Connections* (2002)

Hall, Edward T. *The Silent Language* (1973)

Hall, Edward T. *Beyond Culture* (1981)

Hesselgrave, David. *Communicating Christ Cross-Culturally* (1991)

Hiebert, Paul. *Transforming Worldviews* (2008)

Hofstede, Geert. *Culture's Consequences* (2001)

House, Robert J., Paul J. Hanges, Mansour Javidan, Peter W. Dorfman and Virginia Gupta. *Culture, Leadership and Organizations : The GLOBE Study of 62 Societies* (2004)

Huntington, Samuel P. *The Clash of Civilizations and the Remaking of World Order* (1996)

Jandt, Fred E. *Intercultural Communication : An Introduction* (1999)

Livermore, David. *Cultural Intelligence* (2009)

Mayers, Marvin K. *Christianity Confronts Culture* (1974)

Pedersen, Paul. *A Handbook for Developing Multicultural Awareness* (1994)

Plueddemann, James E. *Leading across Cultures : Effective Ministry and Mission in the Global Church* (2009)

Postman, Neil. *Amusing Ourselves to Death : Public Discourse in the Age of Show Business* (1986)

Smith, Donald K. *Creating Understanding* (1992)

Stewart, Edward C. *American Cultural Patterns : A Cross-Cultural Perspective* (1991)

Stewart, John Robert. *Bridges Not Walls : A Book about Interpersonal Communication* (1995)

Ting-Toomey, Stella. *Communicating Across Cultures* (1999)

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. Complete the reading of the two textbooks and complete *The Cross-Cultural Adaptability Inventory* prior to the beginning of the Intensive Seminar. **(Due April 28)**
2. Participants will lead the class in intercessory prayer for 10-15 minutes, introducing the population focus of the semester project. **(Due April 28)**
3. Participants will read a minimum of 450 pages from at least 3 books on the collateral reading list on the topic of relating and communicating in intercultural contexts. Write a 2 page paper on each book read, summarizing the content and indicating the principles you have learned. **(Due May 28)**
4. Participants will cultivate a relationship with someone from another ethnic or cultural background in their community that their church is not ministering to. This person should come from a sizeable population group in the community. (Minimum time requirement: 10 hours.) Prior to the beginning of class **(April 28)** spend at least one hour with the person in order to give an oral report in class. Share at least one meal as a part of developing this relationship. Write a 4 page paper describing what you learned as a result of this relationship. Include the following:
 - a. An introduction of the person, the circumstances of the relationship and how much time you spent with the person.
 - b. A description of the person's home culture and perceived differences with North Americans'.
 - c. A simple analysis of their core beliefs, using the "culture onion" model. **(Due June 11)**
5. Using the 10 essays in *Everyday Theology* as guides, study a text/trend in American society. Write a 5 page cultural exegesis of what it means and how your church could engage the issue. **(Due June 25)**
6. Semester project: participants will write a minimum 10 page paper, focused on the community ethnic/minority/immigrant/refugee population from which the person in requirement #4 comes. Research may include the demographics of this group in the area, the socio/political/religious background of the people, local/state/federal government agencies that offer help, parachurch and/or local ministries serving them, etc. The last two pages of the paper should be a suggested plan of how their local church might reach out to this group. **(Due July 9)**

GRADING

Class Participation	20%
Textbooks	15%
Collateral Reading	15%
Developing an Intercultural Relationship	15%
Cultural Exegesis paper	10%
Semester project	25%

WORK LOAD CALCULATION

This is for your guidance only to understand the rationale for the approximate amount of time calculated for the assignments. It is in no way designed to limit your involvement and interaction with the material.

Classroom hours	20
Textbook reading	16
Cross-Cultural Adaptability Inventory	1
Collateral reading	10
Reading reports	6
Intercultural relationship	12
Cultural exegesis paper	5
Semester project	20

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