

Missions Strategies Research Practicum: MISS5371
Fall Semester 2015
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Seminary Mission

The mission of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary is to equip leaders to fulfill the Great Commission (Matthew 28:16-20) and the Great Commandments (Matthew 22:34-40) through the local church and its ministries.

Course Purpose

The purpose of this course is to help equip those studying at NOBTS to fulfill the Great Commission (Matthew 28:16-20) through the local church and its ministries.

Core Value Focus

Our seminary has five core values: doctrinal integrity, spiritual vitality, mission focus, characteristic excellence, and servant leadership. This course relates in some way to all five core values but especially Mission Focus, which is the emphasized core value of 2015-2016 at NOBTS: "We are not here merely to get an education or to give one. We are here to change the world by fulfilling the Great Commission and the Great Commandments through the local church and its ministries."

Curriculum Competencies Addressed

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary has seven basic competencies guiding the NOBTS curriculum. This course supports and relates to various competencies such as biblical exposition in the section using the Word of God in a missions strategy. The disciple making competency which stated is "to stimulate church health through mobilizing the church for missions, evangelism, discipleship, and church growth" is especially addressed in the curriculum of this course.

Course Description

Students participating in this practicum will use the Internet and other resources to conduct an ethnographic study of a specific people group and develop a people group profile as well as tentative evangelistic and church planting strategy. Attention will be given to identifying barriers and bridges to the gospel.

Student Learning Outcomes

1. The student will gain an understanding of how to conduct an ethnographic study of a specific people group, population segment, or city.
2. The student will demonstrate the skills needed to develop a people group profile.
3. The student will show evidence of competence in developing an evangelistic and church planting strategy for a specific people group, population segment, or city.

Course Teaching Methodology

Since this course is a research practicum, the student will be accountable for weekly research as a primary teaching tool. Other teaching methods may include small and large group discussion, multi-media presentations, utilization of missions related websites, and other communication mediums.

Course Textbook

Shane Bennett and Kim Felder with Steve Hawthorne *Exploring the Land: Discovering Ways For Unreached People To Follow Christ*. Littleton, CO: Caleb Project, 2003, 1995.
Available from Pioneers <http://www.cartpioneers.org/exploring-the-land/>

Course Requirements

1. **Students are required to attend all class sessions.** (See Class Schedule for meeting times.)
If a student misses a class for any reason, the student must make special arrangements with the professor to make up class time missed and to turn in assignments.
2. **Complete all required assignments.**
3. **Blackboard.** You will be enrolled on Blackboard for the course by the NOBTS ITC. If you have any problems with access to Blackboard after the fall semester begins, contact Blackboard at BlackboardHelpDesk@nobts.edu or (504) 282.4455 x8180.
4. **Select a people group, population segment, city, or portion of a city for which to conduct an ethnographic study or worldview study and develop a profile.** Post on Blackboard Discussion Board with the heading “Topic for Research” by Thursday, September 3. (The professor must approve the people group, population segment, or city which will be researched and studied.)
5. **Complete weekly reports** indicating the amount and nature of weekly research.
Each week the student should spend a minimum of three hours on the people group research. Research sources should be documented in weekly reports. A total of thirteen weekly reports should be submitted and a minimum of twenty-six hours of research and writing reported for the course. (See Course Documents on Blackboard for Weekly Report Form). Research may include a variety of sources such as books about the focus or the study of developing strategy, reference works, internet research, interviews, videos, CDs, and DVDs.
6. **Read and write a book review** of: Shane Bennett and Kim Felder with Steve Hawthorne *Exploring the Land: Discovering Ways For Unreached People To Follow Christ*. Littleton, CO: Caleb Project, 2003, 1995. Each student will complete and turn in a 6-8 full page double-spaced typed critique of the book which should include all of the following. (No biography of authors needed in book review)
 - (1) Briefly summarize the contents of the book. Discuss the major topics or themes of the book. Summaries may be done for each chapter but covering the main themes is more important.
 - (2) Evaluate the material from a biblical, theological, and missiological perspective. (Use separate paragraphs for each category)
 - A) Biblical- Evaluate the use of Scripture in the book. Does the book have a good biblical foundation in the way it uses verses or indirectly in references to the Bible. For example: Is the author using the Bible in a proper way or simply trying to justify a position with biblical references or materials?

- B) Theological -Evaluate the theological soundness of the author’s work. For example: What is the basis for their theological statements? Is their theology based on a solid scriptural foundation?
- C) Missiological - Evaluate the soundness of the missions perspective of the book. For example: Does the author use solid and practical missions methods or does it appear to be missions theory?

(3) Discuss two or more concepts, principles, or ways to apply concepts from the book that would be useful to someone involved in missionary service. Include how these points could impact your own life and ministry.

Use Headings for each section in the body of the paper: **Summary, Evaluation, Discussion.** Each section should be approximately two full pages of text.

Bring hard copy to class on Sept. 17 or Submit an electronic copy on the Blackboard Assignments folder before class begins on Sept. 17.

7. **Research Paper**

- A. Research and prepare a 30-35 double-spaced page paper in the body of the paper (Introduction – Conclusion) which includes a thorough profile of the people group, population segment, or city and a strategy to reach these people.
- B. The paper should utilize a minimum of 25 different sources cited in the body of the paper.
- C. Include a Separate Works Cited bibliography which includes works used and cited in the writing of the paper.
- D. Use the “Constructing A Worldview” categories from Appendix D of *To The Edge*, an IMB document, as a guide for areas to explore such as family, social structure, religious structure, economic structure, and national political structure. (Handouts given in class)
- E. Use separate headings for each area of the profile such as **Family, Social Structure, Religious Background, Economic Structure, Political Structure**
- F. The paper should include a strategy to reach the people group, population segment, or city which should parallel the five pillars of a comprehensive strategy found in *Something New Under the Sun*, published by the IMB. These are: Prayer, God’s Word, Evangelism, Church Planting, and Mobilization. (Document found on Blackboard documents listed as “Five Pillars of a Comprehensive Strategy- IMB). Be sure to include sources documented in footnotes in developing the strategy portion of the paper.
- G. Use separate headings for each pillar of the strategy such as: **Prayer, God’s Word, Evangelism, Church Planting, Mobilization**
- H. A general guide would be to have appropriately two-thirds of the paper deal with the profile and about one-third deal with the strategy to reach them with the gospel.
- I. The completed research should be available for use by mission groups working with that people group. An extra copy may be turned in for use in the World Missions Resource Center of the John T. Christian Library.

Class Meeting Schedule

Thursday, August 27*	Course Overview and Requirements Tools for People Group Research
Thursday, September 17*	Turn in Book Review of <i>Exploring the Land</i> . Discussion of the book’s contents and application. Update on Research Progress.

Thursday, October 15*	Discussion of Worldviews & Ethnographic Studies. Update on Research Progress
Thursday, December 10*	Individual and Group Discussion about Projects. Class Summary/Evaluation.

*See **Course Assignments and Course Due Dates** for all assignments due each class meeting.

Class Assignments Due

1. Turn in weekly research reports due at each class meeting. (Options: Turn in hard copies at class time or post on Discussion Board by class time.) This should include each week of the semester including weeks between class meetings. The first week for which to report would be August 31 – September 5. Use a separate form for each week. (Make copies of form Found on Blackboard's Course Documents.)
2. Select a people group, population segment, or city to be researched for approval no later than Thursday, September 3. Post on Blackboard Discussion Board for Topic with a paragraph explanation of why you want to focus research on this unreached people group, city, or population segment.
3. Turn in Book Review of *Exploring the Land* on Tuesday, September 17. Submit a hard copy at the class meeting or an electronic copy on the Assignment file.
4. Submit a one-third to one-half page update on the progress of your research. Turn in an Outline of Paper and bring Research Notes to Class to be seen by Professor on October 10.
5. Submit a separate one- third to one-half page update on the progress of research and writing to date. Turn in the normal weekly reports & research update on Assignment File on Blackboard by Thursday, November 12.
6. Turn in People Group Profile and Strategy Paper according to guidelines in Course Requirements by December 10. Submit a hard copy in class and an electronic copy on the Assignment folder of Blackboard.

NOTE: All assignments are due at the beginning of the class period. Assignments turned in late after the beginning of class will receive an automatic ten point deduction. There will be a ten point deduction for each week assignment any assignment is late. No assignment will be accepted more than two weeks late or after December 12.

ALL ASSIGNMENTS MUST BE COMPLETED BY A STUDENT IN ORDER TO PASS THE COURSE.

Course Reminders

1. Food and drink should not be brought into the classroom.
2. Academic conduct including but not limited to plagiarism, cheating, or unacceptable conduct may result in failure of the course and disciplinary action by the seminary as outlined in the Student Handbook.
3. Failure of a computer, printer, or other electronic devices used to compose or print class assignments will not be accepted as a reason for late work.
4. Members of the class are asked to respect and follow the dress code found in the Student Handbook.
5. The font, Times New Roman, Size 12, should be used for papers.

Course Evaluation

Weekly Reports	20%
Book Review	20%
Class Attendance/Participation	10%
People Group Research Paper	50%

Course Due Dates

Thursday, September 3	Submit research topic for approval on Discussion Board
Thursday, September 17	Book Review Due Weekly Research Reports for August 31 – September 12
Thursday, October 15	Submit update on research Turn in tentative outline Bring research notes Weekly Research Reports for September 14 – October 10
Thursday, November 12	Submit update on research on Blackboard Assignments Weekly Research Reports for October 12 – November 7
Thursday, December 10	Submit Research and Strategy Paper Weekly Research Reports for November 9 – December 9

Disruption of Normal Class Schedule

1. You are responsible to check the website of NOBTS for updates related to courses which may not be able to meet in campus due to weather or other circumstances such as a flu outbreak.
 - A. Go to www.nobts.edu for updates.
 - B. You are encouraged to sign up for the emergency text-based updates from the seminary. Check the IQ Web of the seminary for information on signing up for the text updates.
2. Keep a **CURRENT** email address on the Blackboard portion of the course.
3. You are responsible to have course materials such as the textbook and notes to continue course work in the event the campus closes for any reason.
4. If the campus closes or our particular class cannot meet on campus, you are responsible to check your email address listed in Blackboard for course updates and assignments. The course will continue on Blackboard in the event campus meetings are disrupted.
5. Contacting Dr. Pinckard
 - A. Primary Email Address: ppinckard@nobts.edu
 - B. Secondary Email Address if primary account not working: ppinckard@gmail.com

Need technical assistance? Contact the ITC today!

Selfserve@nobts.edu - Email for technical questions/support requests with the Selfserve.nobts.edu site (Access to online registration, financial account, online transcript, etc.)

BlackboardHelpDesk@nobts.edu - Email for technical questions/support requests with the NOBTS Blackboard Learning Management System NOBTS.Blackboard.com.

ITCSupport@nobts.edu - Email for general technical questions/support requests.

[504.816.8180](tel:504.816.8180) - Call for any technical questions/support requests.

www.NOBTS.edu/itc/ - General NOBTS technical help information is provided on this website.

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Internet Resources

- Brigada <http://www.xc.org/brigada/brigada.html>
- Caleb Project <http://www.goshen.net/calebproject>
- Christian Information Network <http://www.christian-info.com/>
- Crosswinds <http://www.crosswinds.net>
- International Mission Board <http://www.imb.org>
- Global Evangelization Movement <http://www.gem-werc.org>
- Global Mapping International <http://www.gmi.org>
- Global Missions Center of NOBTS (See front page of NOBTS website) <http://nobts.edu>
- NOBTS Virtual Library <http://www.nobts.edu/library/virtualmiss.htm>
- North American Mission Board <http://namb.net>
- Profiles of Unreached People Groups <http://www.bethany-wpc.org>
<http://www.heartofgod.com>
<http://www.geocities.com>
<http://www.peoplegroups.org>
<http://www.peopleteams.org>
<http://www.joshuaproject.net>
<http://www.1040window.org>