

ANTHROPOLOGY FOR MISSIONS AND MINISTRY PRACTICUM, MISS6150

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary

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NOBTS MISSION STATEMENT:

The mission of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary is to equip leaders to fulfill the Great Commission and the Great Commandments through the local church and its ministries.

COURSE PURPOSE, CORE VALUE FOCUS, AND CURRICULUM COMPETENCIES:

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary has five core values: Doctrinal Integrity, Spiritual Vitality, Mission Focus, Characteristic Excellence, and Servant Leadership. These values shape both the context and manner in which all curricula are taught, with “mission focus,” “servant leadership,” and “academic excellence” especially highlighted in this course. The seminary is emphasizing the core value of “academic excellence” this year and encourages all at the seminary to focus especially on this emphasis.

NOBTS also has seven basic competencies that guide our Masters degree programs: Biblical Exposition, Christian Theological Heritage, Disciple Making, Interpersonal Skills, Servant Leadership, Spiritual and Character Formation, and Worship Leadership. This course especially addresses the “Disciple Making,” “Interpersonal Skills,” and “Servant Leadership” competencies by means of helping the student learn to interpret the Bible accurately.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This practicum is designed as an optional extension to MISS6249 Anthropology for Missions and Ministry. Participating students apply theory in a field setting under supervision.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:

The objectives of this course include the following:

1. The student will gain an understanding of the methods for doing an ethnographic study.
2. The student will gain an appreciation for the value of ethnographic research as a ministry tool.
3. The student will become skilled at realizing an ethnographic study.

COURSE TEACHING METHODS:

This course will be taught via a combination of pedagogical methods, including but not limited to the following: audio lectures, student assignments, online discussion boards, digital resources, textbook readings and quizzes, and involvement in an ethnographic study. Both inductive and deductive approaches to learning will be utilized.

TEXTBOOK:

Required: *Either: Mary Clark Moschella, Ethnography as a Pastoral Practice: An Introduction, 2008*
Or: Brian Howell, Short-Term Mission: An Ethnography of Christian Travel Narrative & Experience, 2012

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING:

1. Read the textbook and submit a 2 page review (double-spaced) that includes what you found to be most helpful in the book for realizing an ethnographic study. This is due 3 weeks after the end of the workshop. (Saturday, Nov. 12) 30%
2. In conjunction with the study realized in the companion course Anthropology for Missions and Ministry MISS6249, an ethnographic study will be realized following the model noted here and in consultation with the professor. (70%)
 1. Pick a setting for your study, such as a social gathering place or a mission or ministry context
 2. Create an ethnographic study of the setting
 - a. Frame the questions guiding your study
 - b. Identify the population group for your study
 - c. Decide on your data collection method/plan
 - d. Decide on your sample size
 - e. Decide how you will approach those you are studying (humanity factor)
 - f. Decide on your method for analyzing the data
 - g. Determine your audience for the results of your study
 3. Write a report of your study, including the following:
 - a. A description of what you did and observed in the study (setting, people, hours, etc.)
 - b. The results of your study (both an emic and an etic description of the observed culture)
 - c. The implications of your study for working in the observed culture
 - d. Likely misconceptions of the Gospel by the observed culture
 - e. Likely misconceptions of the culture by the audience/your own culture
 - f. Implications for sharing the Gospel with this group
 - g. Suggestions for a culturally relevant approach for ministry with this group

The written report should be 10 to 15 pages in length, double-spaced, with a 1 page appendix that gives a quick overview of the study that would be suitable for using in teaching others how to do ethnographic research.

4. EXTRA CREDIT OPTION: Read the other textbook option and submit a 2-3 page (double-spaced) reflection paper on the book. The paper should include the bibliographic info on the book, a statement of reading stating how much of the book you read, and then reflections on how this book might be helpful for Christian missions and ministry. Value = up to 5 points on the final average.

COURSE OVERVIEW:

MONDAY: Introduction to Ethnographic Research
How to Design an Ethnographic Study for Ministry Purposes
The Ethics of Pastoral Research
Ethnographic Information Gathering and Documentation
Analyzing Ethnographic Information
How to Compose a Written Report of an Ethnographic Study
How to Use an Ethnographic Study in Ministry

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