

# **ANTHROPOLOGY FOR MISSIONS AND MINISTRY, MISS6249**

**New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary**

**October Workshop 2016**

**Professor: Dr. Bill Warren**

Office: Hardin 260, Phone: ext. 8190/3735

E-Mail: [Wwarren@nobts.edu](mailto:Wwarren@nobts.edu)

Ph.D. Assistant: Mrs. Katie Morgan

E-mail: [ktunsworth@gmail.com](mailto:ktunsworth@gmail.com)

## **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 course is designed to equip missionaries, mission volunteers, and those engaged in cross-cultural ministries with a basic understanding of the field of anthropology as it relates to mission service. Areas addressed include social structures, socialization, kinship and descent, marriage, social stratification, artistic expression, illness, and worldviews. Particular attention is given to the principles of ethnographic research as related to missionary strategy and to social change as related to the transforming character of the gospel.

## **STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:**

The objectives of this course include the following:

1. The student will gain an understanding of the cross-cultural challenges of missions.
2. The student will gain insights and tools for sharing the gospel in other cultures in ways that are relevant and effective.
3. The student will become acquainted with several basic concepts in the area of anthropology, including but not limited to ethnography, culture, and worldview.
4. The student will be motivated to share the gospel in culturally relevant ways in both the resident culture and other cultures.

## **COURSE TEACHING METHODS:**

This course will be taught via a combination of pedagogical methods, including but not limited to the following: lectures, student assignments, class discussion, digital resources, textbook readings and student papers. Both inductive and deductive approaches to learning will be utilized.

## **TEXTBOOKS:**

1. Charles Kraft, *Anthropology for Christian Witness*, Orbis, 1996
2. Paul Hiebert, *Transforming Worldviews: An Anthropological Understanding of How People Change*
3. Jenell Paris and Brian Howell, *Introducing Cultural Anthropology: A Christian Perspective*, 2010

## **COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING:**

1. Students are expected to participate in the conversations and take notes on the lectures for all class sessions and lectures. 10%

2. Students are expected to read the textbooks and submit reviews for each one. Written reviews can be submitted either electronically or via a hard copy. The book reviews should each be 2-4 single-spaced pages and include the following: (15% per review = 45% total)

- 1) Bibliographic Entry
- 2) Statement of the Author's Purpose
- 3) Summary of the Contents (the bulk of the review)

4) An Evaluation of the book, including consideration of the most suitable readership, the scope of the book (comprehensive? or lacking in major areas), the viewpoints presented (multiple viewpoints when pertinent, or only one, etc.), and your overall evaluation of the book.

Each summary should be general in nature, covering the broad topics and a selection of specific examples or scenarios. Due dates for the reviews are as follows:

Due the first day of the workshop at the beginning of class: Charles Kraft, *Anthropology for Christian Witness*, Orbis, 1996

Due by the end of the workshop week: Paul Hiebert, *Transforming Worldviews: An Anthropological Understanding of How People Change*

Due within two weeks of the end of the workshop: Brian Howell and Jenell Williams Paris, *Introducing Cultural Anthropology: A Christian Perspective*

3. Each student will select a topic related to this course (i.e., the topic might come from the course documents, class audio lectures, discussion forums, or the textbooks), get approval of the topic from the professor, and write a paper on the topic. The paper will include both the anthropological study of the topic as well as a section describing how this relates to missions and/or ministry practices and approaches. The typed study should include the main paper body of about 8-10 double-spaced pages, plus a bibliography, a table of contents and a cover page, along with an appendix comprised of a 1 page overview of your topic that would be a suitable outline for use in teaching the topic. 45%

## **COURSE OVERVIEW:**

- MONDAY:           1: Intro to the course  
                          Defining Cultural Anthropology  
                          A Brief History of the Field  
                          Anthropology and Biblical Studies  
                          2: Ethnographies and Ethnologies  
                              How to Realize an Ethnographic Study  
                              The Major Components of a Culture  
                              Methods for Analyzing a Culture  
                              Concepts for Understanding a Culture
- TUESDAY:           1: Kinship Structures and Concepts  
                          2: Political Structures and Concepts
- WEDNESDAY:       1: Social Structures, Values, and Concepts: Part 1  
                          2: Social Structures, Values, and Concepts: Part 2
- THURSDAY:         1: Religious Structures, Values, and Concepts  
                          2: Other Social Structures, Values, and Concepts, Open Discussion
- FRIDAY:            Submission of research proposal and research on papers

## **SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY**

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