



MISS5271 Missions Strategies Research Practicum
New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary
Division of Pastoral Ministries
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Mission Statement

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.

Core Value Focus

The seminary has five core values: Doctrinal Integrity, Spiritual Vitality, Mission Focus, Characteristic Excellence, and Servant Leadership. The core value focus for this academic year is Doctrinal Integrity, which states in part: “Knowing that the Bible is the Word of God, we believe it, teach it, proclaim it, and submit to it. Our confessional commitments are outlined in the Articles of Religious Belief and the Baptist Faith & Message 2000”.

Curriculum Competencies

All graduates of NOBTS are expected to have at least a minimum level of competency in each of the following areas: Biblical Exposition, Christian Theological Heritage, Disciple Making, Interpersonal Skills, Servant Leadership, Spiritual and Character Formation, and Worship Leadership. The curriculum competencies addressed in this course are: Biblical Exposition and Disciple Making.

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 Textbook

Shane Bennett and Kim Felder with Steve Hawthorne *Exploring the Land: Discovering Ways*

For Unreached People To Follow Christ. Littleton, CO: Caleb Project, 2016, 2003, 1995.

Available on Reserve in the John T. Christian Library on the NOBTS New Orleans campus.

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 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, August 30. (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 two 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.

Submit an electronic copy on the Blackboard Assignments folder before class begins on Sept. 27.

7. **Research Paper**

- A. Research and prepare a 25-30 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 20 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 could 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.

Evaluation of Grade

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

Technical Assistance

For assistance regarding technology, consult ITC (504-816-8180) or the following websites:

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

2. BlackboardHelpDesk@nobts.edu - Email for technical questions/support requests with the NOBTS Blackboard Learning Management System NOBTS.Blackboard.com.
3. ITCSupport@nobts.edu - Email for general technical questions/support requests.
4. www.NOBTS.edu/itc/ - General NOBTS technical help information is provided on this website.

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.

Help for Writing Papers at “The Write Stuff”

NOBTS maintains a Writing Center designed to improve English writing at the graduate level. Students can receive writing guides, tips, and valuable information to help in becoming a better writer.

Plagiarism on Written Assignments

NOBTS has a no tolerance policy for plagiarism. Plagiarism in certain cases may result in expulsion from the seminary. See the NOBTS Student Handbook for definition, penalties, and policies associated with plagiarism.

Class Meeting Schedule

Thursday, August 23*	Course Overview and Requirements Tools for People Group Research
Thursday, September 27*	Turn in Book Review of <i>Exploring the Land</i> . Discussion of the book’s contents and application. Update on Research Progress.
Thursday, November 1*	Discussion of Worldviews & Ethnographic Studies. Update on Research Progress
Thursday, December 6*	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 27 – September 1. 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, August 30. 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 Thursday, September 27. 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 Nov. 1.
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 8.
6. Turn in People Group Profile and Strategy Paper according to guidelines in Course Requirements by December 6. 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 8.

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

Course Reminders

1. Academic misconduct 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.
2. 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.
3. Members of the course are expected to treat the professor and each other with respect in their conversation and conduct. If not, appropriate action may be taken based on seminary policies.
4. Use the latest addition of Kate Turabian's *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations* as the official style and form guide. End notes are acceptable.

Course Due Dates

Thursday, August 30	Submit research topic for approval on Discussion Board
Thursday, September 27	Book Review Due Weekly Research Reports for August 27 – September 8
Thursday, November 1	Submit update on research Turn in tentative outline Bring research notes Weekly Research Reports for September 10 – October 13
Thursday, November 8	Submit update on research on Blackboard Assignments Weekly Research Reports for October 22 – November 17
Thursday, December 6	Submit Research and Strategy Paper Weekly Research Reports for November 26 – December 5

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

Selected Bibliography

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Jorgensen, Danny L. *Participant Observation: A Methodology For Human Studies*. Newbury Park, CA: Sage Publications, 1989.

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Malphurs, Aubrey. *Strategy 2000: Churches Making Disciples For the Next Millennium*. Grand Rapids: Kregel Publications, 1996.

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Slack, James B. and Terry, J. O. *Chronological Bible Storying: A Methodology For Presenting The Gospel To Oral Communicators*. Richmond: IMB of the SBC, 1998.

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Wright, Nicholas Thomas. *The New Testament And The People Of God: Christian Origins And The Question of God*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1992.

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>