



MISS6343 Transcultural Communication of the Gospel
New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary
Division of Church Ministry
Fall Semester 2021

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Mission Statement

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary and Leavell College prepare servants to walk with Christ, proclaim His truth, and fulfill His mission.

Course Description

This course involves a study of the dynamics of communicating the Christian faith transculturally. Attention is given to techniques for understanding culture and worldview, and to the relationship of culture to the gospel, evangelism, discipleship, and other concerns of the Christian faith.

Student Learning Outcomes

1. The student will develop an understanding of culture and worldview by defining these terms.
2. The student will appreciate key cultural traits of other cultures.
3. The student will demonstrate the ability to describe the worldview of a people group with whom they may be involved in present or future ministry.
4. The student will develop a model for communication and sharing the gospel in culturally appropriate ways to people groups in other cultures.

Course Textbooks:

A. Scott Moreau, Evvy Hay Campbell and Susan Greener, *Effective Intercultural Communication: A Christian Perspective*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2014.

Two other books chosen by the student relating to aspects of transcultural communication of the gospel

Course Requirements:

1. **Blackboard.** Each student must **maintain a valid e-mail address recorded in your Blackboard account at all times.** If you have trouble using Blackboard, please contact the ITC department of NOBTS at blackboardhelpdesk@nobts.edu or call (504) 816-8180. **All papers must be submitted via the Assignments tab in the Blackboard course and are due by 11:59 P.M. on the assigned date.**
2. Readings in *Effective Intercultural Communication*. Students will be required to read the assigned chapters within the textbook. See **Reading Assignments** for the weekly chapters. Each student will be required to read the primary textbook and may be asked to complete reading reports, take quizzes over assigned material, post on Discussion Board, or share with

the class insights from daily assigned readings. Post reading reports on Blackboard Assignments folder as required on Wednesdays by 11:59 P.M.

3. Each student will read and prepare a written critique and oral presentation on one other book on transcultural communication which will be chosen with approval of the instructor. The syllabus and primary text bibliographies are two sources for selecting a book.
 - A. Write a minimum of a three to five full page double-spaced, typed critique of the book. The critique should include all three of the following:
 - (1) Briefly summarize the contents of the book.
 - (2) Evaluate the material from a biblical, theological, and missiological perspectives.
 - (3) Discuss two or more concepts, principles, or applications from the book that relate to cross-cultural communication of the gospel. Use headings for each section:

Summary, Evaluation, and Discussion

Book Critique due: Wednesday, September 1, 11:59 P.M.

- B. Prepare an oral presentation to the class relating to the book. Highlight materials from the book which would provide insights into transcultural communication of the gospel. Prepare and distribute to the class a handout of one or more pages containing practical insights or suggestions from the book which may be helpful to the entire class. The professor will determine time limits for the presentations.

Presentations Begin: Thursday, September 2

4. Write and submit three minor papers throughout the semester.
 - A. Each paper will be five to seven full pages in the body, double-spaced, one inch margins, 12 point Times New Roman, footnotes, cover page, Works Cited page, and follows Turabian guidelines. Include a minimum of five different sources in each paper.
 - (1) *Paper #1: Worldview Paper:* Select and research a major worldview (other than Christianity). Include three sections:
 - a. a brief description of where adherents of this worldview live
 - b. a description of the worldview
 - c. valuable insights for sharing the gospel based on the information discovered in (1) & (2). Use headings: **Setting, Description, Insights**

Due: Wednesday, September 15, 11:59 P.M.

(2) *Paper #2: Interview Paper*

- a. Interview three to five persons, the interviews are your sources for this project, from the people group, population segment, or city with whom you serve or may serve in the future in order to gain a better understanding of their worldview. Those planning for international ministry may interview internationals living temporarily in the USA.
- b. Prepare a summary of the interview project including insights from each interview. The report should include a summary of the interview content, insights gained from the interview, and your personal reaction to the interview.
- c. An introduction and conclusion should be included. Headings to separate each interview and subheadings are helpful for reading and evaluation of the project. Examples: **Summary, Family, Social Structure, Insights, Reaction, Conclusion.**
 - a. Possible areas to include in interview questions: (1) family structure, (2) social

structure, (3) religious structure, (4) economic structure, (5) political structure (local or national) if appropriate.

- b. Examples of items to consider while preparing your insights and personal reaction to the interviews: (1) Reflect on information gained. (2) Were there surprises in their answers? (3) What new insights did you gain?

Due: Wednesday, October 20, 11:59 P.M.

(3) *Paper #3*: Plan for Transcultural Communication

- a. Write a plan for transcultural communication for a specific city, geographic area, or people group.
- b. The plan should include such items as geography, examination of a people group, linguistic groups, cultural influences, social values, kinship groupings, alliances, community organization, social stratification, religious groups, government, economic, and population figures when available.
- c. The impact of other people groups or other cultures on the people group may be included.
- d. The project should include suggestions for culturally appropriate ways to share the gospel with a people group based on the class readings and research.

Due: Wednesday, November 10, 11:59 P.M.

- B. Prepare oral presentations to the class that summarizes key points and highlights from each paper. Prepare and distribute a handout of one or more pages containing practical insights and key points which may be helpful to the entire class. The professor will determine time limits for the presentations.

Presentations for Paper 1 begin: Thursday, September 16

Presentations for Paper 2 begin: Thursday, October 21

Presentations for Paper 3 begin: Thursday, November 11

5. Midterm and Final Assignments: Complete the assignments as posted on Blackboard. The midterm will consist of a discussion board post reflecting on key issues learned in the course. The final will be an exam.

Midterm Reflection due: Wednesday, September 29, 11:59 P.M.

Final Exam due: Thursday, Dec. 2, 2019, 11:59 p.m.

Course Schedule for Reading Assignments:

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|----------------------|---------------------------------|
| Week 1: August 16 | Chapters 1-3 |
| Week 2: August 23 | Chapter 4 |
| Week 3: August 30 | Chapters 5, 8 |
| Week 4: September 6 | Chapter 6-7 |
| Week 5: September 13 | Chapter 9 |
| Week 6: September 20 | Chapters 10-11 |
| Week 7: September 27 | Chapters 12-13 |
| Week of October 4: | Fall Break; No reading assigned |
| Week 8: October 11 | Chapter 14 |
| Week 9: October 18 | Chapters 15-16 |
| Week 10: October 25 | Chapters 17-18 |
| Week 11: November 1 | Chapter 19 |

Week 12: November 8 Chapter 20 -22
Week 13: November 15 Chapters 23-24
Week of November 22 Thanksgiving Break

Due Dates (*Most written assignments are due by 11:59 P.M. on the given dates*)

Book Review – Wednesday, September 1
Oral Presentations – Beginning Thursday, September 2
First Minor Paper – Wednesday, September 15
First Paper Presentations – Beginning Thursday, September 16
Midterm Reflection – Wednesday, October 7
Second Minor Paper – Wednesday, October 20
Second Minor Paper Presentations- Thursday, October 21
Second Book Review Due-Wednesday, October 27
Third Minor Paper – Wednesday, November 10
Third Paper Presentations – Beginning Thursday, November 11
Final Exam – Thursday, December 2*

*Tentative date and time.

Evaluation

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|-----------------------------------|---------|
| Book Reviews & Presentation | 10% |
| First Minor Paper & Presentation | 15 & 5% |
| Second Minor Paper & Presentation | 15 & 5% |
| Third Minor Paper & Presentation | 15 & 5% |
| Final Exam | 15% |
| Participation | 15% |

(Includes *Effective Intercultural Communication* Assignments, Midterm Reflection, and Attendance)

NOTE: There is an automatic deduction of 10 points for late assignments and an additional -2 points per week day late after that. Normally, No work will be accepted more than two weeks past the due date.

ALL MAJOR ASSIGNMENTS NORMALLY SHOULD BE COMPLETED BY A STUDENT IN ORDER TO BE ELIGIBLE TO PASS THE COURSE.

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.

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.

Writing Style Guide

Writing assignments should follow the **NOBTS/Leavell College Manual of Form and Style** (*revised August 2019*). To access this manual on the seminary website, please use the following link: https://www.nobts.edu/_resources/pdf/writing/StyleGuide.pdf

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.

Selected Bibliography

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- Costa, Ruy O., ed. *One Faith, Many Cultures: Inculturation, Indigenization, and Contextualization*. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books, 1988.
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- Zahniser, A. H. Mathias. *Symbol and Ceremony: Making Disciples Across Cultures*. Monrovia, CA: MARC/World Vision, 1997.