



MISS6343 Transcultural Communication of the Gospel
New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary
Division of Pastoral Ministries
Spring 2017

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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 Characteristic Excellence, which states in part: “What we do, we do to the utmost of our abilities and resources as a testimony to the glory of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Characteristic Excellence is addressed by preparing students to excel in their ability to interpret Scripture, which is foundational to effective ministry”.

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

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 Teaching Methodology

A variety of teaching methods will be utilized such as class presentations by the professor and students using Power Point and handouts. Other teaching methods include multi-media presentations, utilization of missions related websites, and other communication mediums.

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 Mondays by 11:59 P.M.
3. Each student will read and prepare a written critique and oral presentation on two other books on transcultural communication which will be chosen with approval of the instructor. The syllabus and primary text bibliographies are two sources for selecting the books.
 - 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
 - First Book Critique due: Monday, February 13, 2017 at 11:59 P.M.**
Second Book Critique due: Monday, April 17, 2017 at 11:59 P.M.
 - B. Prepare an oral presentation to the class relating to the first 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: Tuesday, February 14, 2017.
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 transcultural communication based on the information discovered in (1) & (2).

Due: Monday, February 27, 2017 at 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 may include such items as (1) a list of the questions used, (2) a summary of the interview content, (3) insights gained from the interview, and (4) 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: Monday, April 3, 2017 at 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: Monday, April 24, 2017 at 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: Tuesday, February 28

Presentations for Paper 2 begin: Tuesday, April 4

Presentations for Paper 3 begin: Tuesday, April 25

- 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.

A. **Midterm Reflection due: Monday, March 6, 2017 by 11:59 P.M.**

B. **Final Exam due: Tuesday, May 9, 2017 by 5:00 P.M.**

Evaluation of Grade

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 <i>Effective Intercultural Communication</i> Assignments)	

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.

Netiquette: Appropriate Online Behavior

Each student is expected to demonstrate appropriate Christian behavior when working online on the Discussion Board. The student is expected to interact with other students in a fashion that will promote learning and respect for the opinions of others in the course. A spirit of Christian charity is expected at all times in the online environment.

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.

Course Schedule for Reading Assignments:

January 30:	Chapters 1-3
February 6:	Chapter 4
February 13:	Chapters 5, 8
February 20:	Chapter 6-7
February 27:	Chapter 9 (NO CLASS FEBRUARY 28 – Mardi Gras)
March 6:	Chapters 10-11

March 13:	Chapters 12-13
March 20:	Spring Break; No reading assigned
March 27:	Chapter 14
April 3:	Chapters 15-16
April 10:	Chapters 17-18
April 17:	Chapter 19
April 24:	Chapter 20
May 1:	Chapters 21-22
	Chapters 23-24

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

First Book Review – Monday, February 13
 Second Book Review – Monday, April 17
 Oral Presentations – Beginning Tuesday, February 14
 First Minor Paper – Monday, February 27
 First Paper Presentations – Beginning Tuesday, February 28
 Midterm Reflection – Monday, March 6
 Second Minor Paper – Monday, April 3
 Second Paper Presentations – Beginning Tuesday, April 4
 Third Minor Paper – Wednesday, April 24
 Third Paper Presentations – Beginning Tuesday, April 25
 Final Exam – 3:00-5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, May 9

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

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.

Selected Bibliography

- Anderson, Norman. *Christianity and World Religions: The Challenge of Pluralism*, 2nd ed. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1984.
- Bosch, David J. *Believing in the Future: Toward a Missiology of Western Culture*. Valley Forge, PA: Trinity Press International, 1995.
- Braswell, George W. Jr. *Understanding World Religions*, revised. Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 1994.
- Conn, Harvie M. *Eternal Word and Changing Worlds: Theology, Anthropology, and Mission in Dialogue*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishing House, 1984.
- Costa, Ruy O., ed. *One Faith, Many Cultures: Inculturation, Indigenization, and Contextualization*. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books, 1988.
- Hesselgrave, David J. *Communicating Christ Cross-Culturally: An Introduction to Missionary Communication*, 2nd ed. Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishing House, 1991.
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- _____. *Cultural Anthropology*. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1983.
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- _____. *Communication Theory for Christian Witness*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1983.
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- _____. *Message and Mission: The Communication of the Christian Faith*, rev. ed. Pasadena, CA: William Carey Library, 1990.
- Richardson, Don. *Eternity in Their Hearts*, rev. ed. Ventura: Regal Books, 1984.
- Van Rheenen, Gailyn. *Communicating Christ in Animistic Contexts*. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1991.
- Woodbury, J. Dudley, ed. *Muslims and Christians on the Emmaus Road: Crucial Issues in Witness among Muslims*. Monrovia, CA: MARC/World Vision, 1989.
- Winter, Ralph and Steven C. Hawthorne, ed. *Perspectives on the World Christian Movement: A Reader*, rev. ed. Pasadena, CA: William Carey Library, 1992.
- Zahniser, A. H. Mathias. *Symbol and Ceremony: Making Disciples Across Cultures*. Monrovia, CA: MARC/World Vision, 1997.