

SYLLABUS

Maturing Believers in a Cross-Cultural Context CESE8311

**A Professional Doctoral Special Event Seminar
Conducted with a Mission Trip to Moscow, Russia**

Dr. Joe Sherrer

**Fall Trimester – 2008
October 23 – 31, 2008**

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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.

Purpose of the Seminar, Core Value Focus, and Curriculum Competencies Addressed

This seminar is designed helping students to experience leading discipleship ministries in a cross-cultural setting. This seminar will usually be offered as a mission trip focusing on the practice of leading Christian education in an international partnership. Special attention will be given to principles and practice of communication and educational leadership in other cultures. As a part of the mission trip students will assist local and national leaders in implementing programs to mature believers and develop leaders for multiplication.

This special event seminar seeks to emphasize the core values of mission focus and spiritual vitality. The seminar serves to develop competencies in the areas of disciple-making and ministry leadership and administration.

Course Description

This seminar is designed helping students to experience leading discipleship ministries in a cross-cultural setting. This seminar will usually be offered as a mission trip focusing on the practice of leading Christian education in an international partnership. Special attention will be given to principles and practice of communication and educational leadership in other cultures. As a part of the mission trip students will assist local and national leaders in implementing programs to mature believers and develop leaders for multiplication.

Course Objectives

When students have completed this course, they will be able to:

1. Identify principles of communicating biblical truths in a cross-cultural context.
2. Demonstrate an awareness of historical, cultural, linguistic, and geographical factors impacting spiritual development with people in the mission trip.
3. Effectively dialogue with church leaders on the mission trip about methodology for maturing believers.
4. Synthesize principles of cross-cultural ministry within their own ministry context.
5. Present a plan for maturing Christians in a specific cultural area.

Course Methodology

This seminar will utilize textbook readings, small group interaction, and critical reflection as well as an experiential component of the mission trip to provide educational methodology for the students' learning experiences.

Required Textbooks

See individual assignments for necessary textbooks.

Course Requirements

Pre-Event Assignments:

1. **Cultural Insights List:** Each student will read one of the following textbooks. For the selected book the student is to prepare a list of at least ten insights gained about the people group for the mission trip. Briefly discuss each of the insights. It is anticipated that this assignment will be approximately five pages in length. **Date Due: October 10, 2008.**

Select from one of the following two books ...

Richmond, Yale. *From Nyet to Da: Understanding the Russians* (3rd ed). : Intercultural Press, 2003. (ISBN 1-8778-641-1)

Kostromina-Wayne, Maria Kostrominia and Paul Wayne. *Moscow at Your Door: Culture Shock! Living in the Greatest Cities*. Portland, OR: Graphic Arts Center Publishing, 2002. (ISBN 1-55868-639-8)

2. **Historical and Cultural Awareness Readings:** Read a “tourist-type” book on Moscow. Provide a statement of having read such a book including a complete bibliographic reference. **Date Due: October 10, 2008.** The following is suggested:

Moscow: Eyewitness Travel Guides (revised ed.). New York: Dorling Kindersley (DK), 2007. (ISBN 075662438X)

3. **Cross-Cultural Ministry Book Critique:** Read each of the following two books and prepare a six page critique for each book: Include a significant (at least four pages) summary of a content. Also identify strengths and weaknesses of the authors’ points of view, points of agreement or disagreement, and potential application to the student’s personal ministry. **Date Due: October 10, 2008.**

Yount, William R., and Mike Barnett. *Called to Reach: Equipping Cross-Cultural Disciplers*. Nashville: Broadman and Holman, 2008. (ISBN 0-8054-4066-6)

Lingenfelter, Judith. *Teaching Cross-Culturally: An Incarnational Model for Learning and Teaching*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 2003. (ISBN 0-8010-2629-2)

4. **Cross-Cultural Communications Principles Project:** Read the following book and for each of the twelve chapters identify and briefly discuss at least one principle, insights, or points of potential application for the mission experience. **Date Due: October 10, 2008.**

Neuliep, James W. *Intercultural Communication: A Contextual Approach* (2nd ed.). Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 2003. (ISBN 0-618-21854-8)

5. **Maturing Believers Presentation:** Prepare a thirty-minute presentation on one of the following topics using the indicated resource(s). Students will be assigned a specific presentation based on need of churches and participant background. Assignments will be made by September 1, 2008. **Date Due: Submit a two page outline of the prepared presentation by October 20, 2008.** Actual presentations will be made during the mission trip.

- Teaching Adults for Life Transformation – Use *Teaching Adults: A Guide for Transformational Teaching*, compiled by Rick Edwards. (Nashville: LifeWay, 2000.)
- Developing a Systematic Plan for Maturing Believers in Your Church – Use *The Kingdom Focused Church: A Compelling Image of an Achievable Future for Your Church* by Gene Mims (Nashville: Broadman and Holman, 2003) and *Mapping Your Church Strategy* by Mark Marshall (Nashville: LifeWay, 2003).
- Developing Leaders for Multiplying Ministries – Use *Jesus on Leadership* by Gene Wilkes (Nashville: LifeWay Press, 2000) and *Paul on Leadership* by Gene Wilkes (Nashville: LifeWay Press, 2004).
- Other topics possible.

During the Mission Trip

6. **Mission Trip Participation:** Participate completely in all activities of the mission trip. Lead presentations as assigned. **Date Due: October 23 – 31, 2008.**
7. **Daily Journal:** During the mission trip maintain a daily journal of activities, insights gained, experiences, and reflections. Following the mission trip submit a typed version of the journal. **Date Due: November 30, 2008.**

Following the Mission Trip

8. **Reflection Paper:** Following the mission trip submit a five page reflection paper identifying increases in knowledge, awareness of cross-cultural sensitivities, and skills developed. Discuss possible applications to current personal ministry and implications for future potential ministry. **Date Due: November 30, 2008.**

Course Evaluation

Cultural Insights List	10%
Historical & Cultural Awareness Readings	5%
Cross-Cultural Ministry Book Critique	10%
Communication Principles Project	10%
Maturing Believers Presentation	20%
Trip Participation	25%
Daily Journal	10%
Reflection Paper	10%

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