

**Transcultural Communication MISS9401  
Spring Semester 2012**

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**Seminary Mission:**

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 through the local church and its ministries.

**Course Purpose**

The purpose of this course is to help equip those studying at NOBTS to fulfill the Great Commission (Matthew 28: 16-20) through the local church and its ministries.

**Core Value Focus**

Our seminary has five core values: doctrinal integrity, spiritual vitality, mission focus, characteristic excellence, and servant leadership. This course relates in some way to all five core values but especially mission focus which states in part: "We are not here merely to get an education or give one. We are here to change the world by fulfilling the Great Commission and the Great Commandments through the local church and its ministries." Characteristic excellence is the emphasized core value of 2011-2012 at NOBTS: "We want everything we do to be characterized by offering the utmost of our abilities and resources as a testimony to the glory of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ." This should especially be true in missions involvement.

**Curriculum Competencies Addressed**

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary has seven basic competencies guiding the NOBTS curriculum. This course supports and relates to various competencies such as servant leadership, interpersonal skills, and spiritual and character formation. The disciple making competency which is stated is "to stimulate church health through mobilizing the church for missions, evangelism, discipleship, and church growth" is especially addressed in the curriculum of this course.

**Course Description**

This seminar examines the dynamics of transcultural communication of the gospel, integrating biblical, sociological, anthropological, and psychological perspectives. Particular attention is given to issues of worldview and to the contextualization of evangelism, discipleship, spirituality, hermeneutics, preaching and other disciplines of the Christian faith.

## **Student Learning Outcomes**

By the end of this seminar, the student should be able to:

1. Comprehend the relationship between Christianity and culture.
2. Analyze the dynamics of the transcultural communication process.
3. Analyze the issues of worldview and contextualization.
4. Apply transcultural communication skills for a specific context.
5. Synthesize their findings and the findings of other group members into a comprehensive expression of transcultural communication of the gospel.

## **Course Teaching Methodology**

1. The primary course method will involve student research and reporting of that research in papers and seminar presentations. Students are expected to be knowledgeable of basic research methodologies and to hone their research skills beyond the basic level.
2. Presentations and small-group discussions will be utilized to enhance and promote personal assimilation and integration of course concepts and content. Students are expected to be active participants in seminar discussions.
3. Student interaction with peers, resource persons, seminary faculty members, and the course instructor are encouraged during the duration of this class to facilitate insights about transcultural communication of the gospel. Conferences with the instructor are invited and may be accomplished by telephone, e-mail, or office visits.

## **Seminar Textbooks**

Hesselgrave, David J. *Communicating Christ Cross-Culturally*, 2d. ed. Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishing House, 1991.

Kraft, Charles H. *Christianity in Culture: A Study in Dynamic Biblical Theologizing in Cross-Cultural Perspective*. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books, 1990.

Lingenfelter, Sherwood. *Transforming Culture: A Challenge for Christian Missions*. Baker Academic, 1992.

Other books as required during the course of the seminar.

In addition to the required textbooks, members of the seminar will be asked to read various articles, journals, Internet resources, and other materials as required by the instructor.

## **Seminar Requirements**

1. Read each of the assigned texts, articles and other reading assignments.
2. Prepare each week to participate in seminar discussion related to readings, guest presentations, or presentations by members of the seminar. A portion of the individual's seminar grade will be based on one's degree of weekly participation in seminar discussions.

3. Write and submit a critical review for each of the above textbooks and any additional assigned books. The review should be eight to ten pages in length, double-spaced, and written with proper Turabian form. The review should include these elements: (1) Summarize briefly the six parts of the book in two to three pages. (2) Evaluate the book's content from a biblical, theological, and missiological perspective. (3) Discuss two or more key concepts from the book with which you agree or disagree. Explain logically and supported with Scripture, theology, and missiological foundations why you agree or disagree with a concept. If you disagree, explain how you would correct what has been written. The review will be due on February 6.
4. Be prepared to give an overview of the entire book or any assigned chapters the day a review is due. Plan to use approximately one hour to discuss one's evaluation of the book and key concepts from the book as presented in # 3 above (2) and (3).
5. On assigned dates be prepared to lead the seminar discussion related to the topic of the day. Prepare a minor paper of approximately five to six double-spaced pages to help guide our discussion. The paper should follow proper Turabian form.
6. Prepare an annotated bibliography of a minimum of thirty books relating to transcultural communication of the gospel. Each page of the bibliography may contain three to five books. The annotated bibliography will be due on Thursday, March 13.
7. Write and present a major paper related to an approved topic relating to transcultural communication of the gospel. A proposal and outline must be submitted and the topic approved. The major paper should be in correct Turabian format with footnotes, cover page, blank page, contents, selected bibliography, and at least three chapters (introduction, body, and conclusion.) The paper should be typed, double-spaced, a minimum of twenty different sources, and a minimum of thirty pages in length with a maximum of fifty pages in total page count. Lead an oral presentation of the paper which should be approximately one hour in length and based on the paper's contents. It is not required that one read the paper verbatim. The major paper will be due on Thursday, April 10, one week prior to the beginning of oral presentations. Oral presentation dates will begin on Thursday, April 17.
8. Each member of the seminar will be a responder to a major paper. The response normally will be given orally on the same day as the oral presentation by the major paper's author. Prepare a summary of the response to give to seminar participants on the day of the response.
9. Each member of the seminar will submit a typed final exam on the last seminar day. The final exam should include the following: (1) A two to three page statement of the seminar member's personal philosophy related to transcultural communication of the gospel which reflects an assimilation and integration of the seminar's concepts, principles, and research relating to the field. (2) A summary of two key concepts exposed to in the seminar of appropriately three pages (3) An outline of how you would teach a missions principles and methods to master's level students at NOBTS. Be prepared to discuss your answers and dialogue during the final seminar

meeting of the semester.

### **Research and Writing Guidelines**

1. All research should be documented from original sources as much as possible.
2. The use of secondary sources for documentation should be limited to reputable writers, researchers, and publishers. Use discretion related to Internet websites.
3. Dissertations and theses may be referenced, but they should not constitute the majority of the resources consulted nor of the content formulated in written reports.
4. Interviews may be utilized for content formulation and documentation with regard to original and secondary documentation, but should not constitute the majority of the resources consulted nor of the content formulated in written reports without permission of the seminar leader.
5. Written papers should conform to the current edition of *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations* by Kate L. Turabian.

### **Seminar Grading**

|                                     |      |
|-------------------------------------|------|
| Critical Book Review 1              | 10%  |
| Critical Book Review 1 Presentation | 5%   |
| Critical Book Review 2              | 10%  |
| Critical Book Review 2 Presentation | 5%   |
| Minor Papers and Seminar Leadership | 15%  |
| Annotated Bibliography              | 5%   |
| Major Paper and Presentation        | 25 % |
| Final Exam and Presentation         | 10%  |
| Seminar Participation               | 15%  |

### **Absences**

Students enrolled in the seminar are expected to attend each meeting of the seminar. Absence of over two hours of seminar meetings will result in a non-passing grade unless special permission is granted due to extraordinary circumstances. In such instances, permission must be granted prior to the seminar meeting of a particular week.

### **Seminar Schedule**

Week 1, January 23: Introduction to the Seminar

Week 2, January 30: A Review of Transcultural Communication of the Gospel

Week 3, February 6: Class Presentations on Critical Book Review # 1

Week 4, February 13: Class Presentations on Critical Book Review # 1

Week 5, February 20: Class Presentations of Critical Book Review # 1 and # 2

Week 6, February 27: Class Presentations of Critical Book Review # 2

Week 7, March 6:           Class Presentations on Critical Book Review # 2

Week 8, March 13:   Discussion of Annotated Bibliographies

Spring Break: March 20

Week 9, March 27:   Complete Discussion of Annotated Bibliographies

Week 10, April 3:     An Examination of Issues Related to Worldview

Week 11, April 10:   An Examination of Issues Related to Contextualization  
Pass out copies of Major Papers

Week 12, April 17:   Major Paper Presentations and Responses.

Week 13, April 24:   Major Paper Presentations and Responses.

Week 14, May 1:       Major Paper Presentations and Responses.

Week 15, May 8:      Final Exam and Discussion.

## Selected Bibliography

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- Cunningham, Lawrence S. *The Catholic Faith: An Introduction*.
- Denny, Frederick Mathewson. *An Introduction to Islam*.
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