



**MISS9401 Transcultural Communication
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 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”. Characteristic excellence should be demonstrated in missions involvement.

Curriculum Competencies Addressed

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: Servant Leadership, Interpersonal Skills, Spiritual and Character Formation, and Disciple Making.

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.

Seminar Textbooks

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

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

Ralph D. Winter and Steven C. Hawthorne, eds. *Perspectives on the World Christian Movement*. FOURTH EDITION. Pasadena: William Carey Library, 2009. (Chapters 63-83 and selected case studies from Chapters 112-124)

Other books as required during the course of the seminar.

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

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, Skype, Facetime, e-mail, or office visits.

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 of the *Communicating Christ Cross-Culturally 2nd Edition*. 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 supposed 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 Wednesday, February 1, 11:59 P.M.

4. Be prepared to give an overview of assigned Parts of the book on the day the review is presented. Plan to discuss one's evaluation of the book and key concepts from the book as presented in # 3 above (2) and (3).

5. Write and submit a critical review of the second assigned book: *Effective Intercultural Communication*. Follow the same steps as # 3 and 4 above. The second critical review will be due on Wednesday, March 1, 11:59 P.M.

6. *Perspectives* Chapters for each session.

Read all assigned chapters. Prepare a summary of key ideas from three chapters you choose in a one page summary for each chapter. Read assigned case studies and prepare a summary of key points from one of the case studies.

6. Prepare minor papers on approved topics related to transcultural communication of the gospel. The normal length of the papers would be eight to ten double-spaced pages. The paper should be in correct Turabian format with footnotes, cover page, blank page, contents page, introduction, body of paper, conclusion and a works cited bibliography. Use a minimum of ten different resources in writing the paper. Lead an oral presentation of the paper based on the paper's contents. One should not read the paper verbatim.

A minor paper will be due for the first seminar meeting on Thursday, Feb. 2; the second seminar meeting on Thursday, March 2; and the last seminar meeting on Thursday, May 4.

Consult the Seminar Schedule Section of the Seminar Syllabus for suggested topics under First Session; Second Session; and the Fourth Session. Your topic must be approved by the professor prior to writing each minor paper.

8. 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 by Friday, February 17. Topics shown on the Seminar Schedule section of the syllabus could also be adjusted or expanded to become a topic for the major paper.

The major paper should be in correct Turabian format with footnotes, cover page, blank page, contents, and at least three chapters in the body section (introduction, body, and conclusion.) Include a Works Cited bibliography that includes only resources referenced in the paper through footnotes. (Remember a website is one source; regardless of how many branches the site may have.)

The paper should be typed, double-spaced, citing a minimum of twenty to twenty-five 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 Tuesday, March 21, 11:59 P.M., one week prior to the beginning of oral presentations. Oral presentations will occur on Thursday, March 30.

9. 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.

10. 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 Reviews and Presentations	30%
Minor Papers and Presentations	30%
Major Paper and Presentation	25 %
Final Exam and Presentation	5%
Seminar Leadership and Participation	10%

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.

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*

First Session: Introduction to the Seminar

Biblical Foundations and Transcultural Communication of the Gospel

Book Critique of *Communicating Christ Cross-Culturally 2nd Edition*.

Perspectives Chapter Summaries and Applications Ch. 63-67, Case Studies- Ch. 112-115.

Minor Paper on topic: Examples- How Jesus Communicated the Gospel with Non-Jews; Effective communication in other cultures exemplified by (choose one: Daniel; Nehemiah; Ezra; other approved figure); The gospel crossing cultural barriers in Acts; Paul's Roman Citizenship and how it impacted the gospel's spread; Paul's plan for cross-cultural missions; other approved topic.

Second Session: Historical Development of Transcultural Communication of the Gospel

Book Critique of *Effective Intercultural Communication*.

Perspectives Chapter Summaries and Applications Ch. 68-72, Case studies- Ch. 116-118.

Minor Paper on topic: Examples- The impact of: a selected reformer or missionary in the modern missions movement (Carey through 19th century) on transcultural communication of the gospel; Assessing cultural movements in the 17th, 18th, or 19th century impacting missions: (Examples: (Select one- colonization; slavery; role of women; or other); other approved topic.

Third Session: 20th Century Overview of Transcultural Communication of the Gospel: Motifs

Journal Articles as Assigned by Professor

Perspectives Chapter Summaries and Applications Ch,73-77, Case studies- Ch. 119-121.

Major Paper

Fourth Session: Contemporary Issues Related to Transcultural Communication of the Gospel

Book Critique on book approved by professor prior to 3rd session of seminar.

Perspectives Chapter Summaries and Applications Ch. 79-83, Case studies- Ch. 122-124.

Minor Paper on topic above: Examples: Impact of churches adopting unreached people groups through programs such as Embrace; assessing major transitions in the IMB (Choose one: Rapid increases in volunteer missions; New Directions in 1997 and after); how budget issues at IMB impacted strategies; forecasting the future of how missionaries are sent(example- current strategies being rolled out by the IMB); impact of churches sending missionaries directly; international mission teams; other approved topic.

Final Exam

*The seminar schedule and assignments may be adjusted as deemed appropriate by the professor.

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