

CALVIN THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
821
MISSION ANTHROPOLOGY AND CROSS-CULTURAL MINISTRY
Prof. Pieter C. Tuit
Winter Quarter 2001-2002

Course Description (In Catalog)

An examination of crucial areas of cross-cultural ministry in the light of Reformed Missiology and the data of social and cultural anthropology. Cultural conditions found in both rural and urban locations are considered. The course addresses such matters as understanding another culture or subculture, coping with change and cultural differences, and preparing oneself for cross-cultural ministry.

Course Objectives

By the end of this course, participants will be able to:

1. Explain what is meant by culture from a Biblical perspective.
2. Appreciate culture as a holistic, integrated but always interacting and changing system.
3. Understand culture as a gift from God to humankind, influenced by sin and redeemed in Christ.
4. Understand, appreciate and respect other cultures and its people.
5. Understand and view life and ministry in a cross-cultural perspective.
6. Understand and work with the concept of contextualization.
7. Begin to understand and know how to present the gospel to someone from another culture/religion.
8. Understand and know how to deal with culture-shock.
9. Have a better understanding of oneself and one's culture through learning from other cultures.
10. Understand various approaches to the study of culture.

Schedule: Tuesday 1-3.45 (There will be a ten minute break from 2.30-2.40)

Classes will meet Nov. 27, Dec. 4, 11, 18, Jan. 8, 15, 29, Feb. 5, 12.

Items to note

1. Professor's availability.

Do not hesitate to contact me about matters related to this course. You can find me in office F. 18. My office phone number is (616) 957-6739. Feel free to call me at home (before 10.00 p.m.) At (616) 248-3329). E-mail ptuit@calvin.edu

2. Papers and Written Work

Please give careful attention not only to content but also to grammar, spelling and presentation. (about 300 words per page).

3. Grades. The following information comes from the Student Handbook Page 27.

A. Excellent

A to A- This is work that is outstanding in every way, exceptional, marked by accuracy, creativity, scholarship, and/ or integrative thinking combined with good style.

B. Good to Very Good

B+ to B: This is work that is very good, accurately done, reflecting a proper grasp of the material, and done with interesting style.

B to B-: This is work that is good, but tends towards inaccuracy and imbalance, is written in a flat and unengaging style, ideas are present, but not developed.

C. Fair

C+ to C: This is work that is marginally satisfactory because it is deficient in identifiable areas of accuracy, clarity, balance; ideas are vague and disorganized.

C to C-: This is work that is not far from being unacceptable, reflecting serious inadequacies in dealing with the material.

D. Unsatisfactory; Just Passable

This is work that has been submitted, but is not satisfactory. It has dealt with the material, but in such an inaccurate or incomplete way that it cannot be judged as acceptable work.

F. Failure

This is a grade assigned to a paper, exam, or course in which the student has not submitted the required work or who has so completely distorted the assignment that it bears no resemblance to what was required.

- 4. Formula for computing your grade

Class Attendance and participation	20%
Reflection on the Readings	40%
Reflections on Cross-Cultural experiences	40%

Texts

1. Christian Reformed Church in North America, *God's Diverse and Unified family*, Study report to Synod 1996 made available by the Christian Reformed Pastoral Ministries/Race Relations and the office of the General Secretary of the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
2. Elmer, Duane, *Cross-Cultural Conflict: Building Relationships for Effective Ministry*, Downers Grove Illinois: Intervarsity Press, 1993.
3. Hiebert, Paul G., *Anthropological Insights for Missionaries*, Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1985
4. Lingenfelter, Sherwood G., and Mayers Marvin K., *Ministering Cross-Culturally, An Incarnational Model for Personal Relationships*. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1986.
5. Lingenfelter Sherwood G., *Transforming Culture: A Challenge for Christian Mission*, Grand

Rapids: Baker Book House, 1998.

6. Various hand-outs will be given during this course. You are strongly encouraged to read those.

Course Requirements

1. Class Attendance and Participation: Each student is expected to attend all classes and participate in class discussion.
2. Course readings: Each student is expected to complete all reading assignments prior to the class period in which they will be discussed. At the end of each class the student will hand in a one page evaluation and reaction to the readings.
3. Major Project

Note: This major projects consists of a number of assignments. These assignments are designed to give you a meaningful cross-cultural exposure as far as this is possible in the city of Grand Rapids. I strongly encourage you where this is possible to do these exercises together with your spouse and children would this be your situation. This major project consists of five sections. Each section is due at the date indicated below. This may be a challenge for procrastinators. At the same time there will be no last minute rush to complete this project.

- a. On a Friday afternoon or Saturday morning when it is busy visit the following stores:

Aldis at 28 th Street and Englewood.

Meyers at Kalamazoo and 28 th Street.

Meyers at East Beltline and Knapp or Cascade.

Spend about one hour at each store. For the sake of fair comparison pick the same hour on Friday or Saturday to visit these stores. Observe and take note of the following: How does the store look like? Who works in these stores? How is the service? What are the prices? Who are the shoppers? What languages do you hear spoken? What kind of cars do they drive? How are they dressed? Where the shoppers come from? What do they buy? How do they come and shop (alone, with spouse, with kids, other)? How do they pay? What interaction takes place in the store (between the shoppers, between the shoppers and personnel)? What is your own personal reaction to each of these stores? Are you able to talk with the shoppers? Any questions for the manager? Ask your own questions. What evidences do you see of Christ's kingdom?

Take careful notes and write a two page paper noting your observations. Conclude this paper with a one page evaluation.

Due Dec.18. Be ready to discuss this in class on Dec. 18.

- b. Visit two non-Anglosaksen church services during this quarter. Find out where the ethnic based churches are. One of the services must be African American. Observe the following: Who attends? Where do the people come from? How are people dressed? How are you received? What is the liturgy like? How is the Word preached? What do you think of the preaching? What can you tell about the ministry of this congregation? How do you feel about attending the service? What family and interpersonal dynamics do you observe? Other? Write a two page report and evaluation of your

experience.

Due Feb. 12, 2002. Be ready to discuss this in class on Feb. 12 , 2002.

c. Have at least a 30 minute conversation three times this quarter with a student or person with a national, race or cultural background other than your own.(This can be the same or a different person from a different culture each time). During this time try to learn about this person and his or her country and culture. More importantly try to learn in this conversation how this person sees your culture and its people.

Write a two page report and evaluation of your experience indicating specifically what you have learned about yourself and your own culture through these conversations.

Due Feb. 5, 2002. Be ready to discuss this in class on Feb.5, 2002

d. Take a cross- cultural tour of Division Avenue for about 3 hours and if possible more. Start downtown and make your way towards 28th street. Cross 28 th street and continue on the other side for another 3 miles. Take careful note of what you see and how Division changes. Observe especially the ethnic and racial changes that you see. Visit the different stores , markets and restaurants along the way and if possible eat at an ethnic restaurant. Take note of what is available in the stores. Ask yourself how God is present at Division Avenue. If possible enter churches and places of ministry. Take note of churches (ethnic and other)and other Christian organizations on Division. Note the different ethnic and national backgrounds of the stores. Go through the stores and see what is available. Observe the people on the street and in the stores. What personal interaction are you able to have. Initiate conversation with the shop owners and see what you can learn. Take careful note of your own reactions and feelings. Write a three page report and evaluation of what you have seen and experienced. Include a paragraph or two with your thoughts on how to do meaningful ministry in this setting

Due Jan. 29. Be ready to discuss this in class on Jan. 29, 2002

8. Befriend or contact a non-Christian person from another culture/religion/nationality. You may do this in person or through contact on the web. Try to have at least 4 conversations with this person during this course. Establish contact, build a bridge and look for an opportunity to share the gospel or what it means for you that you are a Christian. Give a one page report and evaluation of this experience.

Due Date Feb. 15, 2002 noon.

Th. M students. Read 500 pages in the area where your major field of study intersects with the content and ideas of this course. Write an 8 page review and reaction.

Due Date Feb. 22, 2002 noon.

Class Schedule

I. November 27

1. Introductions and review of syllabus.
2. Lecture on **The Bible on Culture and Anthropology.**
Hiebert, Page 1-60.

II. December 4 Cultural Differences and the New Missionary

1. Read Hiebert Chapter 3, Pages 61-89
2. Read Ministering Cross-Culturally, Pages 9-36. Fill in questionnaire Pages. 29-36.
3. Read Transforming Culture, Pages 9-50.
4. Attendance and participation at the ethnic potluck held at the Seminary is strongly encouraged. Please bring a dish from your own country/culture. Share the recipe with the class on December 11.

III. December 11 The Incarnational Missionary

1. Read Hiebert Chapter 4, 5. Pages 91- 140.
2. Read Ministering Cross-Culturally, Pages 37-80
3. Read Transforming Culture, Pages 51-82.
4. Understanding Hispanic culture.¹

IV. December 18 Cultural Differences and the Message

1. Read Hiebert Pages 141-192
2. Read Ministering Cross-Culturally, pages 81-124
3. Discussion on visit to three stores.

V. January 8 THE FOURTH SELF

1. Read Hiebert Pages 193-226.
2. Read Transforming Culture Pages 83-146
3. Understanding Hindu Culture

VI. January 15 The Bicultural Bridge

1. Read Hiebert Pages 227-254
2. Read Transforming Culture Pages 147-166
3. Read Elmer Pages 9-62.
4. Understanding Upper Class Urban Culture.

VII. January 29 The Missionary Role

1. Read Hiebert Pages 255-284.
2. Read Transforming Culture Pages 167-182
3. Read Elmer Pages 63-134
4. Understanding Muslim Culture

¹This and the following dates are tentative and may change.

5. Discuss visit to Division Avenue.

VIII. February 5 The Unfinished Task

1. Read Hiebert Pages 285-298
2. Read Elmers Pages 135-182
3. Understanding African-American Culture.
4. Discuss conversations with students from other countries.

IX. February 12 God's Diverse and Unified Family

1. On Feb. 12 at 12 noon we will have lunch together at the Ethiopian Restaurant Fulton Street.
2. Read God's Diverse and Unified Family.
3. Discuss visit to other churches.