

North Park Theological Seminary
MNST 5151 CULTURAL DIMENSIONS IN MISSION
Course Syllabus – Fall 2009

3 credit hours. Fulfills requirements for Church and World area, or mission requirements.

The instructor reserves the right to modify the course to accommodate needs of the class.

COURSE INSTRUCTOR

Dr. Carolyn S. Johnson, Adjunct Professor

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I live in Oregon, so do not have “office hours” as such. Participants are encouraged to contact me via email anytime and I will make every effort to respond within forty-eight hours. Please note that I do not check email after 5:00 pm Pacific Time nor on weekends. An email sent after 5:00 pm Friday may not receive a response until the following Tuesday. If students prefer a phone conversation, they are welcome to call me between 9 am and 5 pm Pacific Time, Monday through Friday (for students outside North America, I would be happy to make arrangements for phone or skype conversation at another time as needed).

I will respond to online discussions on Wednesdays and Fridays and will check online course progress regularly.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Insights from the social sciences are applied to the analysis of the missionary task of the church. Using the case study method, topics relevant to the cultural dimension of mission are discussed including the role, impact, and needs of the missionary, and the appropriation of cultural forms in missional communication of the gospel. Each student will form a personal mission theology towards culture from which to reflect and act in today’s multi-cultural world.

PARTICIPANT LEARNING OBJECTIVES FOR THE COURSE:

1. Biblically define the *missio Dei* in relation to the cultural dimensions of mission.
2. Trace historic positions of the Christian tradition, including those of the Evangelical Covenant Church, toward the cultural dimensions of the missional task of the church.
3. Analyze the use of tools from the social sciences in cultural understanding and intercultural missional ministry.
4. State principles for serving in cultures with people of different religious and ethical standards and for dealing with intercultural differences.
5. Describe the cultural impact of contextualization, globalization and translation upon worldview change and the global nature of the church
6. Reflect missiologically on the role, impact, holistic needs, and care of intercultural participants with the *missio Dei*.
7. Form a personal theological and ethical perspective towards culture from which to reflect and act in participation with God’s mission and ministry in the world.

REQUIRED READING

- Vincent J. Donovan. *Christianity Rediscovered*. Orbis, 2003 edition. ISBN 1-57075-462-4.
- Paul G. Hiebert. *Anthropological Reflections on Missiological Issues*. Baker Books, 1994. ISBN 0-8010-4394-8.
- Lucien Legrand. *The Bible on Culture*. Orbis, 2000. ISBN 1-57075-330-X
- Alan Neely. *Christian Mission: A Case Study Approach*. Orbis, 1997. ISBN 0-57075-008-4.
- Lamin Sanneh. *Translating the Message: The Missionary Impact on Culture*. Orbis, 1989. ISBN 0-88344-361-9.

Other assigned readings will be posted on Blackboard

RECOMMENDED READING:

- David W. Augsburger. *Conflict Mediation Across Cultures: Pathways and Patterns*. John Knox, 1992.
- Kathy Black. *Worship Across Cultures: A Handbook*. Abingdon, 1998.
- _____. *Culturally-Conscious Worship*. Chalice Press, 2000.
- David Bosch. *Witness to the World*. Marshall, Morgan & Scott, 1980.
- _____. *Transforming Mission: Paradigm Shifts in Theology of Mission*. Orbis, 1991.
- David H. Budd. *Culture Meets Culture in the Movies: An Analysis East, West, North and South, with Filmographies*. McFarland & Co., 2002.
- Craig A. Carter. *Rethinking Christ and Culture: A Post-Christendom Perspective*. Brazos, 2007.
- Orlando Costas. *The Church and Its Mission: A Shattering Critique from the Third World*. Tyndale, 1974.
- Jean Daniélou. *Holy Pagans of the Old Testament*. Longmans, Green & Co, 1957.
- John R. Davis. *Poles Apart: Contextualizing the Gospel in Asia*. Rev. edition. TBT, 1998.
- Craig Detweiler and Barry Taylor *A Matrix of Meanings*. Baker, 2003.
- Tom. F. Driver. *Liberating Rites: Understanding the Transformative Power of Ritual*. Westview Press, 1998.
- Duane Elmer. *Cross-Cultural Conflict: Building Relationships for Effective Ministry*. IVP, 1993.
- _____. *Cross-Cultural Connections*. IVP, 2002.
- Paul G. Hiebert. *Cultural Anthropology*. Baker, 1983.
- _____. *Anthropological Insights for Missionaries*. Baker, 1985.
- George R. Hunsberger and Craig Van Gelder, eds. *The Church Between Gospel and Culture: The Emerging Mission in North America*. Eerdmans, 1996.
- Juan Isaias. *The Other Side of the Coin*. Eerdmans, 1966.
- E. Stanley Jones. *Christ of the Indian Road*. Abingdon Press, 1925.
- Charles H. Kraft. *Christianity in Culture*. Orbis, 1979.
- _____. *Appropriate Christianity*. Pasadena, CA: William Carey Library, 2005
- Sarah A. Lanier. *Foreign to Familiar*. McDougal Publishing, 2000.
- Tom J. Lewis and Robert E. Jungman, eds. *On Being Foreign: Culture Shock in Short Fiction*. Intercultural Press, Inc., 1986.
- Sherwood Lingenfelter. *Transforming Culture: A Challenge for Christian Mission*. Baker, 1992.
- Jacob A. Loewen. *Culture and Human Values*. William Carey Library, 1975.
- Marvin K. Mayers. *Christianity Confronts Culture*. Academie, 1987.

- Stephen Neill. *A History of Christian Missions*. Second ed. Penguin Books, 1986.
- Eugene Nida. *Customs and Cultures*. William Carey, 1975.
- H. Richard Niebuhr. *Christ and Culture*. Harper & Row, 1951.
- Richard E. Nisbett. *The Geography of Thought: How Asians and Westerners Think Differently...and Why*. Free Press, 2003.
- Stan Nussbaum. *Why Are Americans Like That? A Visitor's Guide to American Cultural Values and Expectations*. Enculturation Books, 2005.
- Mercy Amba Oduyoye and Hendrik M. Vroom. *One Gospel-Many Cultures*. World Alliance of Reformed Churches, Amsterdam: Rodopi, 2003. No ISBN number.
- Mary Pipher. *The Middle of Everywhere: The World's Refugees Come to Our Town*. Harcourt, 2002.
- Neal Pirollo. *The Reentry Team: Caring For Your Returning Missionaries*. Emmaus Road International, 2000.
- William D. Reyburn. "Identification in the Missionary Task." In *Perspectives on the World Christian Movement*. Pp. 449-455. Pasadena, CA: William Carey Library, 1999.
- Don Richardson. *Eternity in Their Hearts*. Rev. ed. Ventura, CA: Regal Books, 1984.
- Mark Andrew Ritchie. *Spirit of the Rainforest: A Yanomamö Shaman's Story*. Chicago, IL: Island Lake Press, 2000.
- William D. Romanowski. *Eyes Wide Open: Looking for God in Popular Culture*. Brazos, 2001.
- H. Ned Seelye. *Teaching Culture: Strategies for Intercultural Communication*. National Textbook Co., 1984.
- William A. Smalley. *Translation as Mission: Bible Translation in the Modern Missionary Movement*. Macon, GA: Mercer University Press, 1991.
- James P. Spradley and David W. McCurdy. *The Cultural Experience: Ethnography in Complex Society*. SRA, 1972.
- Stassen, Glen H. and D. M. Yeager & John Howard Yoder. *Authentic Transformation: A New Vision of Christ and Culture*. Abingdon Press, 1996.
- John R. W. Stott. *Culture and the Bible*. IVP, 1979.
- Katherine Tanner. *Theories of Culture*. Fortress Press, 1997.
- John V. Taylor. *The Primal Vision: Christian Presence Amid African Religion*. Fortress Press, 1963.
- William D. Taylor, ed. *Too Valuable to Lose: Exploring the Causes and Cures of Missionary Attrition*. William Carey Library, 1997.
- Andrew Walls. *The Cross-Cultural Process in Christian History*. Orbis, 2002.
- Ralph Winter, ed. *Perspectives on the World Christian Movement*. WCL, 1999.
- A. H. Mathias Zahniser. *Symbol and Ceremony*. MARC, 1997.

MOVIE SELECTIONS (See assignment #5 below):

- At Play in the Fields of the Lord* (1991), Directed by Hector Babenco
- Babel* (2006), Directed by Alejandro Gonzalez Inarritu
- Beyond the Gates of Splendor* (2002), Directed by Jim Hanon
- City of Joy* (1992), Directed by Roland Joffe
- Crash* (2004), Directed by Paul Haggis
- The End of the Spear* (2005), Directed by Jim Hanon
- Hawaii* (1966), Directed by George Roy Hill

The Last Samarai (2003), Directed by Edward Zwick
The Mission (1986), Directed by Roland Joffe
Peace Child (1974), Directed by Rolf Forsberg
South Pacific (2001), Directed by Richard Pearce
Ushpizin (2004), Directed by Giddi Dar

COMPUTER REQUIREMENTS:

In order to effectively participate in and successfully complete this course, each participant will need to have access to a computer and a high-speed internet connection.

Please visit <http://www.northpark.edu/Current-Students/Computer-Services/Network/Minimum-Requirements.aspx> for information on computer requirements.

TECHNICAL SKILLS REQUIRED:

No advanced technology skills are required. After completing the required online student orientation to Blackboard, you will have a good working knowledge of Blackboard and of the support services available to students.

Please see the Course Information button in your course in Blackboard for the Student Support document if you need assistance during your course.

DISABILITIES ACCOMMODATIONS:

Students with disabilities who believe that they may need accommodations in this class are encouraged to contact the program's office, (Seminary: 773-244-6219). Please do so as soon as possible to better ensure that such accommodations are implemented in a timely manner. For further information please review the following website: <http://www.northpark.edu/current-students/student-development/disability-resources.aspx>. Log in and click the "Resources for Students" navigation link for additional information such as documentation requirements, accommodations and services, etc.

PARTICIPANT RESPONSIBILITIES:

1. Full and regular participation is required for this class. You cannot successfully complete this course without completing the weekly readings and assignments. You are expected to post regularly and interact with at least two other course participants with the schedule provided.
2. Although it is strongly suggested that all issues, questions, and problems be dealt with online, you can feel free to call or e-mail the instructor regarding these issues at any time, noting the hours when the instructor is available.
3. Participants should expect to spend between five and seven hours of preparatory reading and writing each week on this course. Additional time spent online posting may vary.
4. Use proper "netiquette" (see *A Guide to Netiquette in Course Information folder on Blackboard*). All postings should be saved in Word 2003 format so that all can read it.

5. Consider how you can best integrate the "Statement of Inclusive Language" from the North Park Theological Seminary Catalog into all your work during the course.

ACADEMIC HONESTY:

In keeping with our Christian heritage and commitment, North Park University is committed to the highest possible ethical and moral standards. Just as we will constantly strive to live up to these high standards, we expect our students to do the same. To that end, cheating of any sort will not be tolerated. Students who are discovered cheating are subject to discipline up to and including failure of a course and expulsion.

Our definition of cheating includes but is not limited to:

1. Plagiarism – the use of another’s work as one’s own without giving credit to the individual. This includes using materials from the internet.
2. Copying another’s answers on an examination.
3. Deliberately allowing another to copy one’s answers or work.
4. Signing an attendance roster for another who is not present.

In the special instance of group work, the instructor will make clear his/her expectations with respect to individual vs. collaborative work. A violation of these expectations may be considered cheating as well.

For further information on this subject you may refer to the Academic Dishonesty section of the University’s online catalog.

COURSE FACILITATOR RESPONSIBILITIES

1. The course facilitator will design the course and learning modules in such a way that students have every opportunity to achieve the learning objectives.
2. The course facilitator will provide reactions to student responses and discussion as appropriate in order to clarify important ideas and concepts.
3. The course facilitator will provide updated information on relevant resources for the various topics of interest.
4. The course facilitator will read and critically assess students’ assignments and provide feedback within 3-5 days of receipt.

COURSE ASSIGNMENTS

1. One introductory assignment following rubric provided due by first Tuesday of class.
Respond to at least half of others in class by the following Monday according to the guidelines in the rubric. 5% of final grade
2. Write and post a 500-word reflection each on Donovan, Legrand, Sanneh and two articles following the rubric provided on blackboard. Follow due dates given in the schedule.
Comment on two others’ postings. 25% of final grade
3. Review five assigned case studies in Neely. Post your solution to the case. Comment on two

- others' in the class online. 25% of final grade
4. Prepare a one to two page annotated outline of your final case study. Give suggestions to the two others in the roster whose last names come before and after your own. 5% of grade
 5. Review one movie from list of selections using rubric provided. Post comments on two other participants' movie reviews in the class. 5% of grade
 6. Write one 500 word summary of your own Theology of Culture using provided rubric. Comment on the work of two others online in this assignment. 10% of grade
 7. Write a 3,000-5,000 word actual case study in the style of Neely on a specific contextual issue related to the church's missional task in a culture of the student's choice. Include notes about the context, maps or other illustrations, the actual case, footnotes of all sources, study questions, suggested Bible texts for reflection, references for further study, and your own interpretive solution to the case. Follow provided rubric. 25% of final grade

GRADING POLICY

<u>Item</u>	<u>Points</u>	<u>% of Course Grade</u>
Personal introduction assignment/responses	30	5%
3 Book Reflections and responses	30 (each)	15%
2 Article Reflections and responses	30 (each)	10%
5 Case Study postings and responses	30 (each)	25%
1 Outline of final case study and responses	30	5%
1 Movie review	30	5%
1 Theology of Culture statement	60	10%
Final Case Study Project	150	25%
Total	600 points	100%

Late work will be marked down 1/3 grade per day

Course grading follows the policy as listed on page 107 of NPTS online catalog (<http://www2.northpark.edu/sem/academics/catalog0508.html>, follow the academic programs link):

A	95-100	C	80-83
A-	93-94	C-	78-79
B+	91-92	D+	76-77
B	88-90	D	72-75
B-	86-87	D-	70-71
C+	84-85	Failure	69 and below

COURSE SCHEDULE

Week 1 (August 24-30), Introduction to class and one another, Tools for the Journey, *Missio Dei* and Culture

Weekly Student Learning Objectives: Students will acquaint themselves with the members of the class. Students will be able to define the terms *Missio Dei* and culture. Overall course objectives #1,7.

Required Readings: Neely pp. 1-19 and 241-247. Hiebert chaps. 1-3.

Recommended Readings: Bosch (80) chap. 23, (91) chap. 12, Mayers pp. 305-312, Nida, Nisbett

Assignments Due: Personal introduction **due 8/25**, responses due 8/31. Watch PowerPoint and video posted on Blackboard

Week 2 (August 31-September 6), Defining Cultural Dimensions, Niebuhr Reviewed and Critiqued, Case, “You Must Purify This House”

Weekly Student Learning Objectives: Students will be able to briefly explain Niebuhr’s 5 positions on the relationship of Christ and culture. Students will demonstrate comprehension and appreciation for cultural complexities by proposing a case resolution that includes cultural sensitivity and biblical integrity. Students will critique two fellow students’ solutions to a mission case study. Overall course objectives #2,3.

Required Readings: Neely pp. 137-143, begin reading Legrand

Recommended Readings: Daniélou, Hiebert (83) 1-3, 22, Kraft (79) chaps. 6,10, Stott, J. Taylor

Assignments Due: Outline of Case in Neely pp. 137-143 **due 9/02**. Response to two fellow students’ postings due 9/7. Watch PowerPoints and videos posted on Blackboard.

Week 3 (September 7-13), Christianity’s Positions towards Culture, The Bible on Culture

Weekly Student Learning Objectives: Students will clearly state the thesis of *The Bible on Culture*. Students will identify at least 3 sub points supporting the thesis. Students will evaluate the usefulness of the book to their own ministry. Overall course objectives #1,2.

Required Readings: Finish Legrand. Sanneh chaps 1-2.

Recommended Readings: Carter, Jones, Kraft (79) chap. 19-19, Neibuhr, Stassen

Assignments Due: Legrand Book Reflection **due 9/09**. Responses due 9/14.

Week 4 (September 14-20), God's Movement in Culture and History, Case, "Phyllis Crowder is Pregnant"

Weekly Student Learning Objectives: Students will demonstrate comprehension and appreciation for cultural complexities by proposing a case resolution that includes cultural sensitivity and biblical integrity. Students will critique two fellow students' solutions to this mission case study. Overall course objectives #1, 2.

Required Readings: Sanneh chap. 3-5. Neely pp. 191-203

Recommended Readings: Bosch (91) 5-9, Niell, Walls, Winter chaps. 33-53

Assignments Due: Outline of case Neely pp. 191-203 **due 9/16**; responses due 9/21.

Week 5 (September 21-27), Ritual and Culture, Guilt and Shame Cultures, The Missionary Impact on Culture

Weekly Student Learning Objectives: Students will clearly state the thesis of *Translating the Message: The Missionary Impact on Culture*. Students will identify at least 3 sub points supporting the author's thesis. Students will evaluate the usefulness of the book to their own ministry. Overall course objectives #3, 6, 7.

Required Readings: Hiebert chap. 6

Assignments Due: Sanneh Book Reflection **due 9/23**. Responses due 9/28. Watch video and PowerPoints posted on Blackboard.

Week 6 (September 28-October 4), Social Sciences, Cultural Studies and Mission, Deeper Levels of Culture (magic, science and religion), Case, "Baptising Masai Women."

Weekly Student Learning Objectives: Students will demonstrate comprehension and appreciation for cultural complexities by proposing a case resolution that includes cultural sensitivity and biblical integrity. Students will critique two fellow students' solutions to this mission case study. Overall course objectives #3,4.

Required Readings: Neely pp. 168-178

Assignments Due: Outline of case in Neely pp. 168-178 **due 9/30**. Responses due 10/5. Watch PowerPoints posted on Blackboard.

Week 7 (October 5-11), Worldview as Cultural Lenses, Cultural and Worldview Change

Weekly Student Learning Objectives: Students will clearly state the thesis of "North American Culture and the Gospel." Students will identify at least 3 sub points supporting the author's thesis. Students will evaluate the usefulness of the article to their own ministry. Overall course

objectives #3,4,6,7

Required Reading: “North American Culture and the Gospel” by Small (posted on Blackboard).

Recommended Readings: Elmer (02) 13-18,20, Hiebert (85) 2, Lanier, Lingenfelter, Nisbett, Nusbaum

Assignments Due: Small article reflection due 10/08. Responses **due 10/12**. Watch PowerPoint posted on Blackboard.

Week 8 (October 19-25), Globalization and Culture, Culture and Ethics, Case, “Asia Resources, Inc.”

Weekly Student Learning Objectives: Students will demonstrate comprehension and appreciation for cultural complexities by proposing a case resolution that includes cultural sensitivity and biblical integrity. Students will critique two fellow students’ solutions to this mission case study. Overall course objective #5.

Required Readings: Neely pp. 214-224, Donovan

Assignments Due: Outline of case Neely pp. 214-224 **due 10/21**. Responses due 10/26. Watch PowerPoint and video posted on Blackboard.

Week 9 (October 26-November 1), Cultural Contextualization, Historic and Contemporary Cultural Theologies

Weekly Student Learning Objectives: Students will clearly state the thesis of *Christianity Rediscovered*. Students will identify at least 3 sub points supporting the author’s thesis. Students will evaluate the usefulness of the book to their own ministry. Overall course objectives #2,4.

Required Readings: Hiebert chap. 4-5.

Recommended Readings: Davis chaps. 1,2,9, Walls, Hunsberger 260-269, Kraft (05) 7, 9-11, Richardson

Assignments Due: Donovan book reflection **due 10/28**. Responses due 11/2. Watch PowerPoints and video posted on Blackboard.

Week 10 (November 2-8), Cultural Identification and Adaptation, Culture Shock, Case, “Roberto de Nobili”

Weekly Student Learning Objectives: Students will demonstrate comprehension and appreciation for cultural complexities by proposing a case resolution that includes cultural sensitivity and biblical integrity. Students will critique two fellow students’ solutions to this mission case study. Overall course objectives #2,4,7.

Required Readings: Hiebert chap. 7. Neely pp. 32-51.

Recommended Readings: Elmer (02) 4-8, Lewis & Jungman, Pirollo, Reyburn, W. Taylor

Assignments Due: Outline case Neely pp. 32-51 **due 11/4**. Responses due 11/9. Watch PowerPoints and videos posted on Blackboard.

Week 11 (November 9-15), Cultural Conflict and Restoration, Cultural Bridges

Weekly Student Learning Objectives: Students will clearly state the thesis of “Christianity and African Culture.” Students will identify at least 3 sub points supporting the author’s thesis. Students will evaluate the usefulness of the article to their own ministry. Overall course objectives #4,6.

Required Readings: “Christianity and African Culture” by Oduyoye (available via the assignments link in Blackboard) or another article from *One Gospel-Many Cultures* by Oduyoye and Vroom. Hiebert chap. 8.

Recommended Readings: Augsburg, Elmer, Hiebert (85) 9-11, Loewen Pp. 54-67, Pipher

Assignments Due: Oduyoye article reflection due 11/11. Responses **due 11/16**. Watch videos posted on Blackboard.

Week 12 (November 16-22), Multi-directional Cultural Exegesis, Cultural Awareness in Ministry and Mission

Weekly Student Learning Objectives: Students will identify a specific contextual issue related to the church’s missional task in a culture of the student’s choice. Overall course objectives #4,6,7.

Required Readings: Neely 260-261

Recommended Readings: Budd, Costas, Detweiler & Taylor, Hunsberger 139-157, Isaias, Kraft (05) chap. 27, Ritchie

Assignments Due: Outline of final project **due 11/18**. Responses due 11/23.

Week 13 (November 23-29), Theology of Culture

Weekly Student Learning Objective: Students will integrate their learning from this course into a personal theology of culture. Overall course objective #7

Recommended Reading: Romanowski

Assignments Due: Theology of Culture **due 11/25**. Watch PowerPoints posted on Blackboard.

Week 14 (November 30-December 6), Application

Weekly Student Learning Objective: Students will demonstrate their understanding of intercultural ministry principles by critiquing the intercultural interaction portrayed in a movie.

Assignments Due: Movie Review **due 12/2**.

Week 15 (December 7-11), Final Case Study Project

Weekly Student Learning Objectives: Students will identify a specific contextual issue related to the church's missional task in a culture of the student's choice. Students will be able to describe the relevant details of the context, to present the issue arising in the situation, to identify Bible texts for reflection, and to propose a solution.

Assignments Due: Final Case Study Project **due 12/11**

Revised 08 July 09