NORTH PARK THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
MNST 6264 - COMMUNICATING THE FAITH IN THE CONTEMPORARY WORLD
Fall Semester, 2011
Tuesday / Thursday – 4:00pm-5:15pm
Instructor: Soong-Chan Rah
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Office Hours: Wednesday (10:00AM – 2:00PM or by appointment)

CATALOG DESCRIPTION

Gracious and effective communication of the good news of the Christian faith involves the complex interplay of many factors. Drawing from studies in communication, evangelism, and contemporary culture, participants in this course will engage in an exegesis of culture, an exploration of the mandate and means of evangelism, and the development of skills in listening and speaking. Three hours.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

Upon completion of this course, participants should be able to:

1. To acquire exegetical skills in biblically-based cultural interpretation for effective communication of the faith required by all Christ followers daily.
2. To formulate a personal biblical theology of Christian communication through the study of scripture, analysis of case studies, personal reflection, and group interaction.
3. To gain practical experience and develop abilities in receptor-oriented expressions of the faith using a variety of media in various cultural, personal, and public situations.

We will work towards the Seminary Learning Goals of:

- Understanding of cultures in order to live and present the Gospel effectively.
- The ability to communicate effectively through spoken and written media.
- Develop understanding of the vocation and practice of ministry, including its joys, challenges and breadth

REQUIRED READING (On 24 hr reserve in Brandel Library)

Charles H. Kraft, *Communication Theory for Christian Witness*, Rev. Ed. Orbis, 1991.
Lamin Sanneh, *Whose Religion is Christianity? The Gospel Beyond the West*. Eerdmans 2003.
Robert E. Webber, *Ancient Future Evangelism*, Baker Books, 2003.
(On Blackboard) Donald K. Smith, "The Signals We Use." p.144-165 in *Creating Understanding: A Handbook for Christian Communication Across Cultural Landscapes*. Zondervan, 1992.

A minimum of 500 pages of additional reading new to the student, and that is helpful for the student's final presentation and paper, should include at least one (or more) of the following:

<u>RECOMMENDED TEXTS</u> (On 3 day reserve in Brandel Library)

Bosch, David. *Transforming Mission*. Orbis Books, 1991.
Cannon, Mae. *Social Justice Handbook*, IVP Books, 2009.
Capon, Robert Farrar. *The Astonished Heart*. Eerdmans, 1996.
Chilcote, Paul and Laceye Warner, eds. *The Study of Evangelism*. Eerdmans, 2008.
Choung, James. *True Story: A Christianity Worth Believing In*. IVP Books, 2008.
Clark, Chap. *Hurt: Inside the World of Today's Teenagers*. Baker, 2004.
Coleman, Robert E. *The Master Plan of Evangelism*. Revell, 1994.
Donovan, Vincent. *Christianity Rediscovered*, 25th Anniv. ed. Orbis, 2003.
Erickson, Millard J. *Postmodernizing the Faith*. Baker Books, 1998.
Gee, Alex and John Teter. *Jesus and the Hip Hop Prophets*. IVP Books, 2003.
Green, Michael. *Evangelism in the Early Church*. Eerdmans, 1970.
Hiebert, Paul. *Anthroplogical Reflections on Missiological Issues*. Baker Books, 1994.
Hopler, Thom and Marcia. *Reaching the World Next Door*. Rev. ed. IVP, 1993.
Jenkins, Phillip. *The Next Christendom.* Oxford University Press, 2002.
Lim, David and Steve Spaulding, eds., *Sharing Jesus in the Buddhist World*. William Carey Library, 2003.
McKee, Robert. *Story*. Harper Publishers, 1997.
McLaren, Brian D. *More Ready Than You Realize*. Zondervan, 2002.
Middleton, J. Richard and Brian J. Walsh, *Truth is Stranger Than it Used to Be*. IVP, 1995.
Miller, Donald. *Blue Like Jazz*. Thomas Nelson, 2003.
Niebuhr, H. Richard. *Christ and Culture.* Harper & Row Publishers, 1951.
Olson, Ginny. *Teenage Girls: Exploring Issues Adolescent Girls Face and Strategies to Help Them*. Zondervan, 2006.
Pippert, Rebecca Manley. *Out of the Salt Shaker and Into the World.* Revised and expanded edition, IVP, 1999.
Posterski, Donald C. *Reinventing Evangelism*. IVP, 1989.
Rah, Soong-Chan. *The Next Evangelicalism*. IVP Books, 2009
-----. *Many Colors: Cultural Intelligence for a Changing Church*. Moody Press, 2010.
Richardson, Rick. *Evangelism Outside the Box*. IVP, 2000.
Romanowski, William D. *Eyes Wide Open: Looking for God in Popular Culture*. Brazos, 2001.
Ross, Cathy and Andrew Walls. *Mission in the Twenty-first Century*. Orbis, 2008.
Sample, Tex. *Ministry in an Oral Culture*. John Knox, 1994.
Smith, Donald K. *Creating Understanding: A Handbook for Christian Communication Across Cultural Landscapes*. Zondervan, 1992.
Stone, Bryan. *Evangelism after Christendom*. Brazos, 2007.
Teter, John. *Get the Word Out: How God Shapes and Sends His Witnesses*. IVP, 2003.
Twiss, Richard. *One Church Many Tribes*. Ventura: Regal Books, 1979.
Wallis, Jim. *The Great Awakening*. HarperOne, 2008.
Warner, Laceye. *Saving Women*. Baylor, 2007.
Wimber, John with Kevin Springer. *Power Evangelism.* Harper & Row, 1993.

Woodley, Randy. *Living in Color*. IVP Books, 2004.
Wright, N.T. *Simply Christian*. HarperOne, 2006.

COURSE SCHEDULE (subject to change)

Date			Christ and Culture
8/30	(T)		Multi-Cultural Communication
9/1	(R)	Dicussion Topics	
9/6	(T)	Student introductions and course mechanics	
9/8	(R)	Defining Evangelism	Assignments Due
9/13	(T)	*Missio Dei* / Semiotics	
9/15	(R)	Semiotics / Kraft Discussion	Rec: Green, Ch. 3-6
9/20	(T)	Signal Systems	Rec: Bosch, Ch. 12
9/22	(R)	What is the Gospel?	**Kraft reflection due**
9/27	(T)	Cultural Exegesis	Smith on blackboard
9/29	(R)	Biblical Missional Communication (online)	Rec: Wright Rec: Wimber, Part I
10/4	(T)	Evangelism from a Historical Perspective	
10/6	(R)	Webber Discussion	Rec: Ladd
10/11	(T)	Post-modern Evangelism	Rec: Capon
10/13	(R)	Student's Biblical Presentations	**Webber reflection due**
10/18	(T)	Students' Biblical Presentations	Rec: McLaren
10/20	(R)	Students' Biblical Presentations	
10/25	(T)	FALL BREAK	
10/27	(R)	No Classes	

12/13 (T)

Rec: Niebuhr

Rec: Bevans

		Evaluating Evangelism Methods	
11/1	(T)	TBA	Rec: McKee
11/3	(R)	Communication through Story	Rec: Heen, et al.
11/8	(T)	Communication through Dialogue	**Sanneh reflection due**
11/10	(R)	Sanneh Discussion	
11/15	(T)	Measuring Success in Communication	Rec: Choung
11/17	(R)	Steps to Faith	
11/22	(T)	Thanksgiving – NO CLASS	
11/24	(R)	Evangelism Through Systems	
11/29	(T)	Students' Final Presentations	
12/1	(R)	Students' Final Presentations	**4th reflection due** **Reading report due**
12/6	(T)	Students' Final Presentations	
12/8	(R)		**Final project due**

COURSE EXPECTATIONS AND ASSIGNMENTS

1. Attendance in all class sessions, mind, body, and soul. 5% of class grade.
2. Personal integration and reflection of the reading, lecture, and discussion material.
3. Lead a class devotional, approximately five minutes in length. Date to be determined.
4. Present in class an eight minute communication of a missional communication from the Bible employing numerous signal systems. 10% of class grade.
5. Beyond the three required texts and the Smith article, students will read 500 additional pages. Included in these 500 pages should be at least one book from the recommended reading list upon which the student will write a reflection paper (see #6 below). The remaining pages beyond the fourth text can be from other sources and should help the student towards completion of the final presentation and final paper (see #7 and #8 below). It is encouraged that the student look for recent publications, including journals and scholarly electronic media articles, relevant to the cultural group chosen for the final project. A signed reading log will be submitted by December 8th listing all the reading done by the student. 5% of the grade.
6. Write four 500 word interactive reflections, one for each required text and one on a text selected from the recommended reading list. Reflection on Kraft is due on September 8th, on Webber is due on September 29th, and on Sanneh is due on November 15th. The fourth selection is due by December 8th. 40% of class grade.
7. Final Presentation: Present in class a twelve minute cultural communication of one particular term or concept of the gospel message using dance, media, music, ritual, symbol, or communication methods contemporary for a specific societal group of your choice. In the introduction of your presentation include a brief exegesis of this cultural group and why the topic you have chosen is important to them. 20% of class grade.
8. Final paper: Write a fully researched and documented 2,500 word paper describing the exegetical process involved in your project, including your decision to focus on a particular societal group, your decision on the topic used in communication, and the methodology used in communication. Include in this paper your own theology of Christian communication and personal application lessons learned as well as other requirements listed on the handout. Due December 13th. 20% of class grade.

GRADING

The weight of the assignments will be the following:

4 written book reflections: 10% each (40% of total grade)
Biblical message presentation: 10%
Final presentation: 20%
Final Paper: 20%
Attendance, devotional and reading sheet: 10%

Late assignments will be marked down 1/3 letter grade per day.

A FINAL GRADE for this course will be computed based upon the following assignments:

ASSIGNMENTS I A/B/C/D: READING REPORTS 10 max pts/report (40 total)

DUE on the following dates:

IA) for Kraft (DUE: September 8th)
IB) for Webber (DUE: September 29th)
IC) for Sanneh (DUE: November 15th)
ID) for book of your choice (DUE: December 8th)

See APPENDIX I for format and grading rubric

ASSIGNMENT II: Biblical Communication Presentation 10 maximum points

DUE on October 6th, 11th, and 13th (order assigned in class)
See APPENDIX II for format and grading rubric

ASSIGNMENT III: Cultural Communication Presentation 20 maximum points

DUE on December 1st, 6th, and 8th (order assigned in class)
See APPENDIX III for format and grading rubric

ASSIGNMENT IV: FINAL Project Paper 20 maximum points

DUE on December 13th
See APPENDIX IV for format and grading rubric

MISC ASSIGNMENTS: 10 maximum points

Sign Attendance Sheet
Opening Devotional (randomly assigned dates)
Reading Report (See APPENDIX V) due on December 8th

Grading:

At the completion of this course, you will receive a letter grade reflecting your performance in this course. Letter grades (from A – F) will be awarded according to the existing policies of North Park Theological Seminary. The final course grade will be computed according to the total number of points earned for all assignments as shown below (cf. catalog):

Total Points Earned:	Final Grade:
95-100	A
93-94	A-
91-92	B+
88-90	B
86-87	B-
84-85	C+
80-83	C
78-79	C-
76-77	D+

72-75	D
70-71	D-
69 and below	F

Disabilities Accommodations:

North Park Theological Seminary provides services for students with documented disabilities to ensure equal access to programs, services, facilities, and activities. Students with a disability who believe that they may need accommodations in this class are encouraged to contact Seminary Academic Services as soon as possible. If desired or necessary, discussion pertaining to documentation and accommodation can take place at another suitable location or by telephone. Further information about the American Disabilities Act Services is found in the Student Academic Handbook.

Academic Honesty:

In keeping with our Christian heritage and commitment, North Park 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.

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

NOTES

1. The instructor reserves the right to modify the course syllabus to best accommodate the particular needs of the class.
2. Please be informed that the instructor may not check email after 9:00 pm Monday through Thursday or after 5:00 pm on Friday until Monday morning. The instructor has posted offices hours during which students are welcome to come and discuss specific questions that cannot be answered in class.
3. If the student is familiar with all the texts listed in the recommended reading list, the student may suggest another that is new to the student and of personal interest with prior approval from the instructors.
4. If your final project involves a group that uses a language other than English the student is encouraged to describe the use of relevant concepts, symbols and media used in that culture's language but must provide verbal translation for the benefit of the class.
5. Consider how you can best integrate the "Statement of Inclusive Language" from the North Park Theological Seminary Catalog into all your communication presentations during the course.
6. If a student has a diagnosed learning disability, please inform the instructor as soon as possible so that appropriate accommodations can be made to benefit instruction.

Updated August 16, 2011