

## **MISSIONS IN LATIN AMERICA – Hybrid Course Syllabus**

MNST 5156 – Spring 2010

Pre- and Post-travel online preparation required. Travel to Ecuador 5-14 March 2010.

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This course can be used to fulfill requirements for Church and World area, Intercultural Studies certificate requirement, Interdisciplinary core requirement or elective

### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

Understanding the global character of the church first hand is essential for ministry in today's growing cultural and ethnic diversity. We will explore the challenges of mission within the Latin American context with special emphasis on ministry among indigenous peoples. An emphasis will be on applications of theologies of liberation with the poor. An assessment of intercultural competency for ministry is included. This hybrid course includes pre- and post-travel online requirements as well as an immersion experience. During a ten-day cultural awareness trip to Ecuador students will be provided opportunities to learn from and directly interact with local lay people and leaders. Due to the high elevation of our destination there are physical and cultural demands to be considered. An additional application form and instructor's permission is required for enrollment. Three hours.

### **COURSE GOALS**

1. To understand the global character of the church by participating in the life of a worshipping community of Christ followers in the Latin American context.
2. To personally experience a distinctly different culture in order to understand the challenges involved in living and presenting the gospel effectively in today's contemporary world.
3. To become spiritually formed through a missiological reflection on faith, personal character, self-care, leadership roles, and personal gifting in the context of a multi-cultural environment.
4. To develop a mature theological, global and ethical perspective from which to reflect and act
5. To grow in ability to build appropriate relationships beyond cultural barriers.
6. To discern one's own intercultural learning framework and to plan steps to move farther ahead in intercultural competency for ministry.
7. To promote the work of Covenant World Relief around the world through understanding, personal experience, written and verbal communication and volunteer involvement.

### **REQUIRED READING**

Leonardo Boff and Clodovis Boff, *Introducing Liberation Theology*, Orbis, 1989.

ISBN: 0860121569

Justo Gonzales, *Manana*, Abingdon, 1990. ISBN-10: 0687230675, ISBN-13: 978-0687230679

Sarah Lanier, *Foreign to Familiar*, McDougal Press, 2000. ISBN-10: 1581580223,

ISBN-13: 978-1581580228

Bryant Meyers, *Walking With the Poor: Principles and Practices of Transformational Development*, Orbis, 1999. ISBN-10: 1570752753, ISBN-13: 978-1570752759

Other required and recommended readings will be posted on blackboard

## **ASSIGNMENTS/GRADING**

Due to its experiential nature, the instructor highly recommends that students register for this course pass/no pass. If a letter grade is necessary the instructor will follow the grading system described on p.107 of the NPTS catalog using the weight of assignments listed below. Due dates for all assignments are listed under Course Schedule. These are also found in the course blackboard shell along with all assignment rubrics. Late assignments will be marked down 1/3 letter grade per day.

Completion of all modules on Blackboard	10% of grade
Completion of four book reflections on assigned texts	20% of grade
Completion of the IDI online survey and debrief session	10% of grade
Completion of travel experience in Ecuador	30% of grade
Completion of written reflections	20% of grade
Completion of a visual presentation	5% of grade
Completion of post-trip volunteer hours with Covenant World Relief	5% of grade

## **NOTES**

1. The instructors reserve the right to modify the course to best accommodate the particular needs of the class.
2. Please be informed that the instructors do not check email after 9:00 pm Monday through Thursday or after 5:00 pm on Friday until Monday morning. Each instructor has separate office hours but can be contacted via email for appointments.
3. Students should consider how they can best integrate the "Statement of Inclusive Language" from the North Park Theological Seminary Catalog into all written and verbal communication presented during the course. For this course, this applies to communication in Spanish as well as in English.
4. 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.

## COURSE SCHEDULE

Take a minute to review this schedule. Time for preparation before our departure is very limited so participants are highly encouraged to complete pre-trip activities as soon as possible. Some of the items on blackboard can be completed in advance.

### Module 1

Complete these items between acceptance in the course and 1 Feb. '10

### Preliminaries and Introductions (Parts 1-2):

**Part 1: Preliminaries.** Complete each of the following:

- Deposit of \$100 due to Yasmine Capetillo ([ycapetillo@northpark.edu](mailto:ycapetillo@northpark.edu)) whose office is on the third floor of North Park's Business office (3225 W. Foster Ave, Chicago, IL 60625 USA), **before** you can register for the class. Her office number is 773-244-5604. Mention that this deposit is for the seminary Ecuador course.
- *Note for on-campus Non-US Passport Holders: Obtain clearance on your student visa from Ann-Helen Anderson x5571 and cc Zach on this.*
- Registration and tuition for MNST 5156.
- Remaining amount of in-country travel costs (\$400) due to Yasmine Capetillo (information above) by Feb. 1st.
- Contact graduate assistant Zachary Loving ([zlovig@northpark.edu](mailto:zlovig@northpark.edu)) if you would like a letter to send to your church or individuals to request support.
- Ask at least 3 people outside the group to commit to pray for you for this experience. Give them at least two specific measurable items for which to pray and commit to reporting back to them.
- Other required paperwork including passport copies, medical clearance, personal record, NPU waiver form, international health insurance and student travel cards will be required. Jennifer Pope, North Park's director of the International Office will contact you directly about this.

**Part 2: Introductions and Intercultural Competency:** (Completed after Feb. 1).

We need to get to know each other in order to function as a group. We will participate in some team building activities including taking the Intercultural Development Inventory (IDI) to determine our group profile for intercultural competency. Each participant will also be taking the IDI individually. Both profiles are created from your answers to a series of questions taken online. More information about this will be posted on blackboard.

- Introduce yourself online to each other in the forum in blackboard
- Start a written journal about this whole experience. It will not be read by the instructors but you will refer to it for your final assignments.
- Take the IDI test online following instructions on blackboard
- Set up a time for one-on-one debrief with Paul to review your individual IDI profile 10% of course grade.

## **Module 2**

Complete these items between now and our departure date

### **Language and Culture Learning (Parts 1-3): Online**

#### Part 1: Awareness of Personal Culture

- Read Lanier and complete the powerpoint exercise on blackboard. Post your response in the appropriate discussion board forum on blackboard. Due by 5:00 pm Feb 5. 5% of total course grade.
- Review other required and recommended reading on blackboard.

#### Part 2: Awareness of Others' Culture

- Review Spanish language tools on blackboard and elsewhere. The more you learn the more prepared you will be for this experience!
- Read Gonzalez and write a 500 word reflection using the provided rubric. Post in the appropriate discussion board forum on blackboard by 5:00 pm Feb 12<sup>th</sup>. 5% of total course grade.
- Read Boff and write a 500 word reflection using the provided rubric. Post in the appropriate discussion board forum on blackboard by 5:00 pm Feb 19<sup>th</sup>. 5% of total course grade.
- Review other required and recommended reading on blackboard.

#### Part 3: Self and Others Together in Culture

- Read Boff and write a 500 word reflection using the provided rubric. Post in the appropriate discussion board forum on blackboard by 5:00 pm Feb 26<sup>th</sup>. 5% of total course grade.
- Review other required and recommended reading on blackboard.

## **Module 3**

5-14 Mar. '10

### **Ecuador Trip:**

March 5 Fly Chicago- Miami-Quito, Stay in Casa Sueca  
March 6 Travel to Cayambe, Ecuador for Sem class, stay night at Casa Sueca  
March 6-9 Days in Quito and La Bota ("suburb of Quito") La Iglesia Cristo Victorioso/ Pastor Francisco San Lucas  
March 10 -12 Oyacatchi, Ecuador  
March 12-13 Quito, Ecuador/ La Bota  
March 14 Departure Quito-Miami-Chicago 30% of course grade

## **Module 4**

Complete these items between our return date and 7 May 2010

### **Post-trip Reflection (Parts 1-2):**

#### Part 1. Reflections of Your Experience.

- Write two reflection articles of 1000 words minimum drawing from observations, interviews, and personal diary. One must be someone else's story that the student has met on the trip. The second should focus on a particular issue, event or person that impact the student personally. Both articles should include a word of gratitude to Covenant World Relief for their support of these seminary opportunities. One of the two articles must be submitted for publication to a Covenant publication on provided list. A copy of each should be sent to CWR. Due date for both articles is May 7<sup>th</sup> but accepted anytime earlier. 20% of course grade. See rubrics provided on blackboard for complete details.

- Visual presentation of your experience. This can be powerpoint, video, cassette audio or a combination. It should be able to tell a story when shared with others and must include a word of appreciate to your supporters and Covenant World Relief. See rubric on blackboard for more details. This is due to Paul De Neui by May 7<sup>th</sup> or before if possible. 5% of course grade.

Part 2. Volunteering with Covenant World Relief

- Covenant World Relief has graciously provided for our international travel costs to visit the sites of some of CWR work. In gratitude for assisting each of us in this educational experience we are asked to contribute 5 hours of volunteer effort for CWR. For those in the Chicago area, their office is located at 5101 N. Francisco Avenue and it is possible to do some tasks at their office. Most can be completed from your location. From the following list of options please let Paul know what you would like to contribute:
  - a.) Call Covenant Churches to inquire about their CWR involvement
  - b.) Update survey of previous NPTS students who have participated in the trips and how it has impacted their ministries
  - c.) CWR newsletter help
  - d.) Help with CWR web site, facebook, blog, etc...
  - e.) Help to organize CWR photos and help with Flickr
  - f.) Help create a CWR partner data base
  - g.) Scanning files to create electronic records of previous projects
  - h.) Organizing the previous projects and reports
  - I.) Help in archiving old CWR documents and materials
  - J.) Other activities that fit the gifts of the students
- The primary objective of this part of this effort is to facilitate the process for students to get better connected to CWR so that they will have a better understanding and a stronger sense of commitment to the ministries of CWR as they move into local ECC church ministry.
- This work is to be completed or a completion date arranged by May 7<sup>th</sup>. 5% of course grade.