

North Park Theological Seminary
MNST 6151 CULTURAL DIMENSIONS IN MISSION
Fall 2014
Course Syllabus

3 credit hours. Fulfills requirements for Church and World area.
Online class

COURSE INSTRUCTOR

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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 work email 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 8 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).

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.

COURSE FORMAT

This course is being offered in asynchronous online format. Students will be expected to watch PowerPoint presentations in Moodle and will have assignments to post each week. Students will be expected to interact with one another in online discussions—some weeks there is a required assignment to post and then respond to other students’ postings in the following days.

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

Lamin Sanneh. *Translating the Message: The Missionary Impact on Culture*. Orbis, 1989.

ISBN 0-88344-361-9.

Other assigned readings will be posted on Moodle, including two articles and five case studies.

COMPUTER AND TECHNICAL SKILLS REQUIRED:

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.

No advanced technology skills are required. After completing the required online student orientation to Moodle, you will have a good working knowledge of Moodle and of the support services available to students. Please see the Course Information button in your course in Moodle for the Student Support document if you need assistance during your course.

PARTICIPANT RESPONSIBILITIES:

1. Full and regular participation is required for this class. You cannot successfully complete this course without completing the readings and assignments.
2. Course participants are expected to complete assignments in a timely manner following rubrics provided online (up to 95% of course grade).
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. Course participants are expected to interact with one another online (5% of course grade plus a portion of many other assignments). Interaction with the professor is also highly encouraged.
5. Use proper "netiquette" (see *A Guide to Netiquette in Course Information folder on Moodle*). Assignments should be saved in Word 2003 format so that all can read them.
6. 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.

COURSE FACILITATOR RESPONSIBILITIES

1. The course facilitator will design the course, the learning modules and the assignments in such a way that students have every opportunity to achieve the learning objectives.
2. The course facilitator will provide reactions to student responses 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.
5. The course facilitator retains the right to modify the course to best meet the learning goals and needs of the current group of course participants.

COURSE ASSIGNMENTS

More details for each assignment provided in online rubrics. Postings are due by midnight Wednesday. Response postings are due by midnight Saturday.

1. One introductory assignment 5% of grade
2. One 500 word reflection each on Donovan, Legrand, Sanneh and two articles 25% of grade
(Individual work)
3. Your proposed solutions to the five assigned case studies posted online. 25% of grade
(Done in pairs)
4. A 1-2 page annotated outline of your final case study. 5% of grade
(Individual work)
5. One movie or novel review from list provided online. 5% of grade
(Movies can be viewed together, reviews written individually)
6. A 500 word summary of your own Theology of Culture 10% of grade
(Individual work)
7. A 3,000-5,000 word actual case study (Individual work) 20% of grade
This is to be written in the style of those posted online that we have discussed. It must address a specific contextual issue related to the church's missional task in a culture of the student's choice. Follow the rubric and 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. Instructions on writing a case study will be posted online.

WEIGHT OF ASSIGNMENTS

<u>Item</u>	<u>Points</u>	<u>% of Course Grade</u>
1 Personal Introduction and responses	50	5%
3 Book Reflections	50 (each)	15%
2 Article Reflections and responses	50 (each)	10%
5 Case Study solutions and responses	50 (each)	25%
1 Outline of final case study and responses	50	5%
1 Review of Movie or Novel	50	5%
1 Theology of Culture statement	100	10%
Final Case Study Project	200	20%
<u>Course participation</u>	<u>50</u>	<u>5%</u>
Total	1000 points	100%

Course grading follows the policy in the NPTS online catalog (<http://www.northpark.edu/Seminary/Academics/Academic-Programs/~~/media/Files/PDF/Seminary/Catalog/AcademicPolicies.ashx>). Late work will be marked down 1/3 grade per day

Revised 11 April 2014