

**PURPOSE** This course is designed to help Christian leaders going into missions, evangelism and church planting to be able to exegete and understand the people among whom they minister in order to minister among them more effectively. Attention is given to the theoretical and methodological insights that anthropology and sociology offer to our understanding of the social and cultural contexts in which people live. These insights are applied to evangelism and church planting, particularly in cross-cultural settings.

**READINGS** In addition to reading the textbooks, and the materials used in writing the major paper, each student is expected to find and review eight articles on specified topics during the quarter.

- Textbooks: Hiebert, Paul. Cultural Anthropology. Baker Book House.  
Hiebert, Paul G. and Eloise Meneses. Incarnational Ministry.  
Baker Book House.
- Recommended: Luzbetak, L., The Church and Cultures.
- On Reserve: Smalley, William A. Readings in Missionary Anthropology II.  
Hesselgrave, David. Communicating Christ Cross-Culturally.  
Loewen, Jacob A. Culture and Human Values.  
Mayers, Marvin K. Christianity Confronts Culture.

**ASSIGNMENTS** Each student is expected to 1) read and review six articles on topics related to the discussion (see outline); 2) form a friendship with one international student on campus, and to write a brief description about their culture; 3) complete two field study papers (2-4 pages) and 4) prepare one major research paper at the graduate level based either on library or field research. This is to be fully documented in the Turabien style.

1. Articles:

Participants are expected to read the materials relevant to the course before the course begins. This will enable us to discuss the subjects and not only introduce them. Xerox and read six articles or chapters of books. Preferably choose topics that will come up in class. These articles or chapters should be at least 15 pages long. If they are shorter, combine two or three to make up one 'article reading' requirement. Take no more than two chapters from any one book. Read on several areas of missions.

Prepare a brief review of the article (1 - 1.5 pages) The review should include:

- a) a brief statement of **one or two key ideas** you found of value with regard to cross-cultural ministries,
- b) your evaluation of these ideas, positive and negative,
- c) a comment on what you have learned from this for your ministry.

Look in journals such as: Evangelical Missions Quarterly, International Bulletin,

International Review of Missions, Missiology, American Anthropologist, Urban Mission, American Anthropologist, American Ethnologist, Practical Anthropology, etc.

## 2. Friendship Building

Build a friendship with one of the international students on campus and ask him or her to teach you something about his or her culture. Choose a specific topic such as dating and marriage, or child rearing, or sketch a broader ethnography on the culture. Write up a five page report on the culture. This is due by the end of the sixth week.

## 3. Field Studies

In the process of the course we will carry out field studies using the categories, theories and methods of anthropology. Assignments will be handed out in class to let you know the topics and due dates. In each case, write a rough report on your findings (2-4 pages) and what you learned from the exercise. We need not only to learn about exegesis of humans but also to do it. It is a habit we form.

## 4. Major Paper

Prepare a major paper of about 10-15 pages based on library research. Choose a topic of your interest that is related to the field of the social sciences and Christian ministry. For example, you may choose 1) a particular culture; 2) a particular theoretical topic (such as polygamy, ethnic groups, or type of sociocultural organization such as tribal, peasant or urban societies); or 3) a particular aspect of a particular culture (such as shamanism in Korean culture). If you have any question regarding a topic, please check with me. A title and select bibliography should be submitted by the end of the fourth week of the course. This paper should follow the normal Turabian format and include citations of sources and a bibliography.

There is no final examination.

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## I. COURSE OUTLINE

Because the social sciences raise difficult questions, it is important that: a) we trust one another's commitment to Christ, and b) there be a freedom to discuss difficult questions in order to seek a biblical answer.

### **Week 1: January 8, 10.**

#### 1. Theology and Anthropology

##### 1.1 Relationship between them:

- reductionism, dualism, integration: theologically based, scientifically informed

##### 1.2 Nature of Anthropology:

- key questions, methodology, theories

##### 1.3 Steps for analysis in this course:

- phenomenology, ontology, ministry - missiology

Readings:

Text: Cultural Anthropology: Introduction, Chapters 1-3  
Smalley, W. pp. 837 - 912.

**Week 2: January 15, 17.**

2. Studying Human Systems.

2.1 Concepts of 'society' and 'culture'

2.2 Sociocultural differences and the messenger

- culture shock and adjusting to a new culture
- misunderstandings and the need to study the people
- ethnocentrism and the need for empathetic identification
- premature judgments and the need to understand and appreciate before judging

Readings:

Text: Cultural Anthropology. Chapters 4-6

Smalley, W. pp. 693 - 824.

Loewen, J. pp. 349 - 443.

Mayers, M. pp. 31 - 80; 279 - 363.

**Weeks 3-4: January 22, 24, 29, 31.**

3. Entering new cultures and societies

3.1 Sociocultural differences and the messenger:

- culture shock and adjusting to a new culture
- misunderstandings and the need to study the people
- ethnocentrism and the need for empathetic identification
- premature judgments and the need to understand and appreciate before judging

3.2 Sociocultural differences and the message:

- Bible translation
- dealing with old customs: critical contextualization
- indigenizing forms and symbols
- contextualizing evangelism and church planting
- contextualizing theology

Readings:

Text: Introduction to Cultural Anthropology. Chapters 7-14

Smalley, W. pp. 481 - 614.

Loewen, J. pp. 111 - 210.

Mayers, M. pp. 193 - 226.

**Week 5-6: February 5, 7, 12, 14.**

4. The sociocultural grid for exegeting human societies:

Readings:

Text: Introduction to Cultural Anthropology. Chapters 15-22.  
Smalley, W. pp. 125 - 480.  
Hesselgrave, D. pp. 277 - 326.  
Loewen, J. pp. 211 - 286.  
Mayers, M. pp. 81 - 192.

**Week 7: February 19, 21.**

5. Ministry to Band and Tribal Societies:

- 5.1 The nature of band and tribal societies
- 5.2 Methods for evangelizing band and tribal societies
- 5.3 Theological issues raised in band and tribal societies.

Readings.

Text: Incarnational Ministries. Chapters 1 - 5.

**Week 8: February 26, 28.**

6. Ministry to Peasant Societies.

Readings:

Text: Incarnational Ministry. Chapters 6, 7.

**Week 9: March 4, 6.**

7. Ministry to Urban Societies.

Readings:

Text: Incarnational Ministry. chapters 8, 9.  
Cases: 22 (100-102); 23 (103-108); 26 (117-120); 28 (126-128); 36 (155-157).  
Hesselgrave, D. pp. 19 - 120.  
Smalley, W. pp. 1-124, 287 - 362.

**Week 10: March 11, 13.**

8. What have we learned for mission, evangelism and church planting?

Readings:

Text: Incarnational Ministry. Chapter 10.

1  
Eph 1: 2. "Saints & Faithful"

1. Problems in Eph. Church

2: 1-10 Gentiles → Christians

- immoral, debauchery, broken homes
- Juan Rodriguez
- Jason - L.A.

"saints"

2.A - Gentiles ↔ Jews

3: Gentile era

4: unity 4:1-16

4: 17-6 Gentiles

2. "Saints?" "False Flattery?"

No. A Message B  
Hermanns

Realt. Are Saints

2.1 Look at Young Church - In Christ

2.2 Look at Lost - created in God's image  
potential through salvation?

Alejandro in L.A.  
Hermanns  
Dorinda

# I Syllabus Readings - share

## II KEY TERMS

- SPIRITUAL
- SOCIAL
- CULTURAL
- PERSONAL
- BIOPHYSICAL

God  
Angels  
Humans