

ME 641 Anthropology for Mission

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Fall, 2004 M. W. 9:30 - 10:45, Rodine 129

PURPOSE This course is designed to help Christian leaders going into missions, evangelism and cross-cultural 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 G. and Eloise Meneses. 1995. Incarnational Ministry. Baker Book House.

On Reserve: Hiebert, Paul. Cultural Anthropology. Baker Book House.
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.
Luzbetak, L. The Church and Cultures.

Additional Readings: Additional readings will be recommended in class related to the topics being discussed.

ASSIGNMENTS Each student is expected to 1) read and write one page reviews of ten articles on topics related to the discussion (see outline); 2) to complete one ethnography, and 3) prepare one major research paper at the graduate level based on library research. This is to be fully documented in the Turabien style.

1. Articles:

Participants are expected to read the text and recommended materials relevant to the course before the material is covered in class. This will enable us to discuss the subjects and not only introduce them.

Read ~~ten~~ articles or chapters of books. Preferably choose topics that will come up in class. These articles or chapters must be at least 8 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 one page review of each article or group of articles (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,

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- 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. Ethnography

Choose some setting in the Chicago area which you would like to study. Examples might be the cafeteria at TIU, your church, your apartment building, a shop, a restaurant, a library, or any such 'cultural frame.' During this quarter study this context using social science categories and theories. Visit the context at least three or four times to observe, participate and interview some of the members of that setting. Write up your findings including: 1) observations on the methods you used, their strengths, weaknesses, problems you faced using them, and how you processed the data, 2) findings of your research and an evaluation of your initial theories/hypotheses, 3) evaluation of social science research as it relates to church planting and missions. Put in the bibliography any materials you read on the methods and theories you used in the analysis.

3. Major Paper

Prepare a major paper of about 15-20 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 Turabien format and include citations of sources and a bibliography.

Reading reports are due periodically throughout the quarter

Ethnographies and major papers are due during the week of final examinations.

There is no final examination.

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: August 25

1. Theology and Anthropology

1.1 Relationship between them:

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

1.2 The nature of anthropology:

- key questions, methodology, theories

1.3 Steps for analysis in this course:

- phenomenology, ontology, ministry - missiology

Readings:

Texts: Cultural Anthropology: Introduction, Chapters 1-3

Incarnational Ministry. Introduction, Chapter 1.

2. Doing Missiological Theology

Week 2 - 3: August 30 – September 8

3. Studying Human Systems.

3.1 System of systems approach to the study of humans

3.2 Concepts of 'society' and 'culture'

3.3 Research methods for studying humans and contexts

Assignments:

- Submit notes for articles 1 and 2.

- Make a final decision on the site you will study for the ethnography.

Week 4 - 5: September 13 - 22

4. Entering new cultures and societies

4.1 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

4.2 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:

Texts: Cultural Anthropology. Chapters 4-5.
Incarnational Ministry. Chapter 2, 3.
 Smalley, W. pp. 693 - 824.
 Loewen, J. pp. 349 - 443.

Assignments: Submit notes for articles 3 and 4.

Weeks 6-8: September 27 - October 13

5. Exegeting Human Social Systems:

- 5.1 Social systems
- 5.2 Economic systems
- 5.3 Political and legal systems

Readings:

Texts: Introduction to Cultural Anthropology. Chapters 7-17
 Smalley, W. pp. 125 - 614.
 Loewen, J. pp. 111 - 286.
 Hesselgrave, D. pp. 277 - 326.

Assignments: Submit notes for articles 5 and 6

Week 9 - 10: November 1 - 10

6. Exegeting Cultural Systems:

- 6.1 Symbols, myths and rituals
- 6.2 Cross-cultural communication
- 6.3 Belief systems
- 6.4 Worldviews

Readings

Texts: Cultural Anthropology. Chapter 6, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22

Assignments:

- Submit notes for articles 7 and 8.
- be prepared to give a brief presentation on your ethnographic research in class.

Week 11 - 13: November 15 - 24**7. Church Planting in Cross-cultural Settings:**

- 7.1 Church planting in tribal societies.
- 7.2 Church planting in peasant societies.
- 7.3 Church planting in urban societies.

Readings:

Incarnational Ministry. Chapter 4 - 10

Assignments: Submit notes for articles 9 and 10

Week 14-15: November 29 - December 8**8. Ministering in an Increasingly Plural World:*****Assignments:***

- Submit the final copy of your ethnography.
- Submit the final copy of your major paper.
- There is no final examination in this course.

Grading:

Articles	30%
Ethnography	30%
Major Paper	40%