

DME 928 Anthropology for Missions and Evangelism

3 semester hours.

August 7-11, 14-18, 2006

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Course Description:

This course examines the contributions that the human sciences, particularly anthropology and sociology, can make to the discipline of missiology and to missionaries and transcultural church leaders in their ministries. It looks at the relationship between missions, theology and history. The focus of the course is studying current theories and methods in the study of humans, and their social and cultural systems, and how these can contribute to our understanding of global missions.

Course Learning Objectives:

As a result of this course, the participants should know how to better study humans in their systems, be more understanding and incarnational in their relationships with those they serve, and be more effective in their transcultural ministries.

Textbooks

Herzfeld, Michael. 2002. *Anthropology: Theoretical Practice in Culture and Society*. Malden, MA: Blackwell.

Hiebert, Paul G. 1983. *Cultural Anthropology*. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House.

Class handouts:

Five chapters of a revised version of *Cultural Anthropology* will be distributed in class. These will be read during the first week of the class.

Optional:

Hiebert, Paul G. and Eloise Meneses. 1995. *Incarnational Ministry: Planting Churches in Band, Tribal, Peasant, and Urban Societies*. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House.

Supplementary readings will be on reserve in the library, and bibliographies on specific topics distributed in class.

Course Format:

Sessions will be conducted in lecture and seminar formats. Participants are expected to give reports on their research projects in class at the end of the semester.

Course Expectations:

Participants are expected to attend and participate in classes, complete a major research paper and give a report on it in class, and join in outside class experiences.

Learning Assignments:

Before classes begin:

- participants should read *Cultural Anthropology*
- if you can, read 'Missional Theology' in *Missiology*. June, 2006.
- choose a topic for your research paper and should begin a literature search on the subject.

During classes:

- participants be ready to discuss the materials assigned for the day. One of the major tasks in the course is to rewrite a sociocultural anthropology text designed particularly for training missionary candidates, and for use by field missionaries. Be ready to provide input into what should go into such a text, and critical analysis and correction of what will be presented in class.
- be ready to present a 15 - 20 minute synopsis of the major paper on which you are working. This should include anthropological analysis and missiological implications.

After classes:

- write a major paper on the research topic you selected. This is the main requirement is accounts for 75% of the grade (the rest on class participation). The paper should follow the standard academic format including the bibliographic sources, citations in the text to these sources, and critical analysis of the topic at hand. Use headings and sub-headings to show the logical progression of the ideas in the paper, and to help the reader know where you are going.

Course Outline:

- the place of anthropology in missiology
- history of anthropology and its impact on missions
- a system of systems approach to humans: social systems, cultural systems
- anthropological methods in the study of humans
- the study of social systems
- the study of cultural systems
- participant reports.

7/14/06