

Syllabus

I. Course Identification

ME9016 Communicating Christ Across Cultures. (I propose that this should be a 3 credit course.)

II. Course Description

Through a combination of Bible study, contemporary literature review, interviewing people from the course participants' ministry setting, and class discussion, the participants in this course will reflect on the attitudes and skills best suited to share the gospel of Jesus with people from a different culture.

III. Course Objectives

By the end of this course, participants will be able to:

- Identify key components of cross-cultural communication;
- Use the Scriptures as a curriculum for promoting and training cross-cultural evangelism;
- Outline and pursue a process for gaining an insider's perspective on a different culture;
- Access and assess literature and media market offerings that seeks to address the topic of cross-cultural evangelism;
- Develop ethnographic profiles and vignettes;
- Understand how to develop cross-cultural partnerships for evangelizing new (ethnic) fields.

IV. Procedure and Assignments

The students will receive reading assignments before the beginning of the course. These readings will claim to offer the reader understanding and insights into a certain demographic cohorts or ethnic groups. After reading assigned books, course participants will develop a survey or interview for people in his ministry setting that will seek to confirm the observations and conclusions of the assigned reading. The course itself will offer readings and discussions on the topic of cross-cultural evangelism. Course participants will then draw on all of this work to prepare a strategic partnership and a strategic plan for their own cross-cultural outreach project. Participants will probably each focus on one particular group but will contribute to and react to the work of all course participants and their respective groups/projects.

V. Final Project

Each participant will complete a final project by the end of the course that will feature a strategic partnership with a cross-cultural "leader" as well as a strategic plan for outreach with that cross-cultural leader.

V. Course Topics (partial listing)

- i) Understanding my culture
- ii) Majority versus minority cultural perspectives
- iii) Conducting ethnographic interviews
- iv) Writing ethnographies
- v) Identifying cross-cultural partners
- vi) Using the Bible to promote and teach cross-cultural attitudes and skills
- vii) "Eternal Questions" that allow contact with evangelistic presentations
- viii) Biblestorying as methodology
- ix) An approach to the multicultural urban context
- x) Evangelizing Muslims
- xi) Integrating a congregation – models and approaches
- xii) Cross-cultural worship
- xiii) Assessing current market offerings
- xiv) More as determined and requested by participants