
Course: IC-446 D(N) Practical Relations of Intercultural Studies
Credit: 3 Semester Hours
Semester: Fall 23, Cycle 2 (8/21-10/13)
Time: Tuesday / Thursday 8:00-9:20 p.m.
Location: CABRE 100; Online through Canvas
Instructor: Joshua Paxton, Joshua.paxton@calvary.edu,
(816)679-9387 (cell); (816)322-5152 ext. 1353 (office); Office: CABRE 108

I. DESCRIPTION

This course charts a course from the years of college training to the end of the first furlough from intercultural ministry. Emphasis is placed on choosing a board, pre-field ministry and development of a support base, prayer-letter writing, travel, language study, orientation on the field, interrelationships with coworkers and nationals, and interaction with governments and other agencies. It also deals with the activities of home ministry assignment following the period of intercultural studies.

This course is offered in two formats: in-person and online. Students registered for in-person attend the classes in person, online students attend the classes via the online classroom. For both in-person and online students, assignments and interaction outside of the class period are done in the learning management system.

II. OBJECTIVES

A. General competencies to be achieved:

1. Appreciate the need to develop distinct qualities that will provide for successful cross-cultural ministry. (PLO 1, 3, 4) (A 1, 5, 8, 9)
2. Gain an understanding of the complexities of missionary life and ministry relationships. (PLO 1, 3, 4) (A 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9)
3. Become familiar with the practical aspects of missionary preparation and ministry from an initial interest through the first home assignment. (PLO 1, 2, 3, 4) (A 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8)

B. Specific competencies to be achieved:

1. Trace the step-by-step procedure from the initial application process for appointment and service with a mission agency to departure for the field of missionary ministry. (PLO 1, 2, 3, 4, 5) (A 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8)
2. Evaluate mission agencies with a view to selecting a compatible agency with which to serve. (PLO 1, 2, 3, 4, 5) (A 1, 7)
3. Develop and articulate a personal philosophy of deputation and a strategy for deputation ministry. (PLO 1, 2, 3, 4, 5) (A 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 8)
4. Identify strategies for making successful adjustments in living and ministering in another culture. (PLO 1, 2, 3, 4, 5) (A 1, 5, 9)
5. Demonstrate an understanding of the integral elements that comprise missionary life and ministry. (PLO 1, 2, 3, 4, 5) (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9)

Our Mission: "...to prepare Christians to live and serve in the church and in the world according to the Biblical worldview."

III. REQUIREMENTS

1. Reading

- a. Read the textbook, *Encountering Missionary Life and Work: Preparing for Intercultural Ministry*, by Tom Steffen and Lois McKinney Douglas. Write a 5-page summary of the authors' main points.
 - b. Read *People Raising: A Practical Guide to Raising Support* by William P. Dillon, this text explains how to accomplish the required steps of making a constituent list, writing prayer letters and thank you letters, and doing group presentations. Write a 5-page summary of the author's main points.
2. **Constituent List** – To satisfy the requirements of this assignment use EXCEL (or other spreadsheet program) to prepare a realistic database of actual people with whom you might be able to share your future missionary ministry. Include your home church and pastor, other churches with whom you have contact, pastors, family members, friends, classmates, job associates, and others. Include names, addresses, email, and phone numbers where possible. Identify your relationship with each one and include a brief note of why you think each one might support you with prayer and/or finances. Your grade will be determined by how many people you can list (50 – C, 75 – B, 100 – A)
 3. **Prayer Letter** – As realistically as possible, write a personal prayer letter to be sent to those on your constituent list. Introduce yourself as a prospective missionary and present your ministry aspirations (maximum 1 page)
 4. **Thank You Letter** – Assume that you have received support for your ministry from individuals on your constituent list. Respond with an appropriate thank you letter (maximum 1 page)
 5. **Counseling appointments** – The purpose of this assignment is to ensure that there are no glaring issues that may prove difficult for the student to overcome when involved in cross-cultural ministry. Often times little problems that you face here can become big problems when you come face to face with culture shock and stressful situation. The student will set up two counseling appointments of one hour each with someone appointed by the professor. Following each session the student will write a three page paper in which they detail any concerns that came up and a plan for handling those concerns. (minimum 3 pages each)
 6. **Power Point Presentation** – Prepare a realistic and convincing PowerPoint presentation that communicates via multimedia and presents your ministry and work to individuals and churches. Your presentation should be brief (i.e., 15-25 slides) but complete (i.e., your work should answer more questions than it raises). The presentation should introduce yourself, describe and explain your various needs and future ministry, as well as the people and field you hope to serve. Your presentation should be accompanied by an outline. (Length as necessary)

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7. **Missions Agency Evaluation** – Identify three different missions agencies in which you have a potential interest and with which you might possibly serve. Using the *Missions Agency Questionnaire* found in the back of this syllabus, research these agencies and determine the extent to which you agree or disagree with their doctrine, policies, and practices. Based upon your research, write a report which presents the findings of your research, your evaluation of these two agencies, and your selection of the one agency that you believe would provide you the most compatible fit. Describe both mission agencies and explain the basis for your choice of one over the other.
(Minimum 10 Pages)
8. **Fund Raising Philosophy** – Think about your ideas and your philosophy of fundraising. Consider what the Scriptures teach as well. Write a paper in which you articulate your philosophy considering biblical truth, and describe your thoughts, beliefs, expectations, and fears as these relate to missionary service. What pitfalls might confront you or make it difficult for you to raise your support? Are there any (other) inherent rewards in fund raising beside financial ones? Discuss the difficulties and benefits of building a support team. Trace some of the steps you would have to follow to raise financial support (minimum 5 pages)
9. **Researching Missionary Stress** – Research the subject of missionary stress in a cross-cultural ministry. Write a research paper in which you define and describe stress. Discuss how stress relates to culture, family life, interpersonal relationships and conflicts with other missionaries, and other possible causes of stress. Identify the causes and manifestations of stress and focus on how missionaries should cope and deal with it. Address the spiritual resources available to missionaries. Prepare your paper in Turabian style with appropriate supporting data, citations, footnotes, and bibliography. Use at least three sources in addition to your textbooks (minimum 10 pages).

IV. METHODS

A. In-class methods: Lecture, discussion, review, presentations.

B. Out-of-class methods: reading, writing, research.

1. Grading:	
	Points
a. Reading(50 each).....	100
b. Constituent List.....	100
c. Prayer Letter.....	50
d. Thank You Letter.....	50
e. Counseling papers (50 each)...	100
f. Power Point Presentation.....	100
g. Agency Evaluation.....	100
h. Fund Raising Philosophy.....	100
i. Missionary Stress.....	200
j. Field Trips.....	100
Total	1000

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2. "See Grading Scale in University Catalog"

- C.** The Bible is a required textbook in every course at Calvary University. To facilitate academic level study, students are required to use for assignments and research an English translation or version of the Bible based on formal equivalence (*meaning that the translation is generally word-for-word from the original languages*), including any of the following: New American Standard (NASB, English Standard Version (ESV), New King James (NKJV), or King James (KJV). Other translations and versions based on dynamic equivalence (*paraphrases, and thought-for-thought translations like NLT and NIV*) may be used as supplemental sources. Please ask the professor if you have questions about a particular translation or version.
- D.** All class papers must follow the Turabian style according to *A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*, 8th edition. Unless otherwise indicated book reports and study questions may be in non-research format, interviews and other research papers should be in research paper format. A copy of the Turabian Style Guide is available on the Clark Academic Center page of Calvary's website.
- E. Late Assignments:** Assignments will be lowered **25%** if not turned in on the due date. Assignments that are more than one week late will be assigned a zero (0) grade unless prior arrangements have been made with the professor.
- F. Plagiarism:** *Plagiarism is defined as copying any content without identifying the source. This also includes taking another person's or AI entity's ideas or constructs and presenting them as your own. The use of AI generated content in student work is prohibited (even if cited) as it does not represent original work created by the student and is an unreliable aggregate of ideas from other sources. Plagiarism of any kind will not be tolerated.* Any assignment that includes plagiarism will receive a zero (0) grade. Students should note that papers will be submitted in Canvas via "Turn-It-In". This program automatically gives the students work a plagiarism score, students should strive for a score less than 20.
- G. Disabilities:** Students with disabilities have the responsibility of informing the Accommodations Support Coordinator (aso@calvary.edu) of any disabling condition that may require support
- H.** The Clark Academic Center (learning@calvary.edu), located in the library building, is dedicated to providing free academic assistance for all CU students. Student tutors aid with all facets of the writing process, tutor in various subject areas, prepare students for exams and facilitate tests. Please take advantage of this service.
- I. Attendance Policy** – Calvary has no official attendance policy, the attendance policy of the professor is as follows.
- a. Students have one unexcused absence per cycle.
 - i. For In-class students - attendance is tracked by being in class.
 - ii. For online students - attendance is tracked through involvement in discussions and submitting assignments.

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- b. For each unexcused absence after the first the student's final grade will be deducted by one letter grade per absence.
- c. Occasionally situations arise which may result in a student missing class, in this event the student should contact the professor prior to the class period to request an excused absence.

V. REQUIRED MATERIALS

The Bible (Instructor will use NASB)

William P. Dillon. 2012. *People Raising: A Practical Guide to Raising Funds*. Chicago: Moody. ISBN-13: 978-0802464484 (Retail: \$17.99, Amazon: \$13.31, Kindle: \$9.99).

Tom Steffen and Lois McKinney Douglas. 2008. *Encountering Missionary Life and Work: Preparing for Intercultural Ministry*. Grand Rapids: Baker. ISBN-13: 978-0801026591 (Retail: \$32.00, Amazon \$25.55, Kindle \$17.60).

VI. TENTATIVE CLASS SCHEDULE

A schedule will be posted in Canvas prior to the start of class

VII. Missions Agency Questionnaire

1. Doctrinal and spiritual
 - a. What is their view of the missionary call?
 - b. What are their views about the acceptable modes of baptism? (Infant, immersion, 3 times forward, or maybe it is not even considered a requirement for believers, etc.)
 - c. Is the mission denominational, non-denominational, Baptist, etc.?
 - d. How do they feel about working with other agencies whose doctrinal convictions in "gray" areas are different than their own?
2. Goals and strategy
 - a. How large is the mission?
 - b. How many countries do they work in?
 - c. Do they target specific areas of the world or people groups? (10/40 window; Jewish or Muslim ministries; less than 2% evangelized; 14/40; etc.)
 - d. What kinds of ministries do they do on the field? (i.e., church planting, aviation, medical, English, etc.)
 - e. What kinds of methods do they use to do church planting, discipleship, and evangelism, leadership training?
 - f. How do they train nationals to lead in the church?
 - g. What is the hierarchy of the mission? What does the flow chart of authority look like? When a missionary has a problem on the field, who is the person immediately above them that they must go to with their problems?
 - h. How many times do the missionaries have to send in ministry reports, and to whom do they send them?
 - i. How many times does the home office send someone to the field to check up on their missionaries?
3. Missionary applicants
 - a. Regarding biblical qualifications, do they accept divorced people in the mission?
 - b. What is the mission statement of the mission? What is their stated purpose and goals?
 - c. What are the educational requirements for missionaries? How much Bible does a person need?
 - d. What kind of orientation program do they have for new missionaries?
 - e. Do they have programs to help people of other cultural backgrounds? Do they accept nationals as missionaries?
 - f. Does the applicant get to choose the country where they want to serve?
4. Missionary benefits
 - a. What kinds of programs do they offer to help missionary children adjust to the States when they return for college as third culture kids?
 - b. What plan do they have for retiring missionaries?
 - c. What kind of insurance do missionaries have?
 - d. What kind of structure do they have for the use of the finances that come in? Are the funds divided equally among all the missionaries, as in a pool system, or does each individual missionary have his own separate account?

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- e. How long is a term on the field? How long is a furlough? What are the expectations for missionaries on the field?
- f. Does a missionary have to have 100% of their minimum support in order to go to the field?
- g. If a missionary loses support so that they have less than the minimum support, what happens in that case?
- h. Does the mission have a contingency fund for emergencies?
- i. What kinds of plan does the mission have for emergencies? (war, terrorism, kidnapping, sickness, death, etc.)
- j. What does the mission offer to missionaries for continuing education?
- k. How do missionaries stay informed regarding current trends and issues in the States?
- l. How much of what the missionary raises in monthly support is kept by the mission for support of the administrative personnel?