



MISS6343 Transcultural Communication of the Gospel
New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary
Division of Pastoral Ministries
Fall 2018 Semester Online

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Mission Statement

The mission of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary is to equip leaders to fulfill the Great Commission (Matthew 28:16-20) and the Great Commandments (Matthew 22:34-40) through the local church and its ministries.

Core Value Focus

The seminary has five core values: Doctrinal Integrity, Spiritual Vitality, Mission Focus, Characteristic Excellence, and Servant Leadership. The core value focus for this academic year is Doctrinal Integrity, which states in part, “Knowing that the Bible is the Word of God, we believe it, teach it, proclaim it, and submit to it. Our confessional commitments are outlined in the Articles of Religious Belief and the Baptist Faith & Message 2000”.

Curriculum Competencies

All graduates of NOBTS are expected to have at least a minimum level of competency in each of the following areas: Biblical Exposition, Christian Theological Heritage, Disciple Making, Interpersonal Skills, Servant Leadership, Spiritual and Character Formation, and Worship Leadership. The curriculum competencies addressed in this course are: Biblical Exposition and Disciple Making.

Course Description

This course involves a study of the dynamics of communicating the Christian faith transculturally. Attention is given to techniques for understanding culture and worldview, and to the relationship of culture to the gospel, evangelism, discipleship, and other concerns of the Christian faith.

Student Learning Outcomes

1. The student will develop an understanding of culture and worldview by defining these terms.
2. The student will appreciate key cultural traits of other cultures.
3. The student will demonstrate the ability to describe the worldview of a people group with whom they may be involved in present or future ministry.
4. The student will develop a model for communication and sharing the gospel in culturally appropriate ways to people groups in other cultures.

Course Textbooks:

A. Scott Moreau, Evvy Hay Campbell and Susan Greener, *Effective Intercultural Communication: A Christian Perspective*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2014.

Two other books chosen by the student relating to aspects of transcultural communication of the gospel

Course Teaching Methodology

A variety of teaching methods will be utilized such as class presentations by the professor and students using Power Point and handouts. Other teaching methods include multi-media presentations, utilization of missions related websites, and other communication mediums.

Course Requirements:

1. **Blackboard.** Each student must **maintain a valid e-mail address recorded in your Blackboard account at all times.** If you have trouble using Blackboard, please contact the ITC department of NOBTS at blackboardhelpdesk@nobts.edu or call (504) 816-8180.
2. Read and be responsible for testing purposes for presentations by professor, assigned texts, articles, and handouts.
3. Readings in *Effective Intercultural Communication*. Students will be required to read the assigned chapters within the textbook. See **Reading Assignments*** for the weekly chapters. Each week, post on the Discussion Board in Blackboard. Each post should provide at least two valuable insights regarding the assigned reading. This can be done through a short paragraph, providing insights that are beneficial to those involved in transcultural communication today. **Deadline is Saturday 11:59 p.m. weekly.**
4. Each student will read and prepare a written critique and handout on two other books on transcultural communication which will be chosen with approval of the instructor. The syllabus and primary text bibliographies are two sources for selecting a book.
First Book Critique due: Thursday, September 6 at 11:59 p.m.
Second Book Critique due: Thursday, November 8 at 11:59 p.m.
 - A. Write a minimum of a six to eight full page double-spaced, typed critique of the book. The critique should include all three of the following:
 - (1) Briefly summarize the contents of the book.
 - (2) Evaluate the material from a biblical, theological, and missiological perspectives.
 - (3) Discuss two or more concepts, principles, or applications from the book that relate to cross-cultural communication of the gospel. Use headings for each section:
Summary, Evaluation, and Discussion
 - B. Prepare a handout of one or more pages containing practical insights or suggestions from the first book which may be helpful to the entire class. Highlight materials from the book which would provide insights into transcultural communication of the gospel.
 - C. Post a two to three paragraph summary of the book on the Discussion Board and attach your handout to the post. After posting your discussion, read and respond to at least 5 other posts.
Discussion board post and handout due by 11:59 p.m. on Thursday, September 6.
Responses to posts due by 11:59 p.m. on Saturday, September 8.

5. Write and submit three minor papers throughout the semester. The paper must be submitted under the “Assignments” tab on Blackboard. A summary of two to three paragraphs of highlights from the paper must be posted on the discussion board on Blackboard.* Each paper will be seven to nine full pages in the body, double-spaced, one inch margins, 1 point Times New Roman, footnotes, cover page, Works Cited page, and follows Turabian guidelines, Include a minimum of seven different sources in each paper. In addition, the student will summarize key points and highlights from each paper in two to three paragraphs which are to be posted in Blackboard on the discussion board. Discussion board posts are due the same time the paper is due.

A. *Paper #1: Worldview Paper:* Select and research a major worldview (other than Christianity). Include three sections:

- (1) a brief description of where adherents of this worldview live
- (2) a description of the worldview
- (3) valuable insights for transcultural communication based on the information discovered in (1) & (2).

Due: Thursday, September 20 by 11:59 p.m.

B. *Paper #2: Interview Paper*

- (1) Interview three to five persons, the interviews are your sources for this project, from the people group, population segment, or city with whom you serve or may serve in the future in order to gain a better understanding of their worldview. Those planning for international ministry may interview internationals living temporarily in the USA.
- (2) Prepare a summary of the interview project including insights from each interview. The report may include such items as (1) a list of the questions used, (2) a summary of the interview content, (3) insights gained from the interview, and (4) your personal reaction to the interview.
- (3) An introduction and conclusion should be included. Headings to separate each interview and subheadings are helpful for reading and evaluation of the project. Examples: **Summary, Family, Social Structure, Insights, Reaction, Conclusion**.
 - a. Possible areas to include in interview questions: (1) family structure, (2) social structure, (3) religious structure, (4) economic structure, (5) political structure (local or national) if appropriate.
 - b. Examples of items to consider while preparing your insights and personal reaction to the interviews: (1) Reflect on information gained. (2) Were there surprises in their answers? (3) What new insights did you gain?

Due: Thursday, October 25 by 11:59 p.m.

C. *Paper #3: Plan for Transcultural Communication*

- (1) Write a plan for transcultural communication for a specific city, geographic area, or people group.
- (2) The plan should include such items as geography, examination of a people group, linguistic groups, cultural influences, social values, kinship groupings, alliances, community organization, social stratification, religious groups, government, economic, and population figures when available.
- (3) The impact of other people groups or other cultures on the people group may be included.
- (4) The project should include suggestions for culturally appropriate ways to share the

gospel with a people group based on the class readings and research.
Due: Thursday, November 29 by 11:59 p.m.

6. Midterm and Final Assignments: Complete the assignments as posted on Blackboard. The midterm will consist of a discussion board post reflecting on key issues learned in the course. The final will be an exam.
 - A. **Midterm Reflection due: Thursday, October 11 at 11:59 p.m.**
 - B. **Final Exam due: Tuesday, December 11 at 11:59 p.m.**

Evaluation of Grade

Book Reviews & Postings	10%
First Minor Paper & Summary	15 & 5%
Second Minor Paper & Summary	15 & 5%
Third Minor Paper & Summary	15 & 5%
Final Exam	15%
Participation & Discussion Boards	15%

(Includes *Effective Intercultural Communication* Assignments)

NOTE: There is an automatic deduction of 10 points for late assignments and an additional 2 points for weekday late after that. No work will normally be accepted more than two weeks past the due date.

ALL ASSIGNMENTS MUST BE COMPLETED BY A STUDENT IN ORDER TO PASS THE COURSE.

Course Reminders

1. Academic misconduct including but not limited to plagiarism, cheating, or unacceptable conduct may result in failure of the course and disciplinary action by the seminary as outlined in the student handbook.
2. Failure of a computer, printer, or other electronic devices used to compose or print class assignments will not be accepted as a reason for late work.
3. Members of the course are expected to treat the professor and each other with respect in their conversation and conduct. If not, appropriate action may be taken based on seminary policies.
4. Use the latest addition of Kate Turabian's *A Manual For Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations* as the official style and form guide. End notes are acceptable.

Netiquette: Appropriate Online Behavior

Each student is expected to demonstrate appropriate Christian behavior when working online on the Discussion Board. The student is expected to interact with other students in a fashion that will promote learning and respect for the opinions of others in the course. A spirit of Christian charity is expected at all times in the online environment.

Technical Assistance

For assistance regarding technology, consult ITC (504-816-8180) or the following websites:

1. Selfserve@nobts.edu - Email for technical questions/support requests with the Selfserve.nobts.edu site (Access to online registration, financial account, online transcript, etc.)

2. BlackboardHelpDesk@nobts.edu - Email for technical questions/support requests with the NOBTS Blackboard Learning Management System NOBTS.Blackboard.com.
3. ITCSupport@nobts.edu - Email for general technical questions/support requests.
4. www.NOBTS.edu/itc/ - General NOBTS technical help information is provided on this website.

Help for Writing Papers at “The Write Stuff”

NOBTS maintains a Writing Center designed to improve English writing at the graduate level. Students can receive writing guides, tips, and valuable information to help in becoming a better writer.

Plagiarism on Written Assignments

NOBTS has a no tolerance policy for plagiarism. Plagiarism in certain cases may result in expulsion from the seminary. See the NOBTS Student Handbook for definition, penalties, and policies associated with plagiarism.

Course Schedule for Reading Assignments:

August 25:	Chapters 1-3
September 1:	Chapter 4
September 8:	Chapters 5, 8
September 15:	Chapter 6-7
September 22:	Chapter 9
September 29:	Chapters 10-11
October 6:	Chapters 12-13
October 13:	Chapter 14
October 15-19:	Fall Break
October 27:	Chapters 15-16
November 3:	Chapters 17-18
November 10:	Chapter 19
November 17:	Chapter 20
November 19-23:	Thanksgiving Break
December 1:	Chapters 21-22
December 8:	Chapters 23-24

Due Dates (*All assignments are due by 11:59 P.M. on the given dates*)

Weekly Blackboard Update on Assigned textbook chapters – Saturdays, 11:59 p.m.

Book Review & Summary	Thursday, September 6
Responses to Book Review Posts	Saturday, September 8
First Minor Paper & Summary	Thursday, September 20
Midterm Reflection	Thursday, October 11
Second Minor Paper & Summary	Thursday, October 25
Second Book Review & Summary	Thursday, November 8
Third Minor Paper & Summary	Thursday, November 29
Final Exam	Complete between Friday, Dec. 7 and Tuesday, Dec. 11

Selected Bibliography

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- Costa, Ruy O., ed. *One Faith, Many Cultures: Inculturation, Indigenization, and Contextualization*. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books, 1988.
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- _____. *Cultural Anthropology*. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1983.
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- Richardson, Don. *Eternity in Their Hearts*, rev. ed. Ventura: Regal Books, 1984.
- Van Rheenen, Gailyn. *Communicating Christ in Animistic Contexts*. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1991.
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- Winter, Ralph and Steven C. Hawthorne, ed. *Perspectives on the World Christian Movement: A Reader*, rev. ed. Pasadena, CA: William Carey Library, 1992.
- Zahniser, A. H. Mathias. *Symbol and Ceremony: Making Disciples Across Cultures*. Monrovia, CA: MARC/World Vision, 1997.