



MISS6343 Transcultural Communication of the Gospel
New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary
Division of Church Ministry
Fall 2020 Semester Online

Philip A. Pinckard, Ph.D.
Distinguished Professor of Missions
Office: Dodd Bld., 102;
Ph. 504-282-4455, Ext. 3224
Email: ppinckard@nobts.edu

Mission Statement

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary and Leavell College prepare servants to walk with Christ, proclaim His truth, and fulfill His mission.

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 Mission Focus: “We are not here merely to get an education or to give one. We are here to change the world by fulfilling the Great Commission and the Great Commandments through the local church and its ministries.”

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. (See # 4 under Course Requirements below)

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 10 at 11:59 p.m.
Second Book Critique due: Thursday, November 12 at 11:59 p.m.
 - A. Write a minimum of a three to five 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 10 & Nov. 12. Responses to posts due by 11:59 p.m. on Sat. September 12 & Nov. 14.

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 24 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. . (See Blackboard Course Documents- Profile Topics)
 - 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 29 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.
 - a. 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. (See Blackboard Course Documents- Profile Topics)

- (2) The impact of other people groups or other cultures on the people group may be included.
- (3) 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 19 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 15 at 11:59 p.m.**
 - B. **Final Exam due: Tuesday, December 15 at 11:59 p.m.**

Evaluation of Grade

Book Reviews

10%

First Minor Paper 20%

Second Minor Paper 20%

Third Minor Paper 20%

Final Exam 15%

Participation & Discussion Boards 15%

(Includes course requirements such as completing units, *Effective Intercultural Communication* Assignments, Minor Paper Summaries, and Midterm Reflection)

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

Writing Style Guide

Writing assignments should follow the **NOBTS/Leavell College Manual of Form and Style** (*revised August 2019*). To access this manual on the seminary website, please use the following link: <https://www.nobts.edu/resources/pdf/writing/StyleGuide.pdf>

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 29:	Chapters 1-3
September 5:	Chapter 4
September 12:	Chapters 5, 8
September 19:	Chapter 6-7
September 26:	Chapter 9
October 3:	Chapters 10-11
October 10:	Chapters 12-13
October 17:	Chapter 14
October 19-24:	Fall Break
October 31:	Chapters 15-16
November 7:	Chapters 17-18
November 14:	Chapter 19
November 21:	Chapter 20
November 23-28:	Thanksgiving Break
December 5:	Chapters 21-22
December 12:	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 10

Responses to Book Review Posts Saturday, September 12

First Minor Paper & Summary Thursday, September 24

Midterm Reflection Thursday, October 15

Second Minor Paper & Summary Thursday, October 29

Second Book Review & Summary Thursday, November 12

Third Minor Paper & Summary Thursday, November 19

Final Exam Complete between Friday, Dec. 12 and Tuesday, Dec. 15

Selected Bibliography

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- Conn, Harvie M. *Eternal Word and Changing Worlds: Theology, Anthropology, and Mission in Dialogue*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishing House, 1984.
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- Mayers, Marvin K. *Christianity Confronts Culture: A Strategy for Crosscultural Evangelism*, revised and enlarged ed. Grand Rapids: Academic Books, 1987.
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