

EM/WM 657 Educational Ministry in Cultural Perspective

Spring 2010: Tuesday & Thursday 10:45AM-12:15PM

Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary

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Office Hours: Tuesday & Thursday 12:30-2:00PM; Friday 9:00-10:00AM for appointment:

<http://docs.google.com/Doc?docid=0AenxFm048H09ZGRnaGtweHpfOGRqcGNkdmQz&hl=en>

Friday 10AM-12PM Drop-in Hours – no appointment necessary

Course Description and Objectives:

This course provides opportunities for students to explore and cultivate a theory and practice of ministry within the multicultural context of American society as well as within a global context, i.e., the Church around the world. This course has three major goals:

First, students will explore the relationship between the socio-cultural context of human beings and the educational ministry strategies of the church as they are manifested in both multicultural and cross-cultural ministry contexts:

- The influence of culture upon ourselves as ministers of the Gospel
- The cultural realities of those we teach and the implications of these for our efforts

Second, students will develop strategy for cultural engagement that is applicable for the educational ministry/evangelism of the church in both multicultural and cross-cultural contexts:

- The role of culture in the formation, interpretation, and application of biblical texts
- How to achieve greater levels of cultural congruence in our preaching and teaching
- How to become the men and women who are able to both appreciate the cultural diversity of God's people and minister cross-culturally
- How to equip members of our churches for the faithful and effective life and ministry in an increasingly multicultural world

Third, students will develop competency in conducting a qualitative research. This will be pursued through various in-class activities, as well as through participation in a small group research project preferably in a cross-cultural setting.

Course Texts:

Conde-Frazer, Elizabeth, S. Steve Kang, and Gary Parrett. *A Many Colored Kingdom*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2004.

Crouch, Andy. *Culture Making: Recovering Our Creative Calling*. Downers Grove: IVP, 2008.

Emerson, Michael and Christian Smith. *Divided By Faith: Evangelical Religion and the Problem Of Race in America*. New York: Oxford, 2000.

Fitch, David. *The Great Giveaway: Reclaiming the Mission of the Church from Big Business, Parachurch Organizations, Psychotherapy, Consumer Capitalism, and Other Modern Maladies*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2005.

Smith, James, K. *Who's Afraid of Postmodernism?: Taking Derrida, Lyotard, and Foucault to Church*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2006.

Course Assignments:

- **Attendance and Participation** (10%)
- **Integrative Essay Examination Exercise** (40%)
Students will take an active and participatory essay examination experience by: (1) carefully reading all the course texts; (2) submitting four significant essay questions (one from each course text); (3) studying a list of edited essay questions with classmates; and (4) individually writing the essay examination in class.

- **Ethnographic Research Project (50%)**
Students in groups of 2 or 3 are expected to commit themselves to engaging in participation observation, including interviews, of a particular cultural and/or people group throughout the semester. This is the major project that will culminate in a final project presented in written form. The guidelines for this final paper and presentation will be given at a later date.
- **All papers should be in Turabian format.**
 - See Turabian, Kate L. *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*, 6th Edition. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 1996.
 - For online help, consult: <http://www.libs.uga.edu/ref/turabian.html>

Course Outline:

Date	Topic	Reading & Assignment Due for Class
January 26 & 28	- Introduction & Course Preparation - The Complexity of the Study of Culture - A Biblical Vision of Culture and Christian Formational Education	<i>A Many Colored Kingdom, Introduction, chs.1-4</i>
February 2 & 4	- Ethnographic Research Design - Data Gathering Stage in Ethnographic Research	<i>A Many Colored Kingdom, chs.5-8, Conclusion</i> 2/5 F – Group Research Proposal Due
February 9 & 11	- History and Issues of Race Relations in American Evangelicalism	<i>Divided by Faith, Introduction, chs.1-6</i>
February 16 & 18	NO CLASS	READING WEEK ONE
February 22 & 25	- The Uneasy Prospect of Race Relations in America Evangelicalism - The (Late-) Modern Challenges in American Evangelicalism	<i>Divided by Faith, chs.7-9, Appendixes</i> <i>The Great Giveaway, Introduction & ch.1</i>
March 2 & 4	- Data Gathering & Reduction - Applied Ethnography	
March 9 & 11	- The (Late-) Modern Challenges in American Evangelicalism & Beyond	<i>The Great Giveaway, chs.2-8, Conclusion</i>
March 16 & 18	- A Post-Christian America, Reflexivity & the Future of the Church in America	<i>Who's Afraid of Postmodernism?</i> <i>Culture Making, Introduction, Parts I & II</i> 3/18 R – Integrative Essay Examination Questions Due
March 23 & 25	NO CLASS	READING WEEK TWO
March 30 & April 1	- Making sense of Ethnographic Research Data - Cultural Enfolding as Christian Formational Education	<i>Culture Making, Part III</i>
April 6 & 8	- Cultural Engagement as Christian Formational Education - Integrative Essay Examination Exercise	4/6 T – Integrative Essay Examination Exercise
April 13 & 15	- Research Presentations - Closure	
April 23 Fri	All work due 4pm	Ethnography Due

Bibliography

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- Bakke, Ray and Jon Sharpe. *Street Signs: A New Direction in Urban Ministry*. Birmingham, AL: New Hope, 2006.
- Balmer, Randall. *Mine Eyes Have Seen the Glory: A Journey Into the Evangelical Subculture in America*, 4th ed. New York: Oxford, 2006.
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Read February 22-25 from the story Diary by yukinosombra (Yukino Neno) with 1 reads. real, bpd, longdistancerelationship. possible tw.
22. Also the mood jumps are not me randomly feeling that I tend to write these days in multiple parts of the day usually in my first
class or whenever something happens. Absences or jumps are school breaks or me not feeling up to. Finals Week Film and Discussion
Finals Week May 22/23 An Inconvenient Truth Everyone is required to participate in the final exam 2 hour segment under participation
points: May 22/23 Paradox Readings: During January read pp 131-51, pp 218-34, pp 241-50 and pp 304-19. Chapters readings are
noted later in the semester and based upon presidency: JFK, LBJ