



Canadian Bible College
Canadian Theological Seminary

WM 511 *Cultural Anthropology* (3)

Winter 2004

Instructor: Emma Karin Emgård

Contacting the Instructor

Office: # 530

Office Phone: 410 2000 ext 4903

Class Times: Wednesdays & Fridays
8:15-9:30

Class Location: 501

Email Address: eemgard@cbccts.ca; emma@emgard.com

Course Description

In today's world it is almost impossible to have a relationship with anyone without crossing some cultural barrier. Therefore, cultural awareness is essential for everyone interested in ministry, regardless of location.

This course is an introductory study of cultural anthropology including the concept of culture, language, status and role, marriage and the family, kinship, legal systems, social groups, etc. Students will also learn how to do participant-observation, which is the research method particular to anthropology.

The format of the course will be lectures, group projects in different areas of Calgary, and we will see a number of movies.

Course Objectives

By the end of the course, the student should be able to define, understand, and apply key cultural concepts and models to his or her own context in order to exegete culture critically.

Required Texts

Hiebert, Paul. *Cultural Anthropology* 2nd ed. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 1983.

_____. *Anthropological Reflections on Missiological Issues*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 1994.

On Reserve

Kraft, Charles, H. *Anthropology for Christian Witness*. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis, 1996.

Lingenfelter, Sherwood. *Transforming Culture: A Challenge for Christian Mission*, 2nd ed. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 1998.

Spradley, James and D. McCurdy *Conformity and Conflict: Readings in Cultural Anthropology* 2nd ed.

Course Schedule

The following are the main topics we will cover. Some of the topics will be combined in one lecture; others might take a few lectures to cover.

- The Study of Culture
- Material Culture
- Research Methods
- Economic organization
- Life cycle
- World views
- Social organization
- Social groups
- Political organization
- Religion
- Conflict
- Symbolism
- Communication
- Expressive culture
- Migration
- Change

Course Requirements

1 Active Class Participation

- Active participation means more than just being present and arriving on time. You will need to take an active part in class discussions. Being on time, attending all classes with some active participation will give you seven points. Additional points require informed and frequent, yet appropriate interaction. Late arrival and missed classes will automatically result in a deduction of points.

2 Exams

- **Midterm** (13th February)
 - ◆ The midterm will cover everything we have dealt with in class and text books up to the point of the exam
- **Final Exam** (during exam week)
 - ◆ The final exam will cover everything we have dealt with in class since the mid term, but also the main points already covered by the midterm. The final exam will cover all the text books.

3 Ethnography

- A written report from your participant observation research. You will write an ethnography about a topic of your own choosing.
- Please remember that you are doing this at a seminary level, and therefore, you must do a deeper analysis than is required at the undergraduate level.
- You will hand in two progress reports that show how you are gathering information and analyzing as you go.

➤ Note: you will email me the reports and the final ethnography as attachments. Please make sure you use both email addresses.

➤ Due dates:

◆ Progress report 1: January 23

◆ Progress report 2: February 6

◆ Final ethnography: April 14

4 Annotated Bibliography

➤ You will read an additional 700 pages in an area you are especially interested in. You will need to clear the book titles with me before you read them.

➤ Include a brief summary of the book, an evaluation of the scholarly quality (you must qualify your evaluation) and relevance for ministry.

➤ Note: you will email me the reports as attachments. Please make sure you use both email addresses.

Course Grade

| <u>Activity</u> | <u>Percentage of grade</u> |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Active Class Participation | 10 |
| Midterm Exam | 20 |
| Final Exam | 25 |
| Ethnography | 35 |
| Annotated bibliography | 10 |
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| Total | 100 |

Important Notes

◆ It is the responsibility of all students to become familiar with and adhere to CBC Academic Policies, such as the policy on Academic Dishonesty. These are stated in the current Catalogue.

◆ Late policy:

Any assignment that is not emailed on time will receive a penalty of 10% for the first day and then 3% for each of the following 10 days (including holidays). After that the paper will receive 0 points, unless otherwise stated in the syllabi. (This penalty relates to any assignment.)

◆ Please refer to “*Emma’s Do’s & Don’ts*” for further details.