



WM 645 Missional Encounters

Fall 2006

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Class time and location:

Wednesday - 8h15 – 11h00

Classroom 714

1. Course Description

The aim of this course is to understand “folk beliefs” rather than the theoretical doctrine of different world religions; we will study the way religion is preached by ordinary people. Depending on where the instructor has served, the course will have a different emphasis regarding both religion and geographical area. The focus will be on how to build bridges for the Gospel in a particular part of the world but the student will gain principles that apply in any context.

2. Course Objectives/Learning Outcomes

- **At the completion of this course the student will:**

- 2.1** Understand some of the more practical issues involved in intercultural ministry in today’s world
- 2.2** Be able to articulate the joys and challenges of intercultural ministry in Africa (in particular) and in the other regions of the world (more generally)
- 2.3** Understand some of the cultural challenges of ministry in Africa
- 2.4** Have had a chance to personally interact with persons of other faiths and cultures here in Calgary
- 2.5** Be better prepared for the “real world” of intercultural ministry

3. Course Texts

3.1 Required texts:

- Achebe, Chinua. *Things Fall Apart*. New York, NY: Anchor Books, 1994 (1959). (209 pages)
- Maranz, David. *African Friends and Money Matters*. Dallas, TX: SIL International, 2001. (209 pages)
- Sanneh, Lamin and Joel A. Carpenter. *The Changing Face of Christianity*. New York, NY: Oxford University Press, 2005. (223 pages)

3.2 Recommended texts:

- Winter, Ralph and Steven C. Hawthorne, eds. Perspectives on the World Christian Movement: A Reader (3rd Edition). Pasadena, CA: William Carey Library, 1999 (1981). (763 pages)

4. Course Requirements

4.1 Reading and class participation – 5%

- The course texts have been chosen carefully. All three required texts are to be read and will be discussed in class. As well, specific readings will be assigned from the recommended text. Dates for class discussion of the texts will be announced in class.
- The class will be relatively small and will mainly consist of intercultural studies majors. Interaction and discussion of the selected topics is expected and encouraged, and will impact the final grade.

4.2 Reading reports – 15% (5% each)

- You will hand in 3 reading reports: **one on each of the 3 required texts**. These reports will be **1-2 pages long** and will give a brief report of things in your reading that have been of particular interest, challenge, or concern. More information on the reading reports will be given in class before the first one is due.
 - Things Fall Apart – **Due on September 20th**
 - The Changing Face of Christianity – **Due on October 4th**
 - African Friends and Money Matters – **Due on November 1st**

4.3 Intercultural interview – Due October 18th - 10%

- You will interview a Christian from another culture who did not grow up in a Christian home and ask him/her to share their conversion experience and the challenges that presented within their culture and religious context. After the interview you will write up a **2-3 page** summary of what you learned and how the person's experience was different from your experience in your home culture.

4.4 Research Paper – Due December 13th - 25%

- You will be required to write a research paper of **10-12 pages**. The topic will be of personal interest but must be approved by the instructor. The research is to be on a country of the world of the student's choice. Discuss the history of the country, the current situation (political, economic, religious), and the intercultural ministry "climate". At least ½ of the paper should discuss the ministry climate with particular focus on who is ministering there, what is being done, and what other ministry strategies might be effective. If the student prefers to focus the paper on an intercultural ministry topic, it must be grounded in a specific geographic location. Research topics must be handed in for approval by the instructor no later than **November 15th**.

4.5 Cultural Encounters – 20%

- As a class, we will engage in 2 or 3 “cultural encounters”. The goal is to get the student out of the classroom and into a practical cross-cultural context of the type that will be faced in an intercultural ministry environment. These will be out of class “experiential based learning events” that will include; going to a church service in another language, visiting a worship center for a different world religion and possibly a cross-cultural eating experience. After each outing the student will write a critical reflection paper of **2-3 pages**, discussing the event and what they found particularly enjoyable, challenging, and memorable. Specific requirements for the critical reflection paper will be given in class before the first outing. The exact details of these “cultural encounters” are still being determined and will be announced in class. Dates will be determined by the class so that everyone can attend.

4.6 Final Exam – 25%

- The final exam will be based on class lectures and reading. The format will be multiple choice, short answer and essay questions.

5. Grade Distribution

Reading and class participation – 5%

Reading reports – 15%

Intercultural interview – 10%

Research Paper – 25%

Cultural encounter reports – 20%

Final exam – 25%

6. General Information

- If not turned in to the instructor in class, students are to submit their completed assignments and exams to the Receptionist on 6th floor. The Receptionist will note the date received and forward assignments to the respective instructors immediately.
- Last day to enter course without permission and/or voluntarily withdraw from course without financial penalty: September 15
- Last day to voluntarily withdraw from course or change to audit without academic penalty: November 15
- **Late work:** For each day late, there will be a drop of a letter grade (eg. a B+ will drop to a B). All work is **due on the date indicated at the beginning of the class period**. You are expected to anticipate overlapping requirements with other courses so please plan ahead.

- **Recommendations for papers:** Strive to write at a graduate level, realizing that what may have been acceptable in undergraduate work may not be for master’s degree papers. While the quality of your content is very important, the use of poor grammar, punctuation, spelling and style does detract from the overall quality of a paper. Deficiencies in these areas will result in a lower grade, and very honestly, they will reflect poorly on your ministry down the road. If possible, ask someone or several people to critique your work before submission. Allow time for the process of revision and recognize that rewriting and editing is a normal part of writing well. Contact Terry Symes in the Learning Services Center for further help (especially if English is not your mother tongue).

- **Grading Scale:**

<u>Letter Grade</u>	<u>Description</u>
A+	Excellent
A	
A-	
B+	Good
B	
B-	
C+	Satisfactory
C	
C-	
D+	Minimal Pass
D	
F	Failure

- **Policy on extensions:** Requests for a course extension must be submitted to the Registrar’s Office by December 20. Course extensions are only granted for serious issues that arise “due to circumstances beyond the student’s control.” All written assignments turned in after December 20 must be submitted to the Receptionist on the 6th floor. The professor will not accept any written work after December 20 unless permission has been granted from the Registrar's office
- **Plagiarism and Academic Dishonesty Policy:** The seminary maintains a zero tolerance policy on plagiarism and academic dishonesty. Plagiarism and academic dishonesty can result in a failing grade for an assignment, for the course, or immediate dismissal from the seminary. Even unintentional plagiarism is to be avoided at all costs. Students are expected to be familiar with the policy statements in the current academic calendar and the student handbook that deal with plagiarism, academic dishonesty (cheating), and the penalties and procedures for dealing with these matters. All cases of academic dishonesty are reported to the Academic Dean