

4DM802 APPLIED THEOLOGY

Summer 2010 (rev. 4/30/10)

Professor: Dr. Samuel H. Larsen

Course Description:

3 hours. This course assists the student to integrate exegetical, theological, historical, and practical aspects of intercultural ministry, with special attention given to exploring pastoral and social ethics within intercultural ministry contexts with respect to issues of gender, generational and ethnic diversity, and cultural values and worldviews. The course also explores creative tensions between globalization and localization and introduces models of contextualization in intercultural ministry and pastoral ethics.

Professor of Record:

Sam Larsen is the Samuel Patterson Professor of Missions and Evangelism and has taught Missions and Intercultural Studies at Reformed Theological Seminary (RTS) since 1998. He has a Doctor of Ministry from RTS and a PhD in Intercultural Studies from Trinity International University. He brings together life experience both as a missionary in Kenya and Australia and as a Navy Chaplain and has traveled and taught extensively in North America, South America, Europe, Asia, and Oceania. He has planted or pastored churches on three continents.

Learning Objectives: Participants will demonstrate the following learning outcomes (competencies):

A. Cognitive Learning Outcomes:

1. Participants will become aware of the Church's *kairos* within the *chronos* of redemptive history and the significance of the processes of modernity and globalization for missions in the Third Millennium.
2. Participants will become familiar with important contextualization theorists (such as McQuilkin, Schreiter, Dyrness, and Hiebert) and their presuppositions and contributions to intercultural ministry.
3. Participants will develop a critical comprehension of biblically-based pastoral and social ethics theory as applied to both general and specific intercultural ministry settings, including an understanding of worldview theory and principles of cultural engagement for effective ministry.

B. Affective Learning Outcomes:

1. Participants will develop a growing confidence in God's sovereign governance over the affairs of individuals and nations as He carries out His redemptive plan until it is

culminated in the return of His Son, when the kingdoms of this world will become the Kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ.

2. Participants will grow in their assurance of God's presence and love, in their confidence in His purpose and calling for their lives, and in their desire to conform their lives to Christ.

C. Volitional Learning Outcomes:

1. Participants will deepen their commitment to the central task of discipling the nations as God's appointed means of reaching the lost, building up the Body of Christ, and ultimately of bringing all glory to Him.

2. Participants will grow in their determination to strengthen the unity of the culturally and generationally diverse Body of Christ, to seek all that exalts Him, and to reflect His character in their values and relationships.

Required Reading: (1999 pp)

Atkinson, David J. And David H. Field, ed. 1995. *New dictionary of Christian ethics and pastoral theology*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity. (918 pp)

Bradshaw, Bruce. 2002. *Change across cultures*. Grand Rapids, Mich.: Baker. (264 pp.)

Jones, David Clyde. 1994. *Biblical Christian ethics*. Grand Rapids: Baker. (211 pp)

McQuilken, Robertson. 1992. *An introduction to Biblical ethics* (revised edition). Chicago: Moody. (334 pp)

Murray, John. 1991. *Principles of conduct: Aspects of biblical ethics*. Grand Rapids, Mich.: Eerdmans. (272 pp)

Recommended Reading:

Bevans, Stephen B. 1996. *Models of contextual theology*. Maryknoll, N.Y.: Orbis. (146 pp.)

Beyer, Peter. 1997. *Religion and globalization*. Thousand Oaks, Calif.: Sage. (250 pp.)

Brown, Harold O. J. 1996. *The sensate culture: Western civilization between chaos and transformation*. Dallas, Tex.: Word. (257 pp)

Dyrness, William A. 1990. *Learning about theology from the third world*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan. (221 pp.)

- Geisler, Norman L. 1971. *Ethics: Alternatives and issues*. Grand Rapids, Mich.: Zondervan. (270 pp)
- Geisler, Norman L. 1989. *Christian Ethics*. Grand Rapids: Baker.
- Hall, Edward T. 1976. *Beyond culture*. New York: Anchor. (298 pp)
- Harrison, Lawrence E., and Samuel P. Huntington, eds. 2000. *Culture matters: How values shape human progress*. New York: Basic Books. (348 pp)
- Harrison, R. K., ed. 1992. *Encyclopedia of Biblical and Christian Ethics* (revised edition). Grand Rapids: Baker.
- Heimbach, Daniel R. 2004. *True sexual morality: Recovering biblical standards for a culture in crisis*. Wheaton, Ill.: Crossway. (525 pp)
- Henry, Carl F. H. 1964. *Biblical ethics and social change*. Grand Rapids, Mich.: Eerdmans.
- Hesselgrave, David J., and Rommen, Edward. 2000. *Contextualization: Meanings, methods, and models*. Pasadena, Calif.: William Carey Library. (281 pp)
- Hiebert, Paul G., R. Daniel Shaw, and Tite Tienou. 1999. *Understanding folk religion*. Grand Rapids, Mich.: Baker. (412 pp)
- Hiebert, Paul G. 1993. Globalization as Evangelism. In *The Globalization of Theological Education*, ed. Alice Frazer Evans, Robert A. Evans, and David A. Roozen, 64-77. Maryknoll, N.Y.: Orbis. (14 pp)
- . 1995. *Incarnational ministry: planting churches in band, tribal, peasant, and urban societies*. Grand Rapids, Mich.: Baker. (405 pp)
- Hoffecker, W. Andrew. 2007. *Revolutions in worldview*. Phillipsburg, N.J.: Presbyterian and Reformed. (424 pp)
- Hofstede, Geert. 1984. *Culture's consequences: International differences in work-related values*. Newbury Park, Calif.: Sage. (327 pp)
- Hofstede, Geert. 1997. *Cultures and organizations: Software of the mind—Intercultural cooperation and its importance for survival*. New York: McGraw-Hill. (279 pp)
- Huntington, Samuel P. 1996. *The clash of civilizations and the remaking of world order*. New York: Simon and Schuster. (367 pp.)
- Hutchinson, M., and O. Kalu. 1998. *A global faith: Essays on evangelicalism and globalization*. Sydney: Centre for the Study of Australian Christianity. (264 pp)

- Jenkins, Philip. 2002. *The next Christendom*. New York: Oxford University Press. (270 pp.)
- Kraft, Charles H. 1995. *Christianity in culture: A study in dynamic biblical theologizing in cross-cultural perspective*. Maryknoll, N.Y.: Orbis. (425 pp)
- Larsen, Samuel. 1989. Biblical mathetology. D.Min. diss., Reformed Theological Seminary. (Chapters 4 and 5: 64 pp.)
- Larsen, Samuel H. 2006. A christocentric understanding of linguistic diversity: Implications for missions in a pluralistic era. In *The Centrality of Christ in contemporary missions*, ed. Mike Barnett and Michael Pocock. Pasadena, Calif.: William Carey Library. (19 pp)
- Lingenfelter, Sherwood. 1996. *Agents of transformation: A guide for effective cross-cultural ministry*. Grand Rapids, Mich.: Baker. (282 pp)
- Myers, Bryant L. 1996. *The New Context of World Mission*. Monrovia, Calif.: MARC. (65 pp.)
- Naugle, David K. 2002. *Worldview: The history of a concept*. Grand Rapids, Mich.: Eerdmans. (384 pp)
- Nicholls, Bruce. 1979. *Contextualization: A theology of gospel and culture*. Downers Grove, Ill.: InterVarsity Press. (72 pp.)
- Niebuhr, H. Richard. 2001. *Christ and culture*. New York: Harper Collins. (260 pp)
- Ott, Craig, and Netland, Harold A, eds. 2006. *Globalizing theology: Belief and practice in an era of world Christianity*. Grand Rapids, Mich.: Baker. (382 pp)
- Pittman, Don A., Habito, Ruben L. F., and Muck, Terry C., eds. 1996. *Ministry and theology in global perspective: Contemporary challenges for the church*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans. (524 pp)
- Pollack, David C., and Ruth E. Van Reken. 1999. *The third culture kid experience: Growing up among worlds*. Yarmouth, Maine: Intercultural Press. (333 pp)
- Poythress, Vern S. 1987. *Symphonic theology*. Phillipsburg, N.J.: Presbyterian and Reformed. (128 pp)
- Ramachandra, Vinoth. 1999. *Faiths in conflict? Christian integrity in a multicultural world*. Downers Grove, Ill.: InterVarsity Press. (192 pp)
- Roembke, Lianne. 2000. *Building credible multicultural teams*. Pasadena, Calif.: William Carey Library. (287 pp)
- Rogers, Glenn. 2002. *The role of worldview in missions and multiethnic ministry*. n.p.: Mission

- and Ministry Resources. (211 pp)
- Sanneh, Lamin. 1993. *Encountering the West. Christianity and the global cultural process: The African dimension.* Maryknoll, N.Y.: Orbis. (286 pp)
- Schreiter, Robert J. 1996. *Constructing local theologies.* Maryknoll, N.Y.: Orbis. (178 pp.)
- Schreiter, Robert J. 1997. *The New Catholicity: Theology Between the Global and the Local.* Maryknoll, N.Y.: Orbis. (140 pp)
- Sine, Tom. 1999. *Mustard seed versus mcworld: Reinventing life and faith for the future.* Grand Rapids: Baker. (249 pp.)
- Singer, Marshall R. 1998. *Perception and identity in intercultural communication.* Yarmouth, Maine: Intercultural Press. (295 pp)
- Smith, William Kyle. 1972. *Calvin's ethics of war.* Annapolis, MD: Academic Fellowship. (166 pp)
- Spring, Joel. 2001. *Globalization and educational rights: An intercivilizational analysis.* London: Lawrence Erlbaum Associates. (188 pp)
- Stackhouse, Max L. 1988. *Apologia: Contextualization, globalization, and mission in theological education.* Grand Rapids: Eerdmans. (237 pp)
- Stackhouse, Max L., Dearborn, Tim, and Paeth, Scott, eds. 2000. *The local church in a global era.* Grand Rapids: Eerdmans. (218 pp)
- Taylor, William D., ed. 1994. *Kingdom partnerships for synergy in missions.* Pasadena, Calif.: William Carey Library. (270 pp)
- Thielicke, Helmut. 1979. *Theological ethics* (3 vols.). Grand Rapids, Mich.: Eerdmans. (1731 pp)
- Walls, Andrew F. 2002. *The cross-cultural process in Christian history.* Maryknoll, N.Y.: Orbis. (284 pp)
- Waters, Malcolm. 1995. *Globalization.* New York: Routledge. (185 pp.)
- Webster, Douglas D. 1999. *Soulcraft: How God shapes us through relationships.* Downers Grove, Ill.: InterVarsity Press. (228 pp.)
- White, Jerry. 1978. *Honesty, morality, and conscience.* Colorado Springs, Colo.: NavPress. (240 pp)
- Wogaman, J. Philip. 1993. *Christian ethics: A historical introduction.* Louisville:

Westminster/John Knox.

Winter, Ralph D., and Hawthorne, Steven C., eds. 1999. *Perspectives on the world Christian movement* (third edition). Pasadena, Calif.: William Carey Library.

Course Assessment:

1. The student's active and informed contribution to class discussion, drawing upon assigned readings, and prompt and regular class attendance. (20%)
2. A major course paper of 15-18 pages on an actual personal or pastoral issue faced by the student regarding a personal or pastoral ethical decision, written in such a way as to preserve the anonymity of the church and individuals involved. The paper will take into account biblical grounds for ethical principles, intercultural ministry contextual dynamics, and the process by which the writer reached and implemented the decision, together with an assessment of effectiveness and lessons learned through the process. (80%)

Office Hours: Appointments may be scheduled with Dr. Larsen after class or by e-mail (slarsen@rts.edu).