Course Description

3 hours. An introductory course in anthropology for cross-cultural workers that surveys theories, techniques, and methodologies in order to develop an appreciation and understanding of cultural commonalities and diversities of human societies.

Course Objectives

- To develop skills in ethnographic observation and analysis of an alien culture from a Reformed perspective of man and culture.
- To explore the nature and importance of world-view for the communication of the Gospel to an alien culture.
- To learn a process for the development of effective cross-cultural communication strategies, particularly with respect to the effective communication of the Gospel.

Basic Text


Recommended Texts


Course Outline and General Assignments

1. Introduction to Anthropology (Grunlan/Mayers)
   a. Read (survey) Grunlan/Mayers (280 pp.) and prepare short summary and discussion questions for the class on your assigned chapter.
   b. Read approximately 300 total pages of an anthropological story and make reflection notes from your reading for a short oral report to class about the significance of your “extra” reading
      i. Richardson, Don. *Lords of the earth.*
      ii. Lewis, Oscar. *The children of Sanchez.*
      iv. Solzhenitsyn, A. *On day in the life of Ivan Denisovich*
      v. Others upon approval
   c. Read (survey) Nida (*Customs and cultures*) with particular attention supplementing your assigned section in Grunlan. (Read a chapter and skim the rest—if you can. (It’s too good to skim easily.)

2. Ethnographic observation and writing (Spradley) (100/250 pp.)
   a. Specific assignments in Spradley will be given—mostly as examples of ethnography.
   b. A specific ethnographic project will be assigned.

3. Anthropology and Communication (Nida, Lustig/Dodd, Engle) (Survey read approx. 300 pp. from these books)
   a. Select a culture different from your own and write an essay comparing and contrasting the two world views.
   b. Write an essay describing the value of anthropology for the communication of the Gospel.
   c. Select a culture different from your own and propose a communication strategy to reach them.
**Evaluation**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Weight</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Class attendance and participation</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reading (1000 pp.)</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Field trip(s)</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Essays (3)</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ethnography</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Exam</td>
<td>10%</td>
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*Note: Class meets 2 hr/wk.*

*The third hour will be met with field trips.*