COURSE DESCRIPTION:

3 hours. An examination of theoretical models of intercultural communication and the processes of intercultural adaptations that affect the communication process. Emphasis is given to field research in intercultural communication issues (Ph.D.), to missiological application (D.Min.), and theological research and analysis (Th.M.).

COURSE OBJECTIVES: Course participants will demonstrate the following competencies with respect to the general objectives of their respective programs (Ph.D., D.Min., Th.M.):

1. Awareness of the biblical ontology of the human person as a relational and communicative being, drawing implications for the task of intercultural missions.
2. Familiarity with important theories of intercultural communication, with a critique of the underlying assumptions of each and implications for the task of intercultural missions.
3. Awareness of resources for field research in intercultural communication issues.
4. Appreciation for the complex challenges confronting intercultural communication of the Christian Gospel, together with increased confidence in its cross-cultural communicability.
5. Development of skills for teaching and practicing intercultural communication.

REQUIRED TEXTS:


Hall, E. T. 1981. *Beyond culture*. New York: Doubleday. (281 pp.) ($11) [See also *The hidden dimension* and *The silent language*].


RECOMMENDED READING:


COURSE ASSESSMENT:

1. Participants will complete required pre-course readings. Participants will be prompt and regular in class attendance and will join actively in class discussions, drawing upon both course readings and personal experience. (20%)

2. Participants will prepare and present a devotional from a selected biblical passage, drawing from it implications for intercultural communication. (10%)

3. Participants will compile an annotated bibliography of at least twenty titles on a particular aspect of intercultural communication which will contribute to their reference list for the course major paper. The annotated bibliography must be the participant’s own. (20%)

4. Participants will present in class a progress report of the preliminary findings of their research for their major paper or project. (20%)

4. Participants will write a major paper or project (twenty to thirty pages, including reference list) on a pre-approved topic relating to intercultural communication. (30%)

NOTE: Spelling and grammar of written submissions must be accurate and will be taken into account in course assessment. Format must comply with the standards of Reformed Theological Seminary, following the guidelines of Kate L. Turabian’s *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations (6th edition)*. Submissions which are submitted late will be reduced one letter grade for each day beyond the date due. Final draft of the major paper is due in Dr. Long’s in-box in the Dean Center no later than 4 p.m. on Friday, December 2, 2005.

OFFICE HOURS:

Dr. Long’s office is in the Dean Center. Students may schedule appointments by telephone (extension 682) or in person after class. Outside of modular periods, Dr. Larsen’s regular office hours are M-F, 8-9:30.

GENERAL SCHEDULE OF TOPICS

1. Biblical foundations of communication and culture
2. Communication theory
3. Intercultural communication theory
4. Bible interpretation as intercultural translation
5. Cross-cultural principles of rhetoric
6. Problems and issues:
   a. Communicating absolutes in a culture of relativism
   b. Persuasion/Manipulation
   c. Evaluation of communication effectiveness
   d. Tools for learning language and culture
   e. Communicating Gospel in a culture of images and film.
   f. Communicating to hostile peoples.
   g. Communicating in the context of spiritism
   h. Etc.