

## **EM/WM 657 Educational Ministry in Cultural Perspective**

Spring 2010: Tuesday & Thursday 10:45AM-12:15PM

Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary

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Office Hours: Tuesday & Thursday 12:30-2:00PM; Friday 9:00-10:00AM for appointment:

<http://docs.google.com/Doc?docid=0AenxFm048H09ZGRnaGtweHpfOGRqcGNkdmQz&hl=en>

Friday 10AM-12PM Drop-in Hours – no appointment necessary

### **Course Description and Objectives:**

This course provides opportunities for students to explore and cultivate a theory and practice of ministry within the multicultural context of American society as well as within a global context, i.e., the Church around the world. This course has three major goals:

First, students will explore the relationship between the socio-cultural context of human beings and the educational ministry strategies of the church as they are manifested in both multicultural and cross-cultural ministry contexts:

- The influence of culture upon ourselves as ministers of the Gospel
- The cultural realities of those we teach and the implications of these for our efforts

Second, students will develop strategy for cultural engagement that is applicable for the educational ministry/evangelism of the church in both multicultural and cross-cultural contexts:

- The role of culture in the formation, interpretation, and application of biblical texts
- How to achieve greater levels of cultural congruence in our preaching and teaching
- How to become the men and women who are able to both appreciate the cultural diversity of God's people and minister cross-culturally
- How to equip members of our churches for the faithful and effective life and ministry in an increasingly multicultural world

Third, students will develop competency in conducting a qualitative research. This will be pursued through various in-class activities, as well as through participation in a small group research project preferably in a cross-cultural setting.

### **Course Texts:**

Conde-Frazer, Elizabeth, S. Steve Kang, and Gary Parrett. *A Many Colored Kingdom*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2004.

Crouch, Andy. *Culture Making: Recovering Our Creative Calling*. Downers Grove: IVP, 2008.

Emerson, Michael and Christian Smith. *Divided By Faith: Evangelical Religion and the Problem Of Race in America*. New York: Oxford, 2000.

Fitch, David. *The Great Giveaway: Reclaiming the Mission of the Church from Big Business, Parachurch Organizations, Psychotherapy, Consumer Capitalism, and Other Modern Maladies*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2005.

Smith, James, K. *Who's Afraid of Postmodernism?: Taking Derrida, Lyotard, and Foucault to Church*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2006.

### **Course Assignments:**

- **Attendance and Participation** (10%)
- **Integrative Essay Examination Exercise** (40%)  
Students will take an active and participatory essay examination experience by: (1) carefully reading all the course texts; (2) submitting four significant essay questions (one from each course text); (3) studying a list of edited essay questions with classmates; and (4) individually writing the essay examination in class.

- **Ethnographic Research Project (50%)**  
Students in groups of 2 or 3 are expected to commit themselves to engaging in participation observation, including interviews, of a particular cultural and/or people group throughout the semester. This is the major project that will culminate in a final project presented in written form. The guidelines for this final paper and presentation will be given at a later date.
- **All papers should be in Turabian format.**
  - See Turabian, Kate L. *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*, 6<sup>th</sup> Edition. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 1996.
  - For online help, consult: <http://www.libs.uga.edu/ref/turabian.html>

**Course Outline:**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Reading &amp; Assignment Due for Class</b>
January 26 & 28	- Introduction & Course Preparation - The Complexity of the Study of Culture - A Biblical Vision of Culture and Christian Formational Education	<i>A Many Colored Kingdom, Introduction, chs.1-4</i>
February 2 & 4	- Ethnographic Research Design - Data Gathering Stage in Ethnographic Research	<i>A Many Colored Kingdom, chs.5-8, Conclusion</i> <b>2/5 F – Group Research Proposal Due</b>
February 9 & 11	- History and Issues of Race Relations in American Evangelicalism	<i>Divided by Faith, Introduction, chs.1-6</i>
February 16 & 18	<b>NO CLASS</b>	<b>READING WEEK ONE</b>
February 22 & 25	- The Uneasy Prospect of Race Relations in America Evangelicalism - The (Late-) Modern Challenges in American Evangelicalism	<i>Divided by Faith, chs.7-9, Appendixes The Great Giveaway, Introduction &amp; ch.1</i>
March 2 & 4	- Data Gathering & Reduction - Applied Ethnography	
March 9 & 11	- The (Late-) Modern Challenges in American Evangelicalism & Beyond	<i>The Great Giveaway, chs.2-8, Conclusion</i>
March 16 & 18	- A Post-Christian America, Reflexivity & the Future of the Church in America	<i>Who's Afraid of Postmodernism? Culture Making, Introduction, Parts I &amp; II</i> <b>3/18 R – Integrative Essay Examination Questions Due</b>
March 23 & 25	<b>NO CLASS</b>	<b>READING WEEK TWO</b>
March 30 & April 1	- Making sense of Ethnographic Research Data - Cultural Enfolding as Christian Formational Education	<i>Culture Making, Part III</i>
April 6 & 8	- Cultural Engagement as Christian Formational Education - Integrative Essay Examination Exercise	<b>4/6 T – Integrative Essay Examination Exercise</b>
April 13 & 15	- Research Presentations - Closure	
April 23 Fri	<b>All work due 4pm</b>	<b>Ethnography Due</b>

## **Bibliography**

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- Bakke, Ray and Jon Sharpe. *Street Signs: A New Direction in Urban Ministry*. Birmingham, AL: New Hope, 2006.
- Balmer, Randall. *Mine Eyes Have Seen the Glory: A Journey Into the Evangelical Subculture in America*, 4<sup>th</sup> ed. New York: Oxford, 2006.
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Week 29 Ending April 19 (no class). Week 30 Due April 16. Week 31 Due May 3. Lesson 81 The Growth of Big Business. Read Leviticus 19:9-37. Lesson 82 The Rise of Organized Labor. Isaiah 1:10-20. Lesson 83 New South, New West. AV 258-273 The Significance of the Frontier in American History. Matthew 25:31-46. Lesson 85 Social Darwinism and the Social Gospel. GEOGRAPHY.