MS 652 Christian Ministry in a Multicultural Society

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Recommended Citation
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Purpose:
To equip and prepare students for Christian ministry in a multicultural society. To provide historical, sociological, theological, and ethical foundations for ministry in a diverse society. To provide relevant models for developing a multicultural approach to ministry. To assist in developing practical applications and new ministry models that are relevant and meaningful for a multicultural, pluralistic, and diverse society.

Objectives:
Upon completion of this course the student will be able to:
- describe the nature and complexity of ethnic diversity in the U.S.
- interpret concepts, issues, and problems from a diverse and ethnic perspectives.
- articulate and identify main problems in race and ethnic relationships in the U.S.
- develop awareness of the different ethnic and cultural values existent in the U.S.
- promote and participate in cross-cultural ministries in a healthy way.

Required Texts:


Muck, Terry C. *Those Other Religions in your Neighborhood: Loving your Neighbor when you don’t know how*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1992.

OR


**Collateral Texts (Not Required)**


**Requirements:**

**“Description” Paper:** In this paper (5-7 pages) the student will provide a general description of the history, cultural heritage, and popular religiosity of a particular ethnic group (other than the student’s own). Students are encouraged to consult authors and sources that are relevant for the ethnic group or that are written by people that belong to such group.

**Due Date: January 15, 2008**

**“Report” Paper:** This written report of 4-6 pages should provide a narrative description of the student’s visit to and experience in a multicultural congregation or in a congregation in which its members are from an ethnic group “distinctively” different from your own. This report paper should include a description of the organization (church structure), power dynamics (how decisions are made and who are the persons in positions of leadership, and how does this group/congregation relates to the dominant group), and interaction with other ethnic groups in its community, as well as the mission and goal of the organization/church.

**Due Date: January 22, 2008**

**Final Paper:** The student is required to write a 12-15 pages in which the student will present a tentative plan/model for implementing/improving a multicultural ministry. The student will develop her/his plan/model in three parts: 1) A sociological analysis of the community where the ministry will take place (target audience) and its relationship with other groups in the community. 2) Ethical/Theological foundations for a multicultural ministry in his/her setting, in which the student should provide a solid arguments and articulate reasons for implementing his/her plan/model in her/his place of ministry. 3) Description and implementation of the plan/model, in here the student is required to provide a general description of the plan/model including goals, objectives, and long range expectations; and a detail application and implementation of the plan/model for at least 3 months.

**Due Date: January 28, 2008**

**Evaluation:**

- 25% Description Paper
- 25% Report Paper
- 50% Final Paper

**Grade Range:** Work for MS652 will be evaluated at a graduate/professional school level.

\[
A = 95-100\% \text{ Unusually high quality, exceptional work} \quad D+ = 67-69\% \text{ Minimal work}
\]
\[
A- = 90-94\% \text{ Far above average, fine work} \quad D = 63-66\% \text{ barely acceptable}
\]
\[
B+ = 87-89\% \quad Above \ average \ for \ graduate \ work \\
B = 83-86\% \quad Very \ good, \ average \ for \ graduate \ work \\
B- = 80-82\% \quad Slightly \ below \ average \ for \ graduate \ work \\
C+ = 77-79\% \quad Meets \ requirements, \ but \ noticeable \ inadequacies \ for \ graduate \ work \\
C = 70-72\% \quad Meets \ requirements, \ but \ with \ significant \ gaps \ for \ graduate \ work \\
C- = 67-69\% \quad Meets \ requirements, \ but \ serious \ gaps
\]

Written Work:
All written work must be typed with 12 point type, one inch margins on all four sides, and true double spacing. Follow page limit requirements.
All written work must use inclusive language when reference is made to human beings (male and female). This provides for both greater inclusion and greater precision.
For more information on this topic see >Guidelines for the Asbury Experience' (p.10) or visit the icon course/seminary resources located in our course icon

Late Work:
There will be a penalty for late papers commensurate with the degree of lateness and the adequacy of the excuse. Late papers will not receive feedback, but will be graded.

Incomplete Work: “A grade of ‘I’ denotes that the work of a course has not been completed due to an unavoidable emergency, which does not include delinquency or attending to church work or other employment. If the work of the course is incomplete at the end of a term without an emergency, a letter grade will be given based on the grades of work done, with incomplete work counted as ‘F.’ ” From ATS 2001-03 Catalog pag. 29 (emphasis added)

Attendance Policy: Attendance to all sessions is expected, and because this is an intensive course, missing one day of class amounts for 3 weeks of class work during a regular semester. However, one three hour session class (1/3 of the day) may be missed without makeup. After this (1/3 of the day), extra reading is required (50 pages per 1/3 of the day missed: from the recommended reading list) and a one page single-spaced paper summarizing the extra reading. If one whole day is missed—serious conversation between student and professors is needed and reduction of final grade might be required.

Schedule:
(Required Readings should be completed before each session and since this class is an intensive class, it is strongly recommended that you read all books before coming to campus)
Session 1: Tuesday, Jan. 15
Multicultural Society: History and Conflicting Claims

**Required Readings:** *Alien Nation* (entire text).
*From Different Shores or A Larger Memory* (entire text)

Session 2: Wednesday, Jan. 16
Pluralistic Society: Problem, Challenge or Opportunity?

**Required Readings:** *Those Other Religions* . . . (entire text)

Session 3: Thursday, Jan. 17
The Christian Church in a Multicultural and Pluralistic Society

**Required Readings:** *A Many Colored Kingdom* (entire text)

Session 4: Friday, Jan. 18
Ethical/Theological Foundations for Christian Ministry

**Required Readings:** *Strange Virtues* (entire text)

Session 5: Saturday, Jan. 19
Multicultural Models and Approaches for Christian Ministry

**Required Readings:** *The Wolf Shall Dwell with the Lamb* (entire text)