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MS 655 CL 655 MB 730 The Change Agent in Mission

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Course Description

This is a course in applied anthropology and cultural dynamics with special attention to how culture change occurs, the dynamics and variables that effect change, and appropriate strategies for the church. The course also deals with contemporary areas of social responsibility for those in mission.

In this postmodern, postcolonial age, everyone has a mission. Wherever one positions oneself, one has a perspective and a strategy for change. Anthropologists, missionaries, indigenous church leaders, development agencies, drug dealers: all have spiritual, political and economic interests to pursue. All are different from each other, all act out of a different view of society, and all hope to be able to direct change.

This course recognizes that:

- *Culture is constructed:* All cultures are in a process of change, under construction every day. There is no such thing as lasting stasis. Thus, culture is always emerging.
- *Culture is contingent:* Cultures change by mixing and matching materials at hand, drawing from tradition as well as from the diffusion of persons, materials and ideas through global channels. Thus, what emerges depends in part on what was there to begin with and what is adapted from the outside.
- *Culture is contested:* There is a contest going on to see who will define and direct culture and society. This is played out in a variety of arenas, none more deeply embedded than the arena of core beliefs or worldview. Thus, at any given time, there are competing models of culture in the arena.
- *Culture change is complex:* Though culture is contingent, people are able to construct something that was not there before (innovation), and new things do distribute through society (diffusion). Though culture is contested in many arenas, the most deeply embedded site of resistance to change is the arena of core beliefs or worldview. Thus culture, once created by men and women, creates men and women.
- *Culture change among Christians is the work of the Holy Spirit empowering local leaders:* Cross-cultural witnesses for Christ are inherently agents of change, but they are not the only agents for change in a society, nor are they usually the most effective. Thus, culture is best understood and best redeemed from the inside out.
- *Yet, culture change still follows identifiable patterns:* Since God works through humans to build the Kingdom, recognizable patterns emerge over time. The Kingdom of God is like a mustard seed....

The issues then are:

- (1) How does change occur? (Patterns and processes)
- (2) How can change be introduced into organizations and communities?
- (3) How can we evaluate situations so we know when and where to introduce change?
- (4) What is the theological foundation for our involvement in culture and society?

To speak to these issues, this course is divided into four parts:

- (1) Historical Models of Culture Change.
- (2) Insights Gained from Applied Anthropology.
- (3) Issues in Community Development and Economic Development.
- (4) The Challenge of Integral Human Development.

Required Reading (in the order to be read)

1. *The Ghost Dance: Ethnohistory and Revitalization, 2nd edition.* 2006 Alice Beck Kehoe.
2. *Diffusion of Innovations, 5th edition.* 2002 Everett M. Rogers.
3. *Applied Anthropology, 3rd edition.* 1993 John van Willigen.
4. *Bridging the Gap: Evangelism, Development and Shalom.* 1993 Bruce Bradshaw.
5. *The Church in Response to Human Need.* 1987 Vinay Samuel & Chris Sugden, editors.
6. *Serving with the Poor in Africa.* 1996 Yamamori, Tetsunao, Bryant L. Myers, Kwame Bediako and Larry Reed, editors.

The books should be read in the order listed. As you read, highlight, take notes and reflect on what you are reading. Be prepared to discuss the book on the day devoted to that discussion.

MS 655 / CL 655 Students

Critical Reflection Paper

After reading each of the first five books, students are expected to prepare and submit a Critical Reflection Paper. It is critical because it is not just a book report. It is a report on the issues that have been raised that will be important to the Kingdom and to your particular calling in mission. The paper should be programmatic (That is, follow these steps so I know what you are doing):

1. Summarize the book in one long sentence.
2. List the important issues addressed in the book, with a paragraph about each, for the rest of the page.
3. Critically interact with at least one issue in the book, one page.
4. Suggest how this issue is significant for your ministry, one page.

Papers are due on the day we discuss the book in class, as indicated in the course schedule. Papers should be about three pages long, single-spaced. Students who do not submit a paper that day are assumed to be unprepared for the discussion.

Case Study

The research paper in this course is for you, to help you develop your theology of mission. Please choose a case to analyze. It could be the story of a person or agency attempting to introduce change into a society or organization. You may choose a case from the Yamamori book, or another from the literature. The change may be a success, a failure, or a qualified success or failure. The object of the paper is for you to be able to apply the insights from the readings, lectures, and any additional research that you do to understand this case of directed change. Your assignment is to explain what worked and what failed to work in the project. You may use a case developed from personal experience, develop a case from interviews with a change agent, or develop a case found in the literature. The focus may be evangelism, church growth, human development, or relief work.

A good case study will:

1. Provide a written account of the case first, without analysis or interpretation.
2. Explore interesting problems arising in the case.
3. Draw widely from the literature on cultural dynamics, agency, development, syncretism, and mission.
4. Apply the literature in insightful ways that clearly reveal why the attempt to introduce change did or did not work, or why parts were successful while other parts were not.

A draft of the case itself is due first, as indicated in the class schedule. Then, a draft of the whole case study is due. This graduated process is designed so that the instructor is able to offer criticism and

guidance along the way. The final paper should be between 8 and 12 pages single-spaced and should include at least ten references to articles and books about change. Follow the style of *Missiology*.

MB 730 Students

Critical Reflection Paper

After reading each of the first five books, students are expected to prepare and submit a Critical Reflection Paper. It is critical because it is not just a book report. It is a report on the issues that have been raised that will be important to the Kingdom and to your particular calling in mission. The paper should be programmatic:

- (1) Summarize the book in one long sentence.
- (2) List the important issues addressed in the book, with a paragraph about each, one page.
- (3) Critically interact with at least one issue in the book, two pages.
- (4) Suggest this issue's application to ministry, one page.

Papers are due on the day we discuss the book in class, as indicated in the course schedule. Papers should be about five pages long, single-spaced. Students who do not submit a paper are assumed to be unprepared for the discussion.

Case Study

The research paper in this course is for you, to help you develop your theology of mission. Please choose a case of a person or agency attempting to introduce change into a society or organization. The change may be a success, a failure, or a qualified success or failure. The object of the paper is for you to be able to apply the insights from the reading, lectures, and additional research that you do to a case of directed change. Your assignment is to explain what worked and what failed to work in the project. You may use a case developed from personal experience, develop a case from interviews with a change agent, or develop a case found in the literature. The focus may be evangelism, church growth, human development, or relief work.

A good case study will:

- (1) Provide a written account of the case first, without analysis or interpretation.
- (2) Explore interesting problems arising in the case.
- (3) Draw widely from the literature on cultural dynamics, agency, development, syncretism, and mission.
- (4) Apply the literature in insightful ways that clearly reveal why the attempt to introduce change worked or did not work, or why parts were successful while other parts were not.
- (5) Reflect on how this case analysis relates to your doctoral project.

A draft of the case itself is due first, as indicated in the class schedule. Then, a draft of the whole case study is due. This graduated process is designed so that the instructor is able to offer criticism and guidance along the way. The final paper should be between 15 and 20 pages single-spaced and should include at least twenty references to articles and books about change. Follow the style of *Missiology*.

Present your case to the class. The last day or two of class will be devoted to doctoral students leading the class to understand the case and your approach in analyzing the case.

Goals

This class and the final study should prepare the student to:

- Appropriate the insights in the literature about culture change and development for use in ministry;
- Critique approaches to culture change and development that fall short of a Biblical, Wesleyan, holistic theology of mission and the kingdom; and
- Analyze cases where missionaries and indigenous change agents have attempted to bring about change.

Student Evaluation

Your final grade will be composed of an evaluation of your work from the following areas.

- 50% - Critical Reflection Papers (5 of them, each worth 10% of grade).
- 50% - Case Study (consideration will be given to those who follow the process, i.e, hand in a case for evaluation, hand in a first draft for criticism, and hand in the final draft on time. Doctoral student presentations will be folded into this 50%)

Course Grading

The unit of credit is a semester hour, which is defined as one hour of classroom work per week for one semester, or its equivalent. The 4.00 point system is used to compute grade point standing. The grading system is:

A	4.00	Exceptional work: surpassing, markedly outstanding achievement of course objectives.
B	3.00	Good work: strong, significant achievement of course objectives.
C	2.00	Acceptable work: basic, essential achievement of course objectives.
D	1.00	Marginal work: inadequate, minimal achievement of course objectives.
F	0	Unacceptable work: failure to achieve course objectives.

Incomplete Work

The official end of each term is 4:00 p.m. on the last day of the examination schedule. This hour is the deadline for handing in all course work. Each instructor may set an earlier deadline for submission of any or all course work. The student must petition the faculty person involved and the student's advisor for permission to receive an "I" at the end of the semester.

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 a 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."

Incomplete grades shall be removed one calendar month prior to the close of the following semester unless an earlier date is designated by the Office of the Chief Academic Officer on the individual petition. If the work is not completed by the time designated, the "I" shall be changed to an "F" unless a passing grade can be given based on work already completed or unless special permission is granted by the Chief Academic Officer.

Professors are required to give either a grade or an "I," if approved, to each student registered for credit in a course. Students with Incompletes in two or more classes will not be allowed to enroll in a new semester or term without permission from their Dean.

Office Hours

Office hours will be Wednesday 10:00-12:00 and Thursday 1:00-2:30 p.m. It is best to make an appointment in advance, but you may check during hours to see if others have not taken a time slot. Other times may be available by appointment with Katherine Riley. My office is in Administration Building, the Office of Postgraduate Studies. Telephone: 858-2218.

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