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MS 652 Christian Ministry in a Multicultural Society

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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:


Brimelow, Peter. *Alien Nation*

Law, Eric. *The Wolf Shall Dwell with the Lamb: A Spirituality for leadership in a Multicultural Community*. Chalice Press,

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


Collateral Texts (Not Required)


Requirements:

“Description” Paper: In this 5-7 page-paper the student is asked to provide a general description of the history, cultural heritage, popular religiosity of a particular group (other than the student’s own group). 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: August 9, 2002

“Report” Paper: This written report of 4-6 pages should provide a narrative description of the student’s visit and experience to multicultural church and/or an “ethnic” church. This should also include a description of the organization, power dynamics, and interaction with other groups, as well as the mission and goal of the organization.  Due Date: August 16, 2002

Final Paper: In this 15-20 page-paper research the student is required to present a tentative plan/model for ministry in a multicultural setting. The student will develop the paper in three parts: 1) A sociological analysis of the group in question and its relationship with the dominant group in the community. 2) Ethical/Theological foundations for a multicultural ministry in this setting, in which the student should provide a solid arguments and articulate reasons for implementing his/her plan/model in his/her 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, objective, and long range expectations; and a detail application and implementation of the plan/model for the first 3 months.  Due Date: Aug. 30, 02.

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% Unusually high quality, exceptional work
A- = 90-94% Far above average, fine work
B+= 87-89% Above average for graduate work
B = 83-86% Very good, average for graduate work
B- = 80-82% Slightly below average for graduate work
C+ = 77-79% Meets requirements, but noticeable inadequacies for graduate work
C = 70-72% Meets requirements, but with significant gaps for graduate work
C- = 67-69% 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. There will be a penalty for late papers commensurate with the degree of lateness and the adequacy of the excuse.  Papers are due in class on assigned date.
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).

**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:** One (three hour session) class may be missed without makeup. After this (one class missed), extra reading is required (50 pages per day missed: from the recommended reading list) and a one page single-spaced paper summarizing the extra reading. If three classes are missed—serious conversation between student and professors is needed and reduction of grade might be required.

**Schedule:**
(Required Readings should be completed before each session)

**Session 1 (8/2) Multicultural Society: History and Conflicting Claims**

**Required Readings:** *Alien Nation* (entire text).

*Diversity in America* (entire text)

**Session 2 (8/9) Pluralistic Society: Problem, Challenge or Opportunity?**

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

Description paper due today.

**Session 3 (8/16) The Christian Church in a Multicultural and Pluralistic Society**

**Required Readings:** *Where the Nations Meet* (entire text)

Report paper due today.

**Session 4 (8/23) Ethical/Theological Foundations for Christian Ministry**

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

**Session 5 (8/30) Multicultural Models and Approaches for Christian Ministry**

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

Final paper due today.