1-1-2004

MB 730 The Change Agent

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Darrell Whiteman, Instructor

Course Description

The underlying assumption of this course is that as cross-cultural witnesses we are by definition agents of change. So we better know something about how change occurs, how to introduce it effectively into organizations and communities, how to evaluate when we should and should not be introducing change, and what is the theological foundation for our involvement. To speak to these issues we have divided the course into four parts: (1) Models of Culture Change, (2) Insights from Applied Anthropology, (3) Problems in Community Development, and (4) The Challenge of Integral Human Development.

Course Outline

Models of Culture Change and Cultural Dynamics – 2/11, 2/18, 2/25
Problems in Community Development – 3/24, 4/7, 4/14, 4/21
Challenges of Integral Human Development – 4/28, 5/5, 5/12
V. Final Examination, May 19th

We will also see a number of great films that will correspond to the four emphases in the course. These will be shown as follows:

Feb. 25 “Becoming American”
March 17 “Barefoot Doctors of Rural China”
April 7 “Controlling Interest”
April 21 “Hungry for Profit”
May 5 “One Kingdom Divided”
May 12 “Transformation”
Texts for the Course in Order of Use


*Bridging the Gap* – Bruce Bradshaw (1993)


*The Good News of the Kingdom Coming*, Andrew Kirk (1983) [Photocopy available in the bookstore]

The books should be read in the order listed. Your responsibility for each book will be met by producing an “Interaction Paper” which looks at the “critical issues” raised, the insights gained, and then makes some application of this to ministry. These papers need not be long (eg. 4-7 page range is appropriate), but it is imperative that they are turned in on time for our discussion of the material during our Wednesday afternoon class. **The papers will be due on a Tuesday for discussion of the books the following Wednesday.** Please put the papers in my mail slot in the ESJ office or drop them by my office. **Please do not put them in the SPO.** Here is the schedule of when they are due:

- March 3  *Diffusion of Innovations*
- March 16 *Applied Anthropology*
- April 6  *Bridging the Gap*
- April 20 *The Church in Response to Human Need*
- May 4   *The Good News of the Kingdom Coming*

**Case Study**

The “research paper” for this course is for you to develop a case study in which you apply the insights from your reading, lectures, additional research, etc. to a particular attempt by a person(s) to introduce change into a society or organization. This may be an event of success or failure. It is often easier to write case studies of failures than successes, but your assignment is to explain why the particular event of introducing change succeeded or failed. You can (1) draw from a personal experience, (2) an experience of someone or some organization you know and can interview, (3) an historical event such as the “Asbury Revival,” or (4) a “classic” case from literature. It can focus on mission/evangelism work, church growth, relief and development work, organizational development, etc.

A good case study will 1) focus on an interesting problem, 2) consult and draw from the normative literatures of cultural dynamics, change agentry, development, etc. and 3) apply them in insightful ways that clearly reveal why the attempt to introduce change worked or did not work.

**The case study is due April 28th.** You are encouraged to turn it in earlier than that if you can. After I read them I may ask some of you to present your case to the class, some of you may need to do another draft before it is in final form, and others will be pleased to learn that it is finished and acceptable.
Course Evaluation

Your final grade will be composed of an evaluation of your work from the following sources:

- 50% Interaction papers from the reading
- 25% Final Exam
- 25% Case Study

Important Dates

Feb. 25  Film “Becoming American”

March 2  Paper due – *Diffusion of Innovation*

March 16 Paper due – *Applied Anthropology*

March 17  Film “Barefoot Doctors of Rural China”

March 29-April 2  SPRING BREAK

April 6  Paper due – *Bridging the Gap*

April 7  Film “*Controlling Interest*”

April 20 Paper due – *The Church in Response to Human Need*

April 21  Film “*Hungry for Profit*”

April 28  Case Study Due

May 4  Paper due – *The Good News of the Kingdom Coming*

May 5  Film “*One Kingdom Divided*”

May 12 Film “*Transformation*”

May 19 Final Exam Due

My office is located in the ESJ School on the third floor of the McPheeters Center. It is important that you contact Pat Richmond or Julee Bellar for appointments - 858-2261.

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