ME 636 MS 640 World (Transcultural) Evangelism

Robert G. Tuttle

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Recommended Citation
http://place.asburyseminary.edu/syllabi/2107
ME 636/MS640
A SYLLABUS AND GENERAL GUIDE FOR
"World (Transcultural) Evangelism"
Fall Semester, 2003
Robert G. Tuttle, Jr. Professor                 Asbury Theological Seminary

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

In an age of increasing mobility across cultural boundaries it becomes more and
more necessary to understand the Christian faith from a global perspective. Several
issues, therefore, will be addressed in this course. Primarily, how do we make decisions
regarding that which is essential for Christian commitment across cultural lines? How do
we detach ourselves from parts of our gospel understanding that may be culturally
bound? How can we sensitize ourselves to issues than transcend cultural boundaries that
might actually assist our communication of a relevant transcultural gospel?

II. COURSE OBJECTIVES

A. A broader understanding of what is cross-cultural and transcultural. Cross-
cultural relates to boundaries (at home and abroad) that force concepts and ideologies to
be communicated differently. Transcultural relates to concepts and ideologies that
communicate with similar to equal effectiveness across cultural boundaries (at home and
abroad).
B. A clearer understanding of the theological essentials relevant to the gospel.
C. A study of anthropological and contextual (both de-culturing and re-culturing)
considerations.
D. Some practical experience in witnessing in a cross-cultural settings.

III. TOPIC LISTINGS AND SEQUENCE : (subject to modification).

Week of Sept 1: Religion and Culture: The Rationale.
                Assignment: Tuttle, the entire book.

Week of Sept. 8: The Biblical Mandate.
                Assignment: Hiebert, pp. 9-58.
                Kraft, pp. 1-42.

Week of Sept. 15: Theological Essentials.
                Assignment: Hiebert, pp. 61-137.
                Kraft, pp. 45-99.

Week of Sept. 23: Anthropological Considerations.
Week of Oct. 6: Transcultural Common Denominators.

   *Assignment:* Kraft, pp. 261-312.

   A Case Study.

   *Assignment:* Richardson, pp. 73-109.
   A Case Study.

Week of Nov. 3: Christian Lifestyles.
   *Assignment:* Richardson, pp. 111-150. Jenkins, pp. 1-78.
   A Case Study.

Week of Nov 10: Contextualization: De-culturing.

Week of Nov. 17: Contextualization: Re-culturing.
   *Assignment:* Jenkins, pp. 163-220.
   The first of the 3-4 pp. papers
   (see COURSE EVALUATION PROCEDURES).

**FALL READING WEEK (NOV. 24-28)**

Week of Dec 1: The Principles Applied.
   *Assignment:* From the collateral reading (pp. 200).

Week of Dec. 8: Conclusions and Review.
   *Assignment:* The second 3-4 pp. paper
   (see COURSE EVALUATION PROCEDURES).

Week of Dec. 15: EXAM WEEK (NO CLASSES)

**IV. COURSE EVALUATION PROCEDURES**
Requirements:

A. Attend and participate in class sessions.
B. Complete assigned readings of approximately 1200 pages (1,000 pages in the required texts), and at least one text from the collateral reading (for the remaining 200 pages).
C. Three case studies using the prepared forms (to be explained).
D. Two papers (3-4 pages each)—one describing the parts of the gospel essential for Christian commitment across cultural lines; another describing at least two or three of the unique issues at stake in the effective communication of the gospel in a culture other than your own.

Grading scale for the course: Class participation: 10%
   Cases: 10% each= 30%
   Papers: 30% each=60%
   No Final Exam

V. BIBLIOGRAPHY

REQUIRED TEXTS:

Charles Kraft, *Christianity and Culture*.
Don Richardson, *Eternity in Their Hearts*.
Robert Tuttle, Jr., *Can We Talk?*

COLLATERAL:

John Dekker, *Torches of Joy*.