

Associated Canadian Theological Schools CCM 660 Dynamics of Cross-Cultural Ministry

Bryan Born
Fall 2009
Three credit hours

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604-853-3567 (ext. 320)
Sept. 18-19, Oct. 16-17, Nov. 27-28
(Friday 6-9:00 pm; Saturday 8:30-1:30 pm)

I. Course Description

Every culture has its own worldview, values, practices and terms of reference. What would it mean to communicate the gospel of Jesus Christ in diverse cultures in such a way that it could be readily heard and understood as the good news it is? The history of mission—beginning with the accounts of the life of the early church in Acts—offers many stories of Christian attempts to communicate the gospel in culturally-relevant ways. This course is an introduction to a variety of cross-cultural ministries and the principles which serve as their foundation. Various case studies will be considered in order to provide insight into positive and negative experiences in attempts at contextualization. The course will also highlight the traditions and theologies which Christian communities around the world have developed in order to express their faith and worship in meaningful and culturally-appropriate ways.

II. Objectives

Upon completion of the course, the student should be able to:

- Articulate and appreciate the concept of the cross-cultural translatability of the gospel message.
- Integrate biblical teaching about mission with cross-cultural insights and practice.
- Analyze carefully complex issues impacting mission in today's world.
- Demonstrate basic knowledge and ability to use the tools of missiological reflection in an intercultural context.
- Function in multicultural contexts with a critical approach to contextualization.
- Minister more incarnationally in new settings with a goal to build relationships based on Christ-like love and cultural sensitivity.
- Appreciate the multi-faceted role of the cross-cultural communicator of the gospel, and understand personal factors that will enhance and hinder mission involvement.

III. Course Textbooks

Hiebert, Paul G. *Anthropological Insights for Missionaries*. Grand Rapids, Mich.: Baker Book House, 1985.

Tennent, Timothy C. *Theology in the context of World Christianity*. Grand Rapids, Mich.: Zondervan, 2007.

IV. Course Assignments

1. *Small group project on inter-cultural exploration and the gospel*: This is a practical discovery experience designed to help students become familiar with the issues involved in contextualization of the gospel and church growth among an ethnic group different than your own (e.g., First Nations people, Indo-Canadians, Chinese-Canadians, etc.). Small groups of two, or at most, three students will attempt to understand some of the particular cross-cultural challenges faced when engaged in mission with a specific ethnic group. To do this, 3 or more articles from professional journals or chapters of mission theology should be analyzed along with an interview of someone who has been involved with mission in that context or a similar context. If possible, visit exhibits of cultural expressions and spend time with Christians from the ethnic group under study. Answer the following questions: What are the major inter-cultural issues that need to be addressed by someone engaged in mission with the cultural group studied? How has your interaction with this “people group” impacted your understanding of cross-cultural mission? Each small group will post an agreed-upon 500 word summary of the primary cross-cultural challenges for their particular group by **October 26**. In addition each student will also submit an individual written report of 1250 words by **November 9**. (15% of final mark)

2. *Regular reading of Hiebert text*: This course gives maximum value to students who come to class ready to discuss important questions. The professor will refer to assigned readings during class and ask students to express their thoughts. Readings indicated in the course outline must be completed before coming to each class.
Due November 30: 250-word summaries of each of chapters 3-11, *Anthropological Insights*. This assignment will flow more smoothly if you complete these summaries prior to the weekends in which the chapters are discussed. At the end, add a 250-word personal response to the entire textbook. (15% of final mark)

3. *On-line discussion of Tennent text*: Over the course of the semester, students will read through Tennent’s text, *Theology in the context of World Christianity*. Following the first weekend of classroom interaction (Sept. 18-19), students will read a chapter each week and then post to an on-line forum a one paragraph response to one or more of the questions found below.
 - What challenged or intrigued you in this reading?
 - What troubled or confused you, or with what did you disagree?
 - What missiological implications regarding the topic caught your attention?
 - Will the material in this chapter change something about you (character, behavior, knowledge) regarding cross-cultural ministry?
 In addition, during the course of reading through the text, each student is required to post at least 2 responses to the submissions of other students. (10% of final mark)

4. *Reading log for required article reading*: In order to maximize the learning experience in class, students are required to read a variety of chapters and articles. *NOTE*: Extra required article readings will be provided at the beginning of the semester, and are accessible through the CCM 660 MyCourses site, or the ATLA online database. Students should keep a reading journal that records personal insights gained or issues raised while reading each chapter (100-150 words per entry). Conclude each journal with a question raised in your mind by the reading. In the Reading log, you are to indicate your own grade (1-10) according to how well you read the material. Student journals are due on October 16 and November 27. (15% of final mark)
5. *Research paper*: Students will write a research paper that seeks to analyze critically an important issue in cross-cultural mission. First choose a topic in consultation with the professor by October 5. You may choose a topic in line with your personal interests, previous mission experience and/or ministry goals. The use of a case study may prove helpful. After a topic is selected, students will formulate a thesis question and then refer to at least 10 solid scholarly sources to seek answers or possible responses. The format of the paper should provide evidence that the student has integrated the praxis model of contextualization (discussed in class) into their analysis of the topic. Length 3000-3500 words. The paper will be graded on the basis of the clarity and force of your argument (25%); the quality of your research (25%); degree of integration with the praxis model of contextualization (20%), the organization of your materials (20%); and your writing style and mechanics (10%). Due November 23. (25% of final mark)
6. *Final exam*: The final exam will be based on class lectures, textbooks, and the required article readings. (20% of final mark)

Grading Scale

Letter Grade	Percentage	Grade Point
A+	97-100	4.30
A	93-96	4.00
A-	90-92	3.70
B+	87-89	3.30
B	83-86	3.00
B-	80-82	2.70
C+	77-79	2.30
C	73-76	2.00
C-	70-72	1.70
F	Below 70	0.00

V. Miscellaneous Notes/Policies

You can access the course website through the student portal at <https://students.twu.ca> or directly at <https://courses.mytwu.ca/>.

Unless otherwise indicated, all assignments should be submitted in hard-copy format.

VI. Course Outline

On September 19, October 17 and November 28, the class will meet for an informal discussion over lunch (12:30-1:30 pm) with someone engaged in cross-cultural ministry.

Weekend I: September 18-19

1. The Interface of Gospel, Culture and Mission
2. Crossing the Jewish-Gentile Divide
3. Incarnational Mission - Bonding and the Missionary
4. Connecting Across Cultures

Read before Sept. 18:

Parts 1&2, *Anthropological Insights for Missionaries*, pp. 13-137;

Ch. 1, *Theology in the context of World Christianity*, pp. 1-24;

Extra required articles readings 1-5.

Weekend II: October 16-17

5. Contextualization, indigenization, inculturation and syncretism!
6. The Praxis Model of Contextualization
7. Cross-cultural communication strategies
8. Indigenous faith and worship in the majority world

Read before Oct. 16:

Ch. 6, and Ch. 9, *Anthropological Insights*, pp. 141-169, 227-253;

Chs. 2-5, *Theology in the context of World Christianity*, 25-134;

Extra required article readings 6-10.

Midterm Quiz

Weekend III: November 27-28

9. Critical contextualization – Cross-cultural theology
10. Discontinuity with religions—or points of contact?
11. Spiritual dynamics within cultures - healing and deliverance
12. The Missionary Role – priority of discipleship

Read before Nov. 27:

Chs. 7&8, 10&11, *Anthropological Insights*, 171-224; 255-298

Chs. 6-10, *Theology in the context of World Christianity*, 135-274;

Extra required article readings 11-15.

VII. Course Bibliography

Books:

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- Allen, Roland. *St. Paul's Missionary Methods or Ours?* 2nd Ed. London: World Dominion Press, 1927.
- Arnold, Clinton E. *3 Crucial Questions about Spiritual Warfare*. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1997.
- Bevans, Stephen B. *Models of Contextual Theology*. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis, 1992.
- Bosch, David J. *Transforming Mission: Paradigm Shifts in Theology of Mission*. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books, 1991.
- Cochrane, J.R., de Gruchy, J.W., and R. Petersen. *In Word and Deed*. Pietermaritzburg: Cluster Publications, 1991.
- Conn, Harvie. *Eternal Word and Changing Worlds: Theology, Anthropology, and Mission in Trialogue*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1984.
- Costa, Ruy O., ed. *One Faith, Many Cultures: Inculturation, indigenization and contextualization*. Maryknoll, N.Y. Orbis Books, 1988.
- Dyrness, William A. *Invitation to Cross-cultural Theology: Case studies in vernacular theologies*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1992.
- Elmer, Duane. *Cross-Cultural Connections*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 2002.
- Escobar, Samuel. *The New Global Mission*. Downers Grove, Ill.: InterVarsity Press, 2003.
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- Hesselgrave, David J. *Planting Churches Cross-culturally: A guide for home and foreign missions*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Book House, 1980.
- Hiebert, Paul G., and Eloise Hiebert Meneses. *Incarnational Ministry: Planting Churches in Band, Tribal, Peasant and Urban Societies*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1985.
- Hiebert, Paul G., Shaw, R. Daniel and Tite Tiénou. *Understanding Folk Religion*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 1999.
- Jenkins, Phillip. *The Next Christendom: The Coming of Global Christianity*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2002.
- Kraft, Charles H. *Christianity in Culture: A Study in Dynamic Biblical Theologizing in Cross-Cultural Perspective*. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis, 1979.
- Kraft, Marguerite G., ed. *Frontline Women: Negotiating Crosscultural Issues in Ministry*. Pasadena: William Carey Library, 2003.

- Lingenfelter, Sherwood G. *Transforming Culture: A Challenge for Christian Mission*. Second Edition. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 1998.
- Loewen, Jacob A. *Culture and Human Values: Christian intervention in anthropological perspective*. South Pasadena, CA: William Carey Library, 1975.
- Maranz, David. *African Friends and Money Matters*. Dallas: SIL International, 2001.
- Nicholls, Bruce J. *Contextualization: a theology of gospel and culture*. Downers Grove, Ill.: Intervarsity, 1979.
- Nida, Eugene A. *Message and Mission: The Communication of the Christian Faith*. New York: Harper, 1960.
- Nussbaum, Stan. *The ABCs of American Culture*. Colorado Springs, CO: Global Mapping Int., 1998.
- Ong, Walter J. *Orality and Literacy*. London: Routledge, 1982.
- Samuel, Vinay and Chris Sugden, eds. *Mission as Transformation: A Theology of the Whole Gospel*. Carlisle, UK: Regnum Books and Paternoster Publishing, 1999.
- Samuel, Vinay, and Chris Sugden, eds. *Sharing Jesus in the Two Thirds World: Evangelical Christologies from the contexts of poverty, powerlessness and religious pluralism*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1984.
- Sanneh, Lamin. *Translating the Message: The Missionary Impact on Culture*. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis, 1989.
- Stackhouse, Max L., with Nantawan Boonprasat-Lewis. *Apologia: Contextualization, globalization, and mission in theological education*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1988.
- Van Engen, Charles E. *Mission on the Way*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Book House, 1996.
- Walls, Andrew F. *The Cross-cultural Process in Christian History: Studies in the transmission and appropriation of faith*. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis, 2002.
- Wink, Walter. *Naming the Powers: The Language of Power in the New Testament*. Vol. 1: *The Powers*. Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1984.

Articles:

- Adeney, Miriam. "Eternity in Their Hearts." *Missiology* 10 (Jan. 1982): 123-127.
- Ahrens, Theodor. "On Grace and Reciprocity: A fresh approach to contextualization with reference to Christianity in Melanesia." *International Review of Mission (IRM)* 89 (2000), 515-528.
- Andrews, Colin E. "Contextualization in a Globalizing World." *EMQ* (July 2009):314-317.
- Atkins, Andrew. "Know Your Own Culture: A neglected tool for cross-cultural ministry." *Evangelical Missions Quarterly (EMQ)* 26 (1990): 266-271.
- Bate, Stuart. "Method in Contextual Theology." *Missionalia* 26.2 (1998): 150-185.
- Bediako, Kwame. "The Roots of African Theology." *International Bulletin of Missionary Research (IBMR)* 13 (1989): 58-62, 64-65.
- Chao, Samuel H. "John L. Nevius (1829-1893) and the Contextualization of the Gospel in 19th Century China: A case study." *Asia Journal of Theology* 1 (1988): 294-311.
- Costas, Orlando E. "Contextualization and Incarnation." *Journal of Theology for Southern Africa* 29 (1979): 23-30.

- DeCarvalho, Levi. "Shamanism and the Origin of Evil." *International Journal of Frontier Missions (IJFM)* 19 (2002): 31-36.
- Dollar, Harold. "The Conversion of the Messenger." *Missiology* 21.1 (1993): 13-19.
- Gitari, David. "The Claims of Jesus in the African Context." *International Review of Mission (IRM)* 71 (1982): 12-19.
- Hatcher, Mark J. "Poetry, Singing and Contextualization." *Missiology* 29 (2001): 475-487.
- Heideman, Eugene S. "Syncretism, Contextualization, Orthodoxy, and Heresy." *Missiology* 25.1 (January 1997): 37-50.
- Hesselgrave, David J. "Contextualization That is Authentic and Relevant." *IJFM* 12 (1995): 115-119.
- _____. "Great Commission Contextualization." *IJFM* 12 (1995): 139-144.
- Hiebert, Paul G. "The Flaw of the Excluded Middle." *Missiology* 10.1 (1982): 35-47.
- Hrangkhuma, F. "How redemptive analogies can help churches grow." *EMQ* 28 (April 1992): 182-187.
- Hung, Daniel M. "Contextualization of the gospel in Taiwan: my agony." *EMQ* 18 (1982): 13-15.
- Ikenga-Metuh, Emefie. "Contextualization: A missiological imperative for the Church in Africa in the third millennium." *Mission Studies* 6 (1989): 3-16.
- Jacobs, Donald R. "Contextualization in Mission." In *Toward the 21st Century in Christian Mission*. Phillips, James M., and Robert T. Coote, eds. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1992: 235-244.
- Kato, Byang H. "The Gospel, Cultural Context, and Religious Syncretism," in *Let the Earth Hear His Voice*. J.D. Douglas, ed. Minneapolis: World Wide, 1975: 1216-23.
- _____. "Evaluation of Black Theology." *Bibliotheca sacra* 133 (1976): 243-252.
- _____. "Theological Issues in Africa." *Bibliotheca sacra* 133 (1976): 143-152.
- Larson, Warren F. "Critical Contextualization and Muslim Conversion." *IJFM* 13 (1996): 189-191.
- Loh, I To. "Toward Contextualization of Church Music in Asia." *Asia Journal of Theology* 4 (1990): 293-315.
- Maluleke, Tinyiko S. "Black and African Theologies in the New World Order. A Time to Drink From our Own Wells." *Journal of Theology for Southern Africa* 96/1 (1996):3-19.
- Mark, David. "Fiesta! How should missionaries respond to local culture?" *EMQ* 30 (1994): 426-431.
- Moreau, Scott. "Contextualization that is Comprehensive." *Missiology* 34.3 (2006): 325-335.
- Nicholls, Bruce J. "Contextualization in Chinese Culture." *ERT* 19 (1995): 368-380.
- Nthamburi, Zablon. "Making the Gospel Relevant Within the African Context and Culture." *AFER* 25 (1983): 162-171.
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- Perry, Cindy. "'Bhai-Tika' and Tiji Braka': A case study in the contextualization of two Nepali festivals." *Missiology* 18 (1990): 177-183.
- Racey, David. "Contextualization: How far is too far?" *EMQ* 32 (1996): 304-309.
- Ramseyer, Robert L. "Christian Mission and Cultural Anthropology," in *Exploring Church Growth*. Wilbert R. Shenk, ed. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1983: 108-116.

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- Sanneh, Lamin O. "The Gospel, Language and Culture: The theological method in cultural analysis." *IRM* 84 (1995): 47-64.
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- Schreiter, Robert J. "Culture, Society and Contextual Theologies." *Missiology* 12 (1984): 261-273.
- _____. "Reconciliation and Healing as a Paradigm for Mission." *International Review of Mission* 94.372 (2004): 74-83.
- Shaw, Perry. "Decontextualization – A Much neglected Element of Mission." *EMQ* (July 2009): 214-218.
- Shenk, Calvin E. "The Demise of the Church in North Africa and Nubia and its Survival in Egypt and Ethiopia: A question of contextualization?" *Missiology* 21 (1993): 131-154.
- _____. "The Middle Eastern Jesus: Messianic Jewish and Palestinian Christian understandings." *Missiology* 29 (2001): 403-416.
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- _____. "Effective Communication of the Gospel Amidst Cultural Diversity." *Missiology* 12 (1984): 275-285.

Extra Required Article Readings:

NOTE: Accessible through CCM 660 MyCourses (M), or the ATLA online database (A).

1. Brewster, E. Thomas and Elizabeth S. *Bonding and the Missionary Task*. Pasadena: Lingua House, 1-29. (M)
2. Hill, Harriet. "Incarnational Ministry: A critical examination." *EMQ* 29 (1993), 196-201; and "Lifting the Fog on Incarnational Ministry." *EMQ* 29 (1993), 262-269. (M)
3. Strom, Donna. "Christianity and Culture Change among the Mizoram." *Missiology* 8 (1980), 307-317. (A)
4. Walls, Andrew. "The Translation Principle in Christian History," in *The Missionary Movement in Christian History: Studies in the Transmission of Faith*. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis, 1997: 3-15. (M)
5. Hill, Harriet. "The Vernacular Treasure: A Century of Mother-Tongue Bible Translation," *IBMR* 30.2 (April 2006): 82-87. (A)
6. Ma, Julie C. "Santuala: A case of Pentecostal Syncretism." *Asian Journal of Pentecostal Studies* 3.1 (2000): 61-82. (A)
7. Lin, Melissa M. "A Modern Chinese Journey of Inculturation." *International Review of Mission* 87 (2004): 9-24. (A)
8. Robert, Dana L. "What Happened to the Christian Home? The missing component of mission theory." *Missiology* 33 (2005): 325-340. (A)
9. Adeney, Frances. "Women Doing Mission Theology." *Missiology* 33 (2005), 277-286. (A)
10. Born, Bryan. "Mission as Compassion," in *Mission in an African Way* by T. Oduro, H. Pretorius, S. Nussbaum and B. Born. Wellington, S. Africa: Christian Literature Fund, 2008: 72-89. (M)
11. Newbiggin, Lesslie. "The Gospel and the Religions," in *The Gospel in a Pluralist Society*. Grand Rapids and Geneva: Eerdmans and WCC Publications, 1989. (M)
12. Adeney, Miriam. "Why Muslim women come to Jesus." *Missiology* 33 (2005), 287-300. (A)
13. Adeney, Miriam. "What is 'natural' about witchcraft and sorcery?" *Missiology* 2 (1974), 377-395. (A)
14. Kraft, Marguerite, and Charles H. Kraft. "High Alert to Enemy Attacks," in *Frontline Women: Negotiating Crosscultural Issues in Ministry*. Marguerite G. Kraft (ed). Pasadena: William Carey Library, 2003, 185-207. (M)
18. Bevans, Stephen. "Seeing Mission through Images." *Missiology* 19.1 (1991): 45-57. (A)

Supplement: Important Academic Notes from ACTS

Web Support – Student Portal <https://students.twu.ca>

All students at TWU have a TWUPass username and password. This is determined at the time of an online application or can be managed through the computing services help desk or the link on the student portal. Your student email account is also available through this student portal and is vital for communication about grades, account statements, lost passwords, sign-up instructions, etc. If you do not know your account or password, there is a link at the login area called “I forgot my password.” When you click on that link, you will be walked through the process of retrieving your account information.

Campus Closure

In the event of deteriorating weather conditions overnight or other emergency situations, every effort will be made to communicate information regarding the cancellation of classes to the radio stations CKNW (980 AM), CKWX (1130 AM), MAX (850 AM), PRAISE (106.5 FM) and KARI (550 AM) by 6:30 a.m., and an announcement will be placed on the University's switchboard as well as on the website <http://www.twu.ca/conditions/>. The first announcement regarding a closure will cover the period up to 1:00 p.m. only. If classes are to be cancelled beyond 1:00 p.m., this decision will be announced by the same means before 11:00 a.m. that day. Students and faculty should assume that all night classes will continue to operate. If the emergency continues into the evening, students and faculty may check for a closure notice on the University's switchboard and website after 3:00 p.m. that day.

Paper Formatting

Students need to adhere to Turabian Notes (Bibliography) format except in counselling courses, for which APA format is used.

Students are strongly encouraged to use RefWorks (available through the library home page www.twu.ca/library) as their bibliographical manager and as a tool for formatting bibliographies. They will need to be aware of the need to “clean up” most bibliographies generated by this program. Students are encouraged to view the documents on the following websites for format samples: http://www.press.uchicago.edu/books/turabian/turabian_citationguide.html or www.dianahacker.com/resdoc/. Note that in RefWorks the available formatting styles are those of Turabian (Notes), 7th edition, and APA – American Psychological Association, 5th edition. For Turabian, note that there are two formats – Notes (or Bibliography Style) and Reference List (a short format citation style). ACTS uses the Notes (Bibliography) format, not Reference List.

Counselling students are expected to purchase the APA Publications Manual. More information found at the following website. <http://www.apastyle.org/pubmanual.html>.

For free online programs that will enable you to create properly formatted bibliography citations, go to <http://www.calvin.edu/library/knightcite/> ("Chicago stands for "Turabian") or <http://www.sourceaid.com/citationbuilder/>

CANIL students can locate this on the CANIL intranet, under the "student" side. A hard copy is given to incoming students in the fall.

Please check with your professor to see which one he/she recommends you use!!

Research Ethics

Please note that all research projects involving human participants undertaken by members of the TWU university community (including projects done by ACTS students to satisfy course or degree requirements) **MUST** be approved by the Trinity Western University Research Ethics Board. Information and forms may be found at <http://www.twu.ca/academics/research/ethics/> Those needing additional clarification may contact Dr. Bruce Guenther. Please allow at least three (3) weeks from the date of submission for a review of the application.

Academic Integrity and Avoiding Plagiarism at TWU

As Christian scholars pursuing higher education, academic integrity is a core value of the entire TWU community. Students are invited into this scholarly culture and required to abide by the principles of sound academic scholarship at TWU. This includes, but is not limited to, avoiding all forms of plagiarism and cheating in scholarly work. TWU has a strict policy on plagiarism (see academic calendar 2008-09, pp. 37-38). Further details on this subject are contained in the ACTS Student Handbook in section 4.12. The handbook is available online on the ACTS webpage (www.acts.twu.ca) at the following link: www.acts.twu.ca/Handbook.html.

Learning what constitutes plagiarism and avoiding it is the student's responsibility. An excellent resource describing plagiarism and how to avoid it has been prepared by TWU Librarian William Badke and is freely available for download (PPT file) or used as flash (self running) tutorials of varying lengths from:

<http://www.acts.twu.ca/lbr/plagiarism.ppt>

<http://www.acts.twu.ca/lbr/Plagiarism.swf> (14 minute flash tutorial)

http://www.acts.twu.ca/lbr/Plagiarism_Short.swf (8 minute flash tutorial)

Equity of Access

It is the responsibility of a student with a learning disability to inform the ACTS Director of Student Life of that fact before the beginning of a course so that necessary arrangements may be made to facilitate the student's learning experience. We are unable to accommodate any student who informs the Director of Student Life of a disability after the beginning of class.