

Cross-Cultural Discipleship – GS 5111
Providence Theological Seminary
Fall 2010
Instructor: Daryl R. Climenhaga

Syllabus

Course Description

This course is an exploration of the discipleship process in churches with special attention to the role of culture. By examining religious rituals in various cultures and secular rituals in our own, we intend to discover clues for effective ways of discipling new Christians in our own churches.

Course Objectives

The objectives of this course are:

- To identify cultural dynamics in the process of discipleship; and
- To identify specific ways to implement rituals within the church to help in the discipleship process.

Required Texts

Foster, Richard J.

1998 *Celebration of Discipline*. First published 1978. San Francisco: HarperSanFrancisco.

Lingenfelter, Sherwood G. and Judith

2003 *Teaching Cross-Culturally: An Incarnational Model for Learning and Teaching*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker.

Ogden, Greg

2003 *Transforming Discipleship: Making Disciples a Few at a Time*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity.

Zahniser, A.H. Mathias

1997 *Symbol and Ceremony: Making Disciples Across Cultures*. Monrovia, CA: MARC.

Assignments

1. Review the required texts in an interactive format (1000 to 1500 words each). The reviews are due October 15.
2. Construct an annotated bibliography of at least 20 items on cross-cultural discipleship. The bibliography will serve as the foundation for assignment 3 and is due at the end of October.

3. Develop a discipling program for use in a congregation, using the insights gathered from the class. The resulting essay should be at least 3000 words and show some awareness of the resources gathered in the annotated bibliography. The program described should also include the aspects of culture, ritual, and faithfulness to the theological stance of the congregation involved. The essay forms the basis for a presentation of the program to the class at the end of November.

Evaluation/Grading

Interactive Reviews	30%
Bibliography	25%
Major Essay	45%

A Tentative Schedule

Sep 10	Opening exercise: entering the academy	
17	The place of culture in the church: Kraft	
24	The place of culture in the church: Hiebert	
Oct 1	The place of discipleship in the church: Foster	
8	October Intrasession	
15	The place of discipleship in the church: Ogden	<i>Reviews Due</i>
22	Intrasession	
29	Rites and Rituals: Victor Turner	<i>Bibliography Due</i>
Nov 5	Discipling and Rituals: Zahniser	
12	Examples from the churches – contemporary practice	
19	November Intrasession	
26	Student Presentations	<i>Presentations Due</i>
Dec 3	Student Presentations	<i>Presentations Due</i>
10	Closing Celebration: Re-entering the world	