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MB 700 MS 671 Anthropology for Christian Mission

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MB 700/MS 671 Anthropology for Christian Mission

Instructor: Darrell Whiteman

BC 212 Wed. 1:00 – 4:00p.m.

Course Outline

<u>DATE</u>	<u>TOPIC</u>	<u>TEXT</u>	<u>READINGS</u>
9/04	Introduction to Missiological Anthropology	Chapter 1	
9/11	The Concept of Culture	Ch. 2-3	I. 1-3
9/18	Communication film: “Dead Birds”	Ch. 6	I. 4-6
9/25	Relationships	Ch. 9	II. 1-2
10/2	Social Organization film: “The Nuer”	Ch. 13	II. 3-4
10/9	Marriage and Family Systems	Ch. 10-11	II. 5, III. 1-2
10/16	Economic Systems	Ch. 7-8	III. 3-5
10/23	Political and Legal Systems film: “Todos Santos Cuchumantan”	Ch. 12	IV. 1-3
10/30	Worldview	Ch. 4	V. 1-3
11/6	Belief Systems film: “Rise up and walk”	Ch. 14	VI. 1-4
11/13	Culture and Personality	Ch. 5	VII. 1-4
11/20	Thanksgiving Break		
11/27	Expressive Culture film: “Trobriand Cricket”	Ch. 15	VIII. 1-3
12/04	Dynamics of Culture Change	Ch. 16-17	IX. 1-3, X. 1

Course Requirements

Textbook: *Cultural Anthropology: An Applied Perspective*, fourth edition (2000) by Gary Ferraro

Readings: *Anthropology and Christian Mission: A Reader*, Darrell Whiteman (ed.)

Each day has an assigned topic around which the lectures, text, readings, and discussion will focus. You are required to read the assigned material in the **Textbook** before coming to class each week.

The **Reader** we are using is a pre-publication draft of a book that will be published next year. You are to read each of the articles assigned for a particular day and write an “interaction paper” for each one. You will hand these in at the next class session. They cannot be late and will be marked down if they are. A total of 37 are due. Your interaction paper will consist of (1) a brief summary in which the essence of the article is distilled into three sentences or less, (2) insights you have gained from the article, and (3) applications to your life and ministry. The appropriate form to follow is attached, or you can create your own form that accomplishes the same end. Be certain that you evaluate each article on a scale of 1 (poor) to 10 (excellent).

Additional Required and Collateral Reading:

Customs and Cultures by Eugene Nida

Nida’s book *Customs and Cultures* is a classic in missiological anthropology and a **must** for any missionary today. It is very readable and full of wonderful anecdotes which will illustrate and reinforce the concepts and perspectives we are learning in this course. Some students think it is good to read it near the beginning of the course, but others prefer to read it toward the end as a general wrap-up exercise. Read it at your leisure and then write a creative response paper digging for the insights which emerge from the book and applying them to your life and ministry. Your paper should range from 7-10 pages and **is due November 13th.**

Th.M, D.Miss., and Ph.D. students enrolled in MB 700 are required to read a missiological book that has used an anthropological approach in its analysis. My book, *Melanesians and Missionaries* (1983), fulfills this requirement. It is a case study looking at the impact of missionary activity in the South Pacific from an anthropological perspective. Reading this book will help you see the value of applying anthropological insights to cross-cultural ministry. It is a large book so you may wish to skim some sections; read the guide in the Preface. Read the book at your leisure and then write an interaction paper that is creative and insightful, not simply summarizing what you read. **This exercise is strongly recommended for every student in the class and will count as an extra credit assignment for students enrolled at the 671 level.** It is a

requirement for all Th.M, D.Miss, and Ph.D. students enrolled at the 700 level. Your creative and insightful paper (maximum 10 pp.) **is due December 4th.**

A Word About Auditors: Auditors are welcome, especially spouses. Now that we've moved to Wednesday afternoon instead of Tuesday evening, it may be more difficult to attend as an auditor. You are encouraged to participate as a full student. You will be required to do the weekly reading and turn in a statement each week indicating what you have read for the week. However, you do not have to do the interaction forms, but I would encourage you to do them since I believe you'll get much more out of the course if you do. I also expect auditors to attend every class session. Please decide and make a commitment at the beginning of the course that you will be willing to give this level of commitment to the class. Thanks.

Course Evaluation

Your grade will be determine in the following manner:

- 50% Final exam
- 30% Weekly interaction papers (37 due)
- 20% Collateral reading and written paper (s)

You will also be asked to nominate a final grade for yourself based on the work you have completed, the amount you have learned, etc. I'm telling you this in advance to encourage you to never get behind.

OFFICE HOURS: Thursday 2:00-4:30. Please make appointments in advance.
My telephone number is 858-2215.
My email is darrell_whiteman@asburyseminary.edu.

I'm in the ESJ School on the third floor of the McPheeters Center. If you have a difficult time reaching me, you can call our secretary, Julee Bellar, at ext. 2259.

Name: _____ Date: _____

Title of Article: _____ Section: _____

Author: _____

your evaluation [1-10] _____ (10 = high)

SUMMARY:

What new insights have you gained from reading this article? (do as many as fit you).

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

How can these insights be applied to your own life and ministry?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

Are there problems that have been raised for which you would like help?