

Syllabus
Communicating Christ Cross-Culturally
Winter 2018

Virginia District Training Center
Hollins Church of the Nazarene

Tuesday

5:30 – 9:30 pm

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Course Requirements

- 1. Class attendance, attention, and participation** are especially important. Students are responsible for all assignments and in-class work. Much of the work in this course is small-group work. Cooperative, small-group work cannot be made up. That makes attendance imperative. Even if one does extra reading or writing, the values of discussion, dialogue, and learning from each other are thwarted. Because this is a nine-week course, each week is very significant. It is expected that students will be in every class. Any exceptions must be worked out with the facilitator prior to the first class.

Small-Group Work: Nothing is more important in this course than small-group work. The class members will be assigned to groups of two to four students each. The group members will serve as study partners for explorations and discussion.

- 2. Assignments**

Journaling: Your journal is to be used regularly, if not daily. On at least one occasion during the term, the instructor will check the journals. In each lesson, a journal assignment is included.

The journal should become the student's friend and treasury of insights, devotions, and ideas. Here the integration of theory and practice occurs. The spiritual life nature of the journal helps guard against the course of study being merely academic as you are repeatedly called upon to apply the principles studied to your own heart and your own ministry situation.

This journal is not a diary, not a catchall. It is, rather, a guided journal or a focused journal in which the educational experience and its implications are selected for reflection and writing.

The framers of this curriculum are concerned about the way students fall into learning "about" the Bible, or "about" the spiritual life rather than learning—that is coming to know and internalize the Bible and spiritual principles. The journaling experience ensures that the "Be" component of "Be, Know, and Do" is present in the course of study. Be faithful with all journaling assignments.

Daily Work: This module has regular homework assignments. Sometimes the homework assignments are quite heavy. The assignments are important. Homework must be handed in at the beginning of each class session. **All** assignments are to be completed.

PLEASE NOTE:

Submit all written assignments in typewritten "hard copy" or Word Document format. At top of the first page of each written assignment, include your name, the lesson number, the title of the assignment and the name of the class.

Example:

Sam Smith

Lesson #6

"Three Reasons for Studying the History of the Church"

Christian Heritage I

- 3. Term Project:** Term Project is due at the end of the final class session. The Term Project must address the following: **Identify and research four major cultural challenges to communicating Christ across cultural barriers. Develop an extensive strategy for embracing these challenges.** Make sure you document all research and quotes properly with proper footnotes. All projects must include a five page description of the project (Times New Roman, 12 pt font, double-spaced), as well as a plan for the practical application of the project (2-3 pages). Completion of this project is required in order to pass the course. Even if the total points accumulated are sufficient for a passing grade, the student will not pass unless this project is satisfactorily completed.

- 4. Text Book:** Hesselgrave David J., *Communicating Christ Cross- Culturally*, Second Edition: An Introduction to Missionary Communication, [Zondervan](#), ISBN-13: 9780310368113

Course Outline and Schedule

In order to complete the course within a reasonable amount of time it is imperative that we begin each week promptly at 5:30PM. We will begin each week with a brief devotion and relationship building. The Lessons will run about 90-120 minutes each (breaks taken as needed) for a minimum of 20 hours according to the following schedule:

Session Date	Lesson
January 16	Introduction 1. Why Communicate Christ Cross-Culturally? 2. Living in a World That is Multicultural – (Homework for lesson 1 due)
January 30	3. Why and Where Communication Goes Wrong 4. Understanding the Basics of Culture – (Homework lessons 2 and 3 due)
February 6	5. Understanding the Process of Communication – (Homework lesson 4 due) 6. Understanding Worldview (Outline for Research project due)
February 13	7. Aspects of Communication – Cognitive, Linguistic and Behavioral 8. Aspects of Communication – Social, Media, and Motivational (Homework lessons 5 and 6 due.)
February 20	9. Case Studies and Practical Applications of Communication Insights 10. Reconciliation, Social Justice and Celebration of One Gospel (Research Project, all reading assignments, lessons 7 and 8 due) (Homework for lessons 9 and 10 due by Nov.3)

Additional Information

Any student who has handicaps, learning disabilities, or other conditions that make the achievement of the class requirements exceedingly difficult should make an appointment with the instructor as soon as possible to help the student make the necessary adjustments to complete the class. Any student who is having trouble understanding the assignments, lectures, or other learning activities should make the instructor aware of the problem.

Instructor's Availability

Good faith efforts to serve the students both in and beyond the classroom will be made.

Journaling: A Tool for Personal Reflection and Integration

Participating in the course of study is the heart of your preparation for ministry. To complete each course you will be required to listen to lectures, read several books, participate in discussions, write papers, and take exams. Content mastery is the goal.

An equally important part of ministerial preparation is spiritual formation. Some might choose to call spiritual formation devotions, while others might refer to it as

growth in grace. Whichever title you place on the process, it is the intentional cultivation of your relationship with God. The course work will be helpful in adding to your knowledge, your skills, and your ability to do ministry. The spiritually formative work will weave all you learn into the fabric of your being, allowing your education to flow freely from your head to your heart to those you serve.

Although there are many spiritual disciplines to help you cultivate your relationship with God, journaling is the critical skill that ties them all together. Journaling simply means keeping a record of your experiences and the insights you have gained along the way. It is a discipline because it does require a good deal of work and time, daily make entries in your journal. Many people confess that this is a practice they tend to push aside when pressed by their many other responsibilities. Even five minutes a day, journaling, can make a major difference in your education and your spiritual development. Example:

Consider journaling as time spent with your best friend. Onto the pages of a journal you will pour out your candid responses to the events of the day, the insights you gained from class, a quote gleaned from a book, an ah-ha that came to you as two ideas connected. This is not the same as keeping a diary, since a diary seems to be a chronicle of events without the personal dialogue. The journal is the repository for all of your thoughts, reactions, prayers, insights, visions, and plans. Though some people like to keep complex journals with sections for each type of reflection, others find a simple running commentary more helpful. In either case, record the date and the location at the beginning of every journal entry. It will help you when it comes time to review your thoughts.

It is important to chat briefly about the logistics of journaling. All you will need is a pen and paper to begin. Some folks prefer loose-leaf paper that in a three-ring binder, others like spiral-bound notebooks, while others enjoy using composition books. Whichever style you choose, it is important to develop a pattern that works for you.

Establishing a time and a place for writing in your journal is essential. If there is no space etched out for journaling, it will not happen with the regularity needed to make it valuable. It seems natural to spend time journaling after the day is over and you can sift through all that has transpired. Yet, family commitments, evening activities, and fatigue militate against this time slot. Morning offers another possibility. Sleep filters much of the previous day's experiences, and processes deep insights, that can be recorded first thing in the morning. In conjunction with devotions, journaling enables you to begin to weave your experiences with the Word, and with course material that has been steeping on the back burner of your mind. You will probably find that carrying your journal will allow you to jot down ideas that come to you at odd times throughout the day.

It seems that we have been suggesting that journaling is a handwritten exercise. Some may be wondering about doing their work on a computer. Traditionally, there is a special bond between hand, pen, and paper. It is more personal, direct, and aesthetic. Moreover, it is flexible, portable, and available.

With regular use, your journal is the repository of your journey. As important as it is to make daily entries, it is equally important to review your work. Read over each week's record at the end of the week. Make a summary statement and note movements of the Holy Spirit or your own growth. Do a monthly review of your

journal every 30 days. This might best be done on a half-day retreat where you can prayerfully focus on your thoughts in solitude and silence. As you do this, you will begin to see the accumulated value of the Word, your course work, and your experience in ministry all coming together in ways you had not considered possible. This is integration, weaving together faith development with learning. Integration moves information from your head to your heart so that ministry is a matter of being rather than doing. Journaling will help you answer the central question of education: "Why do I do what I do when I do it?"

Journaling really is the linchpin in ministerial preparation. Your journal is the chronicle of your journey into spiritual maturity as well as content mastery. These volumes will hold the rich insights that will pull your education together. A journal is the tool for integration. May you treasure the journaling process!

Grade Format for this Class

Each student will be given a pass/fail grade. In order to assess your progress I will use the following point system.

Attendance 10 points each class session – Total 100
Participation 10 points each class session - Total 100

Home Work turned in on time 50 points each lesson assignment – Total 500
(Late Work will result in 10 point deduction each for assignment turned in after due date.)

Journal - Total 200

Reading Assignments - 400
Research Project Paper (see above requirements) 800 points

Total Possible point for this class – 2300 points

In order to receive a passing grade your total points must be at least 75% of total possible points.

Students will receive a "Pass," either "Fail" or "Pass with Distinction" for their course work.

75-95% = Pass
95-100% = Pass with Distinction