



## WME 205 Intercultural Competencies (3)

Winter, 2004

**Instructor: Emma Emgard**

### Contacting the Instructor

**Class Times:** Wednesday & Fridays

**Class Location:** 811

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### Course Description

This course is an introduction to the skills needed to function and minister in different culture. It provides personal and professional preparation for cross-cultural internship, focusing on developing skills related to key issues in cross-cultural ministry. The purpose is to learn how to reflect on experience, making theological and biblical connections and drawing on a variety of analytical tools to improve ministry practice.

Prerequisite: permission of instructor.

### Course Objectives

By the end of the course, the student should be able to  
plan a mission trip, raise support and keep in contact with their supporters  
define, understand, and apply the basics in cross-cultural communication  
define, understand, and cope with anxiety and uncertainty  
apply knowledge about confident living and ministering in a new culture  
demonstrate flexibility

### Required Texts

- Lustig, Myron, W. and Jolene Koester. *Intercultural Competence: Interpersonal Communication Across Cultures* 4<sup>th</sup> ed. New York: Allyn and Bacon, 2002.

One of the following two:

- Elmer, Duane. *Cross-Cultural Connections: Stepping Out and Fitting In Around the World*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity, 2002.

or

- Lane, Patty. *A Beginners Guide to Crossing Cultures: Making Fiends in a Multicultural A World*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity, 2002.

## Course Schedule

The format for this course will be lectures, some with guest speakers, but mainly group discussions and practical application of theory.

Issues we will cover include:

- Cross-cultural communication
- A sense of calling
- Self-identity and confidence in unfamiliar situations
- Culture chock/Culture stress
- Respect for the diverse body of Christ
- Stillness in the midst of chaos
- Time management
- Planning and budgeting
- Fund raising and prayer support
- Team dynamics
- Flexibility and dealing with change
- Preaching/teaching preparation
- How to make a power point presentation
- Team building

## Course Requirements

### OnSite preparation

- You will research airfares, visa, inoculation, passport applications, etc.
- You will develop your *onSite* budget.
- You will develop a plan for fundraising and friend raising, and begin to put it into action.
- You will develop a plan for communication with your supporters while overseas.
- You will make a new friend from your designated country.
- You will do a weekly experience in a foreign culture (e.g. have a typical meal, watch a movie, listen to their music, visit your new friend etc.) This assignment does not always need to be with your designated culture, but must be with a culture different than your own.
- You will communicate with your missionary contact once a month.

### Cultural Journal

- You will keep a journal where you make at least one entry per week about a cultural experience. You will record a brief summary of the experience but carefully analyze and evaluate your emotional reaction to the experience, as well as discover ways to deal with your own emotions and reactions. If you have no negative entries (meaning you had to struggle with your emotions), you

have probably not applied yourself enough in the new experience. One key goal for this assignment is to learn how you react in difficult situations.

- You will not hand in any written material, but you will be called on at any moment to share in class from your journal.
- You will be graded on insightful analyses and sharing. Simply telling what happened and how you react is not acceptable. You will need to put much time into journaling. I will deduct points if you are not prepared to share.
- This assignment will require a willingness to be open and vulnerable with the class.

### **A class presentation on Power Point about your on-Site culture**

- This assignment is where you will pull together all your learning from the semester.
- You will prepare a fifteen minute power point production. (Fifteen minutes is not fourteen and not sixteen but rather, fifteen!) This presentation will enhance your sharing with supporters what you will be doing on *OnSite*. You will demonstrate your presentation to the class in April.
- Topics you will research about your designated nation, city and ministry include:
  - Geography and whether conditions
  - Demographics
  - National politics and leadership structure
  - Economics and industry
  - Social problems
  - Material culture
  - Information about the ministry
- You will include a part about your financial need. Yet, you must know how to give the presentation without that part, if it is not appropriate to talk about money. For the class you will include that part.
- You will include a brief comment on what you anticipate your own struggles will be.
- The presentation must be well organized and interesting, informative, instructive, factual, as well as personal.
- In order to obtain all this information you will read books, contact embassy and travel agencies, surf the net, visit local restaurants and food shops in Calgary and you will interview at least three people from that culture (two of them can be knowledgeable missionaries) to find information.

### **Course Grade**

<b>Assignment</b>	<b>Percent of the grade</b>
<i>OnSite</i> preparation	40%
Sharing journal entries from cultural experiences	25%
Power point presentation	<u>35%</u>
Total	100%

**Important Notes**

- You will be graded as a team, not only as individuals. I will keep individual scores, add them all together and divide them by the number of students, to give you all the same grade. This fact means that you need to both help and keep after each other.
- At times our meeting time and location will change. Some weeks we will meet one evening rather than two days, and during one weekend. We will determine the dates during our first or second lecture.
- Please note that if you fail this class, we will need to reconsider if you are suited to join *onSite*.
- Late assignments: In this class late assignments are not acceptable, and will receive 0 points. You must find ways to be done on time, or find a way to creatively deal with a delay.
- It is the responsibility of all students to become familiar with and adhere to CBC Academic Policies, such as the policy on Academic Dishonesty, which are stated in the current Catalogue.