



AMBROSE SEMINARY

IM 501 Intercultural Competence (3)

Winter 2010

Professor: Charles A. Cook, PhD.

Contacting the Professor

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Class Times: W-2:30-5:15

Class Location: A2210

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1. Course Description

In an ever increasing interconnected world, globalization has brought people together in unprecedented ways, raising concerns over how each view and relate to “the other.” The dynamics of the global village continue to have profound implications for ministry in the 21st century.

To that end, this course is designed to equip individuals seeking to become more intentional about engaging in intercultural interactions. In the ongoing quest to value “others” and their “otherness;” worldview differences are explored and habits for assessing and reengineering long-held values are examined. Approaches for adjusting to and working with individuals with different cultural perspectives are investigated. Since effective interaction with “others” requires the development of new skills, participants will explore basic elements related to effective intercultural communication both from a theoretical and practical perspective. Techniques for managing differences, resolving conflicts and applying problem-solving in various contexts will be analyzed.

2. Course Objectives

2.1. *Know and Understand. The learner should be able to . . .*

- ... identify many of the necessary cultural skills needed in order to avoid cultural misunderstanding during their intercultural sojourn.
- ... anticipate the challenges they will face as they seek to integrate into their host culture.

2.2. *Do and Perform. The learner should be able to . . .*

- ... sensitively function within the cultural context of their host country.
- ... exhibit a willingness to enter their host culture as a learner.

2.3. *Feel and Appreciate. The learner should be able to . . .*

- ... value the cultural and ethnic diversity of the people of their host culture.
- ... appreciate the cultural differences of the multicultural nature of God's world.

2.4. *Able to Solve.* *The learner should be able to . . .*

- ... identify the various stages of culture shock and take appropriate actions to relieve the overbearing nature of culture stress.
- ... facilitate and work through issues associated with their personal spiritual development and its impact on their intercultural ministry.

3. Required Text

LUSTIG, Myron and Jolene KOESTER.

2002 *Intercultural Competence*. New York: Addison Longman, Inc.

4. Course Requirements

1. Lustig/Koester Reflection Papers

- Reading and Reporting on Lustig/Koester *Intercultural Competence*. The learner will be required to submit six (6) two (2) page double spaced reflection papers. (See details in class).
- Due Dates – as per discussion in class.

2. Intercultural Literature Review

- The learner will write two (2) three to five page (3-5) critical reviews on two books of their choice as per instructions in class.
- Due Dates – as per discussion in class.

3. Intercultural Experience

- The learner will visit an airport, supermarket, church or shopping mall where people from different cultural backgrounds might be interacting. The time set aside for this assignment is a minimum of three hours. Specific instructions will be given in class.
- Due Dates – as per discussion in class.

4. Intercultural Research Project – New Canadian Research Project

- Each learner is required to write a twelve to fifteen (15) page paper on some cultural issue or aspect that "new Canadians" (immigrants) face as they seek to settle and integrate in Calgary. Specific details on how to go about the project will be spelled out in class.
- Due Dates – as per discussion in class.

5. "Area" Worldview Research Project

- Each learner is required to write a twelve to fifteen (12-15) page "Area Worldview Research Project" on a target culture your have a particular interest in. A 20 minute presentation of your finding will be made in class.

- The paper will be due following your presentation. (Dates to be determined).

5. Course Grade

1. Reflection Papers	18%
2. Literature Review	12%
3. Integration Experience	25%
4. <u>Multicultural Research Project</u>	45%
	Total 100%

6. Important Notes

1. Late Work: For each 24-hour period late, there will be a drop of a letter grade (e.g. B+ will drop to B). All assignments must be completed regardless of how late they are submitted, in order to pass the course.
2. Academic Regulations. The instructor will comply with all academic regulations set forth in the current Ambrose Seminary catalogue and Student Handbook and expects the student to be familiar with them.
3. Course Revisions. The instructor reserves the right to modify any part of the course if he deems it necessary and advantageous.
4. "Back-up" Copies of Course Work. Every learner is expected to have a second copy of all the work they hand in for this course! No exceptions! Papers are to be submitted in both paper and electronic form (use Drop-box at Moodle site for electronic papers).
5. Course Completion. Participants are expected to complete all the assignments in order to pass the course.