

DM 9348 Mission and Ministry in a Global Perspective

Dr. Robert Hunt, director of Global Theological Education

June 10-14; 17-20

9 to Noon

Course Description: This course will examine the theological and practical relationships between ministry in contemporary settings and the ways in which increasing globalization is shaping both the ecclesial and social contexts of Christian life. Particular attention will be given to the role of the minister as leader of churches engaged in mission and evangelism in complex cultural contexts such as the complex cultural context of emerging urban centers and the cultural diversity increasingly typical of suburban and even rural social contexts.

Specific Topics

1. The nature and effects of globalization.
2. Emerging characteristics of global Christianity.
3. The concept of missional church or congregation as a basis for engagement in local ministry.
4. Specific challenges of ministry in complex cultural contexts; preaching, worship, education, and administration.
5. Cultural intelligence/competence as an essential attribute of church leadership.
6. Strategies for engaging in missions and evangelism in complex cultural environments.

Required Reading

1. *Cultures and Organizations: Software of the Mind*: Geert Hofstede, Gert Jan Hofstede, Michael Minkov
2. *Serving With Eyes Wide Open: Doing Short Term Missions with Cultural Intelligence*, David A. Livermore.
3. *Missional Church: A vision for the Sending of the Church in North America*, Darrell L. Guder.
4. *Many Globalizations: Cultural Diversity in the Contemporary World*, Peter Berger, Samuel Huntington.
5. *Religious Internationals in the Modern World: Globalization and Faith Communities since 1750*, ed. Abigail Green and Vincent Viaene

Assignments

The course grade will be based on three parts of a single, cumulative, assignment.

Part 1. The student will describe in as much detail as possible the social, economic, religious and cultural demographics of the students congregation and the area within 5 miles of the students church. This description should include any institutions associated with non-Christian religions and/or non-English speaking national groups. (30% of grade)

Part 2. The student will describe the existing ministry of the student's church, with particular attention both to ministries that relate to the community immediately beyond the local church and to those outside the United States. A rationale for each ministry in relation to the general purpose of the church should be given. If there is no such rationale this should be noted.(30%)

Part 3. The student will describe strategies for engaging the local church in local ministry to people and groups outside the church's dominant culture, as well as engaging more effectively in such existing ministries. This strategy will include preparation of the congregation to be a missional church through worship and education, specific prospects for cross-cultural ministry, and a description of the process by which the congregation will discern its future ministries and prepare to engage in them. (40%)

Minority Concerns and the Perkins Curriculum

In 1975 the Perkins Senate passed resolutions which bear on the relation of the Perkins curriculum to this school's common concern for the status of ethnic minority groups and of women both in education for ministry and in the ministry itself. The following statement summarizes these resolutions with respect to all courses except those in the area of Ministry.

1. Instructors and students alike are urged to use inclusive language, images and metaphors which will give full and positive value to both the past contributions and the future prospects of ethnic minorities and women in the church and in society at large.
2. Instructors and students alike are urged to give sensitive consideration to the role of images from a predominantly white and male culture in shaping both the language and concepts of Christian theology and the models and methods of Christian ministry that are widely current today.
3. Instructors are urged to make every effort to provide--in the syllabi, assignments and formats of their courses--opportunities (1) for women students and students from ethnic minority groups to pursue their study with special reference to their own status or tradition and (2) for all students to become acquainted with the special problems and conditions that affect women and ethnic minority groups in human society.

SMU Disability Accommodations

Southern Methodist University provides reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities. If you need academic accommodations for a disability, you must first contact Ms. Rebecca Marin, Coordinator, Services for Students with Disabilities (214-768-4563) to verify the disability and to establish eligibility for accommodations. Then you should schedule an appointment with your professor to make appropriate arrangements for the course work in this class.