

Faculty Approved Course Description for Division III Immersion Course

I. Overview:

TC 8321 Theology and Ministry in Global Contexts.

A study of theology in a cultural context different from the students' own cultural context, usually outside the United States, with special attention to the role of theological reflection in an environment affected by globalization in all its dimensions. The course will be a focused, on-site study in a particular region of the world. It will include reading assignments and a day long orientation done off-site before the course, and a debriefing after the on-site portion of the course. Prerequisites will be the permission of the instructor, relevant divisional pre-requisites, and any other pre-requisites assigned by the instructors. The specific topic will vary with each offering. It may be repeated for additional academic credit.

In accordance with the decision of the Perkins Faculty this course will be offered pass/fail.

II. General Requirements

- Regardless of the content of the course participants should be engaged with Christians from the local context in reflection on the content of the course and its relationship with the situation of the immersion experience. (Thus, for example, a New Testament exegesis course taught in the context of Palestinian Bethlehem might include interaction with Palestinian Christians on how they understand hermeneutics generally, their interpretation of specific passages, and their approach to particular themes relevant to the course content. Or, for example, a course in Worship taught in Cambodia might include interaction with Cambodian Christians, how they understand and experience worship, and how their own cultural resources influence their worship.)
- All participants should have the opportunity to meet with community and church leaders to learn more about the context, and in particular how, and to what extent U.S. religion, government policy, and economics influence the lives of people in that context.
- The course content should be presented primarily by persons familiar with and working from the perspectives of the immersion context.
- All participants will attend a pre-immersion experience orientation on the Dallas campus. (See IV. B).
- All participants will be required to attend a post-immersion seminar on the Dallas campus in order to both reflect on their experience and share that experience with other immersion students who took the course in different contexts.
- All participants should gain an understanding of the issues related to planning and participating in cross-cultural travel.
- As far as possible participants should participate in the local culture and lifestyle.
- All participants will be required to complete appropriate pre-requisite reading or classes related to both the context of the immersion experience and the specific content of the course.
- All participants will be required to keep a reflective journal on their experience.

- All participants will be required to complete a self-evaluation related specifically to the experience of learning in a non-U.S. context as well the course evaluation.

III. Specific Course Requirements

Specific readings and written assignments will be specified by the faculty member proposing to offer the course, in accordance with Perkins' and Division standards.

IV. General Course Requirements

A. Required Reading List

The following readings should be undertaken by all students preparing for a Cultural Immersion Course.

- *Cultural Intelligence: Improving your CQ to Engage our Multicultural World*, David A. Livermore. 2009
- *Pedagogy of the Oppressed*, Paulo Freiere
- *Social Analysis: Linking Faith and Justice*. Joe Holland and Peter Henriot, Orbis, 1983
- "Theology and Mission in a Postcolonial World", Joerg Rieger, Mission Studies 2005
- "Globalization and the Transformation of Christianity," Philip Jenkins, *Foreign Policy Research Institute, Vol. 3, No. 1, 2002*

B. Orientation

All students enrolled in the cross-cultural immersion course will be required to attend an orientation seminar that will cover both practical and theological issues related to living and working in a culture outside the U.S.

- Suggestions for improvements and changes in the way the non-academic parts of the experience were organized.

VI. Requirements Related to Travel and Accommodations for the Immersion Experience

A. Passport and Visa