

2/26/08

**MI 225 – Preparing for Cross-Cultural
Service and Short-Term Missions**
4th Quad, Winter/Spring Term 2008

Thursdays: 6:00 PM – 9:00 PM

Instructor: Paul Borthwick

Phone (before 10:00 PM please): 781-862

EMAIL: paul.borthwick@gordon.edu

Room: Jenks 226

DESCRIPTION: MI 225 is designed to educate, train and prepare students for Summer short-term ministry projects – both through the Short-Term Missions Program at Gordon College as well as individual short-term projects. MI 225 also complements MI 226 (over the Summer) as part of the required courses for the Missions Minor.

OBJECTIVE: the goal of MI 225 is to prepare individuals and teams for effective short-term missionary service. Training focuses on the myriad of issues encountered in short-term missionary service including:

- The biblical basis for missions and missionary service
- Cross-cultural communication, adaptation, and understanding
- Teamwork and relationship-building
- Confronting world views: our own and others
- Familiarity with the country and culture to be served
- Spiritual growth
- Administrative details related to short-term missionary service

TEXTS: these texts are required (in addition other readings you will receive).

Borthwick, Paul. *Six Dangerous Questions to Transform Your View of the World*. InterVarsity Press, 1996.

Brewster, E. Thomas and Elizabeth. *Language Learning Is Communicating/Is Ministry and Bonding and the Missionary Task*. Lingua House, 1984.

Dearborn, Tim. *Short-Term Mission Workbook*. InterVarsity Press, 2003.

Elmer, Duane. *Cross-Cultural Servanthood*. InterVarsity Press, 2007.

Lingenfelter, Sherwood, and Marvin Mayers. *Ministering Cross-Culturally: An Incarnational Model for Personal Relationships*. Baker, 1986.

GRADING: Attendance is crucial. Your grade will be determined as follows:

- Attendance/participation in class **15%**
- Three 1-page reflection-papers on the assigned readings **30%**
- Country Research Report **25%**
- 5-Page Paper (see below) **30%**

EXPLANATION OF ASSIGNMENTS:

1) **Attendance/participation** in class (**15%**): be on time; be prepared

2) **1-page reflection-papers** on the assigned readings (three, 10% each = **30%**). Reflect on required readings including things like – what you learned; points you agree or disagree with; how this book will help you in short-term missions. **Due APRIL 10 (Borthwick or Elmer*), APRIL 17 (Brewster), & May 1 (Lingenfelter).**

****Note: if you've never taken MI 215, then your reflection paper #1 should be on Borthwick's Six Dangerous Questions. If you've already taken MI 215, then your reflection paper #1 should be on Duane Elmer's Cross-Cultural Servanthood.***

3) **Country Research Report (25%)** – 3-5 pages on the country and culture, people and background of the location where you are going to serve this Summer. **DUE May 8.**

IF YOU ARE NOT GOING ON A TRIP THIS SUMMER, then this requirement is replaced with a 3-5 page review/reflection on Tim Dearborn's Short-Term Mission Handbook.

4) **5-Page Paper (30%)** on either the subject of “Redemptive Analogies” or “Contextualization.” Imagine that you are writing a training-paper designed to help other short-term missionaries understand the term and how it applies in cross-cultural ministry. The paper should integrate readings, class lectures, suggested movies, and/or your own research. **DUE May 8th.**

CLASS SCHEDULE/ASSIGNMENTS

March 27: Introduction & foundations

- Class & professor introduction
- Biblical basis of missions
- The Transforming Power of Short-term Missions

April 3: Maximizing Your Growth on Short-Term Missions

- Journal / Reflective learning
- Personal Goals and expectations, prayer and planning

April 10: Short-Term Nuts and Bolts

- Fund-Raising or Friend-Raising?
- Communicating with your donors
- Prayer requests: How much do you share?

Due tonight (April 10): 1-page reflection on either Six Dangerous Questions or Cross Cultural Connections (see note above under assignments)

April 17: Cross-Cultural Dynamics

- You ARE Ethnocentric
- Crossing Cultures
- Country research
- Religion research
- Contextualization
- “Redemptive Analogies”
- Different worship styles

Due tonight (April 17): 1-page reflection on the Brewster readings

April 24: Interpersonal Dynamics

- Team dynamics / Conflict resolution
- Loneliness
- Personality Types & adaptability
- What is “Culture Shock”?

May 1: Physical Concerns with special guest lecturer, Christie Borthwick, MT (ASCP), MPH

- Staying Healthy
- Traveling Safely
- Spiritual Warfare and sickness
- Safe drinking water

Due tonight: 1-page reflection on Ministering Cross-Culturally

May 8: Final details

Due tonight: TWO PAPERS:

- 1) ***5-page paper on either “Redemptive Analogies” OR on “Contextualization”***
- 2) ***Due tonight: a 3-5 page report on the destination where you are going to serve this Summer (or on Dearborn’s Short-Term Mission Handbook – see note in syllabus).***