

Updated 3/5/09

**MI 225 – Preparing for Cross-Cultural
Service and Short-Term Missions**
4th Quad, Winter/Spring Term 2009

Thursdays: 6:00 PM – 9:00 PM

Instructor: Paul Borthwick

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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:

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|---|------------|
| • 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 2 (Borthwick or Elmer*), APRIL 9 (Brewster), & APRIL 16 (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 April 30.**

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 April 30th.**

CLASS SCHEDULE/ASSIGNMENTS

March 19: Introduction & foundations

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

March 26 : Maximizing Your Growth on Short-Term Missions

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

April 2: Short-Term Nuts and Bolts

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

Due April 2: 1-page reflection on either Six Dangerous Questions or Cross Cultural Connections (see note above under assignments)

April 9: Cross-Cultural Dynamics

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

Due April 9: 1-page reflection on the Brewster readings

April 16: Interpersonal Dynamics

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

Due April 16: 1-page reflection on Ministering Cross-Culturally

April 23: No classes. Symposium.

April 30: Physical Concerns with special guest lecturer, Christie Borthwick, MT (ASCP), MPH

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

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).***