MISSIO
SEMINARY
EST 1971

DP 104 – Introduction to Biblical Cultures
December 2019
Thursdays, 6:00 – 10:00 PM (12/5 & 12/12)
+ Saturdays, 12/7 & 12/14, 8:30 AM – 4:30 PM

LAST REVISED: 6/25/2019

PROFESSOR

D. Kyle Canty, DMin.
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MISSIO'S MISSION
To prepare missional leaders who incarnate the story of Jesus with humility and authenticity and who communicate the story with fidelity to Scripture, appreciation of the Christian tradition, and sensitivity to the needs and aspirations of postmodern culture.

COURSE DESCRIPTION
This course will provide a working knowledge of cultural backgrounds within the Biblical text as well as an introduction of the available tools for obtaining background information for biblical exegesis. *Two hours*.

PERSONAL NOTE FROM THE PROFESSOR

This course is offered to develop leaders with skills to exegete the text as well as the cultural distinctives of the peoples of the Bible this course is offered to provide an important addition to students hermeneutical and ministry toolbox. We will journey into the unique world of the peoples of the Bible. We will examine the customs, cultural proclivities of the ancient world in an effort to better understand how cultures impacted the Biblical writers. There will also be special attention paid to how Christian leaders should study culture in an effort to reach the rapidly changing world around us.

This course is designed to offer a safe place to develop skills and competencies. The field of academics is both rigorous and demanding. You are going to be stretched. My prayer is that you embrace the process and work through the challenges. Please remember that you are not alone in this process. My encouragement to you is to trust God, be bold and prayerful.

D. Kyle Canty

COURSE OBJECTIVES

At the successful completion of this course, you should be able to:
1. Be more proficient in using Bible background tools to study the Biblical text
2. Consider how ancient culture differs from current culture. Able to articulate the distinctions
3. Learn how to integrate background/cultural information into study and ministry.
4. Know the importance of having cultural intelligence (e.g., know what cultural artifacts are)

PROGRAM GOALS	COURSE OBJECTIVES
Goal 1: Students will understand the need to understand and properly use cultural and background information in the study of Scripture.	4

Goal 2: Students will become comfortable with reference materials to determine the cultures and customs of the people groups of the Bible.	1,2,3,4
Goal 3: Students will develop an understanding of cultural intelligence and recognize its importance in ministry within the unique landscape of our society.	4
Goal 4: Students will create an extensive bibliography that will be used in their future study of Scripture.	N/A
Goal 5: Students will have a better understanding of a passage of Scripture because of their work in the cultural background of the Biblical text.	1,2,3

COURSE ASSESSMENTS AND HOMEWORK HOURS

ASSESSMENTS AND HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENTS	RELATED OBJECTIVES	PERCENT OF GRADE	ESTIMATED TIME OUTSIDE OF CLASS (NOTE: not including the writing workshop allotted during the SATURDAY class period)
Reading and Reading Assessments	1, 2, 4	25%	12.5
Writing Assignments	1,2, 3	25%	12.5
Class Participation and in class learning objects, exercises and assessments	1,2,3,4	25%	12.5
Online Exercise	2	25%	12.5
Total Course Time			50 hrs

Attendance Policy and Grades

It is beneficial to arrive on time and be actively engaged in class time. Class time is valuable – to you, to your classmates, and to the professor. Class time is thoughtfully prepared by the professor and crafted with intricacy for maximum learning effectiveness. Recognize that your grade may be lowered for tardiness or absences at the discretion of the instructor.

Students may email the instructor at any time if they have questions about the course. Students will generally receive a response within 24 hours (except on Sunday).

REQUIRED READING AND MATERIALS

NOTE: Hyperlinks to Amazon.com (or other sellers) are placed here for your convenience. Please be aware that there may be other websites (by publishers or by other ebook publishers) that may sell or rent the same item for cheaper prices. Please shop around!

Bible Background Commentary Old and New Testament	Walton, J. H., Chavalas, M. W., & Matthews, V. H. (2000). The IVP Bible background commentary: Old Testament. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press. Keener, C. S. (2014). The IVP Bible background commentary: New Testament. Downers Grove, IL: IVP Academic.
OR	
Tools to Understand Culture	. Georges, J. (2017). The 3D gospel: Ministry in guilt, shame, and fear cultures. Place of publication not identified: Time Press.

	Livermore, D. A. (2009). Cultural intelligence improving your CQ to engage our multicultural world. Baker Academic: Grand Rapids, Michigan.

COURSE PROCEDURES & COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1) Participate positively and thoughtfully in class discussions. Class contributions should be regular, but not monopolizing. Your class participation grade will be based on the quality of your class interaction, as well as your overall contribution to class morale and the overall learning environment.

2) Complete all writing assignments on time, with diligence and professionalism. The final writing assignment of this class consists of a 8-page paper that gives your reflections, lessons, applications, and/or theological points that you have researched from a passage of Scripture of your choice.

3) Reading and Reading Assessments.
   Complete readings and reading assignments by the due date listed in the schedule. Use the form provided on the course website to receive credit for reading course texts. The form asks you to report how much of the course text you skimmed, scanned, or read (terms defined in the form).

COURSE SCHEDULE WITH TOPIC, ASSIGNMENTS, SUBMISSION METHOD, & DUE DATES

DATE	IN CLASS	OUTSIDE-OF-CLASS
Thursday, 12/5/2019 6:00 – 10:00 pm	Topic: Course Introduction 1. Defining culture and why it's important. 2. A look at how culture develops within society. 3. A Biblical timeline - lands and peoples of the Bible.	View video clip and answer questions online and interact with at least two classmates in the online student forum. *Reading will be assigned each week out of the main textbooks*
Saturday 12/7/2019 8:30 – 4:00 pm	Topic: Old Testament Cultures 1. Sumer 2. Egyptian 3. Babylonian 4. Persian	Obtain cultural artifacts from your community and arrive in class ready to discuss. Begin writing 8 page paper. *Reading will be assigned each week out of the main textbooks.*
Thursday, 12/12/2019 6:00 –10:00 pm	Topic: New Testament Cultures 1. Greco-Roman (Hellenist) 2. Palestinian 3. European 4. African	*Reading will be assigned each week*
Saturday, 12/14/2019 8:30 –4:00 pm	Topic: Field Study Assignment	Field Study and paper preparation.
	Prepare an 8 page paper providing the historical/cultural	

FINAL ASSIGNMENTS due no later than midnight, Wednesday, 12/18/2019	background for one of three passages of Scripture. You can select a passage below; • Acts 17:16-33 • Exodus 8 thru 11 • Jeremiah 29:1-23 In your work please provide information gleaned from resources utilized within the course to construct your historical/cultural background overview. You will need to provide footnotes and bibliography. (APA style). How does your historical/cultural background study help to understand the passage. Double spaced and must be original work. Attempt to answer the following questions: • Describe the people groups involved. • What did the people identified in the text value. • Can you identify customs, idols? • Provide some historical accomplishments for the people identified in the passage. **A 3 page reflection on Cultural Intelligence by David Livermore.** • Double spaced • Do not go over 3 pages • Submitted online through online interface.

Note: All assignments must be submitted by the due date listed in the syllabus and no later than the final due date for the course listed in this syllabus by permission of the instructor. After the final due date, faculty cannot grant students permission to submit late work.

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITY AND ACADEMIC POLICIES

1. **Academic Policies:** Students are fully responsible to know and follow all seminary rules, regulations, and deadlines published in the Academic Catalog and all requirements concerning their degree programs. See the e-campus home page.

2. **Course Syllabus:** Students are fully responsible to know and fulfill the requirements stated in the course syllabus. Students should email the professor about issues related to course work and deadlines during the course. See above under "completion of course work" for policies on course extensions.

3. **E-campus Course Site:** Students are fully responsible for course content and materials that are posted on the course site. Students are encouraged to check the course site frequently during the course. Students who experience difficulty accessing or using the E-campus should email helpdesk@Missio.edu and include their student ID# in their correspondence.

4. **Academic and General Integrity:** As followers of Jesus Christ, we are called to integrity and Christ-likeness in all areas of life. What this means in the academic realm is that the completion of all assignments and assessments are to reflect your own work. Students found guilty of cheating or plagiarism will receive a grade of zero on the assessment and will follow the process outlined in the Academic Catalog. See the Academic Catalog for more information on plagiarism and policies related to cheating and plagiarism.

5. **Student PC Security Statement:** Missio Seminary recognizes the need for computer use throughout the entire educational process today. Computers equipped with Internet access and applications that help deliver information and knowledge are vital. Students are encouraged to bring their electronic computing devices to campus to facilitate their course work and supplemental activities. Given the current climate of online dangers such as viruses, malware, phishing scams, and other related risks it is critical to secure all such devices regardless if they're being used on campus or not. Please take the appropriate steps to safeguard the security of your own electronic devices to protect the integrity of the student network on campus and provide a safe computing environment for everyone to use.

GRADING SYSTEM

BIBLICAL SEMINARY GRADING SYSTEM			
A	4.00	93.0 -100	Superior
A-	3.67	90.0 – 92.9	
B+	3.33	87.0 – 89.9	
B	3.00	83.0 – 86.9	Good
B-	2.67	80.0 – 82.9	
C+	2.33	77.0 – 79.9	
C	2.00	73.0 – 76.9	Fair
C-	1.70	70.0 – 72.9	
D+	1.30	67.0 – 69.9	Poor
D	1.00	63.0 – 66.9	
D-	.70	60.0 – 62.9	
F	0.00	00. - 59.9	Failing