1. **Course Description and Purpose:**

   Our Lord Jesus Christ has given us a mandate to communicate the gospel to every language, people-group and culture in the entire world. There are thousands of different languages, people-groups, and cultures in the world today, many of which have not received a comprehensible proclamation of the gospel in a way that can effectively communicate within their cultural context. The purpose of this course is to help prepare the student to effectively communicate Christianity to members of another culture. Major emphasis will be placed on understanding cultural values, perspectives, and worldview structures and how the gospel and the church can be translated into another culture’s frame of references.

2. **Course Objectives:**

   Upon successful completion of this course you will:
   1) Become more sensitive to the multi-cultural world we live in and develop a truly cross-cultural understanding of Christianity.
   2) Understand the basics of communication theory, with a special emphasis on the often neglected role of the responders or recipients in the communication process.
   3) Be able to define and articulate the major religious world-views in the world today and be able to develop effective strategies for penetrating different world-views with the gospel of Jesus Christ.
   4) Gain a deeper appreciation for how different cultures think, perceive reality, express ideas, behave, etc. Special emphasis will be placed on case studies that give specific application to the principles learned in the course.
   5) Grow in your appreciation of the vitality and cultural translatability of the Christian gospel and develop a greater desire to effectively communicate the gospel of Jesus Christ to all the cultures of the world.

3. **Lecture Topics:**

   **The Relationship of Missiology to Applied Anthropology**
   - Developing a Cross-Cultural Understanding of Christianity
   - The Cultural Translatability of the Gospel
   - The Rise of Non-Western Christianity as a Context for theological and anthropological reflection
   - Perceiving Reality: Theory, Paradigm and World-View
   - Epistemological Foundations for Missiological reflections

   **Gospel and Culture**
   - Human Beings in Culture
   - World-View and Its Relationship to Culture
   - Cultural Forms, Patterns and Processes
Christ and Culture / Gospel and Culture
Homogeneous Unit Principle

Cross-Cultural Communication
The N.T. Mandate to Communicate the Gospel
The Structure of Communication
Biblical Communication
  Theology and Missions Reflection:
  Absolute, Naïve and Critical Realism
  Bounded vs. Fuzzy Sets in the contours of theology/praxis
  Flaw of the Excluded Middle
  Principles of Contextualization
  Extractionism vs. Identificationalism

Major Religious World-Views and Cross-Cultural Communication
African World-View
  Case Study: African Christologies
  Africa as "normative" Christianity
  Implications of Southern Shift of Gravity
Hindu World-View
  Case Study: Hindu Conceptions of God
  The Emergence of Indian Christian Theology
  Contours of theological Discourse
  Case Study: Questions Hindus Ask
Buddhist World-View
  Case Study: Buddhist Conceptions of Reality / Ethics
Chinese World View
  Case Study: Guilt, Fear and Shame
  Contours of Theological Discourse between Christianity and Buddhism
Monotheistic World-View: Islam, Judaism
  Contextualization among Muslim and Jewish peoples

Thinking and Perception
  Ways of Thinking / Perceiving Reality
  Cultural Differences in the Cognitive Process
  Decision making and motivation in cultural context

4. Course Requirements:
A. Required Reading:

B. Research Paper: You are to submit a research paper on a topic of your choosing, although it must meet the following standards to be acceptable:
a. The paper must be on a subject matter related to the material covered in the
course. Your thesis statement, along with at least five sources, should be sent to
me via e-mail pmartindale@gcts.edu (please include the word “thesis statement”
in the subject line). This will be due by March 21st.
b. The paper must be a minimum of 10 pages, not including bibliography, and
should not exceed 20 pages.
c. It must be typewritten and double-spaced, following Chicago Manual of Style,
footnotes are required (not endnotes or parenthetical notes).
d. It must cite at least five outside sources, other than the required textbooks for
the course.
e. The paper must include a short synopsis of no more than 100 words that gives
someone a short summary of your main argument and conclusions. (This does not
count as a part of the 10 pages).
f. The paper must include an outline of the paper (this does not count as a part of
the 10 pages).
g. It must be turned in to the professor by Friday April 19th.

C. Examinations: There will be a take-home midterm exam given on Thursday March
14th on selected themes from the lectures and course readings. The exam will be due back
to the professor by Monday March 18th. The professor will clarify which materials will
be covered on this mid-term examination. There will be also be a Final Exam given on
the last day of classes Thursday May 2nd. The exam will cover material covered in the
lectures, readings and handouts. The Final Exam will be comprehensive.

D. Reading Report: The required daily readings are essential if you are to gain a proper
understanding of the course subject matter. On the last day of the semester, you will be
asked to turn in a reading report that lists the number of pages read for each of the
required texts. In addition, there should be a one page, integrative paper on each of the
four textbooks (4 pages total). This should demonstrate the following: 1. Overall, why
was the book important for this course (1 paragraph). 2. What did you learn from this
book in your own theological and missiological growth (2 paragraphs). 3. Any major
insights in the book you want to mention. Be sure to be reflective and integrative, as this
is not just a summary of the content. It is your responsibility to stay up-to-date in your
reading assignments. Late reports may be penalized by 10%.

E. Attendance: Perfect attendance is encouraged and will greatly enhance your learning
experience, ability to perform well on the exams, and to fulfill the course objectives.
Please turn off all cell phones during the instructional period and refrain from surfing the
Internet or doing email while in class.

5. Grading:
Midterm Examination 20%
Thesis Statement and Research Paper 25%
Reading Report 25%
Final Exam 30%
100%
Grading Scale:
A+ 97-100; A 94-96; A- 90-93; B+ 87-89; B 84-86; B- 80-83; C+ 77-79; C 74-76; C- 70-73; D+ 67-69; D 64-66; D- 60-63; F 0-59.

6. Bibliography:


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Tennent, T. “Contextualizing the Sanskritic Tradition to Serve Dalit Theology,” *Missiology*, vol. 25, No. 3: 343-349.
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