SYLLABUS

Maturing Believers in a Cross-Cultural Context
CESE8311

A Professional Doctoral Special Event Seminar
Conducted with a Mission Trip to Moscow, Russia

Dr. Joe Sherrer

Fall Trimester – 2008
October 23 – 31, 2008

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NOBTS Mission Statement
The mission of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary is to equip leaders to fulfill
the Great Commission and the Great Commandments through the local church and its
ministries.

Purpose of the Seminar, Core Value Focus, and Curriculum Competencies Addressed

This seminar is designed helping students to experience leading discipleship ministries in
a cross-cultural setting. This seminar will usually be offered as a mission trip focusing on
the practice of leading Christian education in an international partnership. Special
attention will be given to principles and practice of communication and educational
leadership in other cultures. As a part of the mission trip students will assist local and
national leaders in implementing programs to mature believers and develop leaders for
multiplication.

This special event seminar seeks to emphasize the core values of mission focus and
spiritual vitality. The seminar serves to develop competencies in the areas of disciple-

Course Description
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**Course Objectives**

When students have completed this course, they will be able to:

1. Identify principles of communicating biblical truths in a cross-cultural context.
2. Demonstrate an awareness of historical, cultural, linguistic, and geographical factors impacting spiritual development with people in the mission trip.
3. Effectively dialogue with church leaders on the mission trip about methodology for maturing believers.
4. Synthesize principles of cross-cultural ministry within their own ministry context.
5. Present a plan for maturing Christians in a specific cultural area.

**Course Methodology**

This seminar will utilize textbook readings, small group interaction, and critical reflection as well as an experiential component of the mission trip to provide educational methodology for the students’ learning experiences.

**Required Textbooks**

See individual assignments for necessary textbooks.

**Course Requirements**

**Pre-Event Assignments:**

1. **Cultural Insights List:** Each student will read one of the following textbooks. For the selected book the student is to prepare a list of at least ten insights gained about the people group for the mission trip. Briefly discuss each of the insights. It is anticipated that this assignment will be approximately five pages in length. **Date Due:** October 10, 2008.
Select from one of the following two books …


2. **Historical and Cultural Awareness Readings:** Read a “tourist-type” book on Moscow. Provide a statement of having read such a book including a complete bibliographic reference. **Date Due: October 10, 2008.** The following is suggested:


3. **Cross-Cultural Ministry Book Critique:** Read each of the following two books and prepare a six page critique for each book: Include a significant (at least four pages) summary of a content. Also identify strengths and weaknesses of the authors’ points of view, points of agreement or disagreement, and potential application to the student’s personal ministry. **Date Due: October 10, 2008.**


4. **Cross-Cultural Communications Principles Project:** Read the following book and for each of the twelve chapters identify and briefly discuss at least one principle, insights, or points of potential application for the mission experience. **Date Due: October 10, 2008.**


5. **Maturing Believers Presentation:** Prepare a thirty-minute presentation on one of the following topics using the indicated resource(s). Students will be assigned a specific presentation based on need of churches and participant background. Assignments will be made by September 1, 2008. **Date Due: Submit a two page outline of the prepared presentation by October 20, 2008.** Actual presentations will be made during the mission trip.


- Other topics possible.

**During the Mission Trip**

6. **Mission Trip Participation:** Participate completely in all activities of the mission trip. Lead presentations as assigned. **Date Due: October 23 – 31, 2008.**

7. **Daily Journal:** During the mission trip maintain a daily journal of activities, insights gained, experiences, and reflections. Following the mission trip submit a typed version of the journal. **Date Due: November 30, 2008.**

**Following the Mission Trip**

8. **Reflection Paper:** Following the mission trip submit a five page reflection paper identifying increases in knowledge, awareness of cross-cultural sensitivities, and skills developed. Discuss possible applications to current personal ministry and implications for future potential ministry. **Date Due: November 30, 2008.**

**Course Evaluation**

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<th>Component</th>
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<td>Historical &amp; Cultural Awareness Readings</td>
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<td>Daily Journal</td>
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<td>Reflection Paper</td>
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Selected Bibliography

Transcultural Communication


Leading Christian Education Ministries


Arnold, Jeffrey. *Seven Tools for Building Effective Groups*. Colorado Springs: NavPress,


Burgoon, Michael, Judee K. Burgoon, and James C. McCroskey. *Small Group*


Small Group Ministries


Crabb, Larry. *The Safest Place on Earth: Where People Connect and Are Forever


Mack, Michael C. *The Synergy Church: A Strategy for Integrating Small Groups and*


Webber, Robert *The Younger Evangelicals: Facing the Challenges of the New World*. 