

ASSEMBLIES OF GOD THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

DOCTOR OF MINISTRY PROGRAM

PTH 965 LEADING MINISTRY IN EMERGING CULTURE

(3 Credit Hours)

Location: Berkley, California

February 13-17, 2012

The class will be held at 2107 Dwight Way, Suite 2100, Berkeley, CA 94704. (Dr. Creps' church facility.) Housing options in Berkeley are generally pretty slim. It is recommended that participants stay in town so as to avoid freeways coming and going to class. The Double Tree at the Berkeley Marina and the Holiday Inn Express on University Ave would both be options. Also, hotels in Emeryville can be reached without freeway travel. Dr. Creps recommends flying into the Oakland airport rather than SFO or San Jose. The Oakland airport is much easier to use and much closer to Berkeley.

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COURSE SYLLABUS

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course explores the potential of Pentecostal ministry in a rapidly morphing, globalized culture. The focus is on discerning culture as opportunity for cooperating with the mission of Jesus and responding to the initiative of the Spirit. Special emphasis is given to ministry among younger cultural creative people groups.

COURSE SCHEDULE

The course meets Monday-Friday, February 13-17, 2012. Course hours are 1:00 PM to 5:00 PM on Monday, 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM Tuesday-Thursday, and 8:00 AM to 12:00 PM on Friday.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

The course is an arena for personal growth of several kinds:

- *Character development:* **humbling** ourselves as the Spirit uses the twin instruments of culture and ministry to form greater dependence on God.
- *Cultural exegesis:* **interpreting** the major forms of cultural influence creating the context for communicating the Christian gospel.
- *Theological reflection:* **hearing** culture pose critical theological questions that call for reflective skills true both to Scripture *and* context.

- *Personal reframing*: **seeing** personal and corporate ministry as an evolving, holistic calling rather than a set of static roles and functions.
- *Community formation*: **relating** to other leaders in a community that supports the integration of identity, mission, and context in field ministry.
- *Ministry enhancement*: **discerning** opportunities to cooperate with the Spirit in the fulfillment of Christ's mission through our own calling.
- *Ongoing growth*: **equipping** with self-sustaining skills that can inform all of the objectives above during future ministry.

COURSE READING OPTIONS

Allen, Roland. *The Spontaneous Expansion of the Church: And the Causes that Hinder It*. Wipf & Stock Publishers, 1997. (170 pages)

Backman, Richard. *Bible and Mission: Christian Witness in a Postmodern World*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2004. (128 pages)

Barna, George. *Revolution*. Tyndale, 2005. (140 pages)

Bergquist, Linda. *Church Turned Inside Out: A Guide for Designers, Refiners, and Re-aligners*. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass/Leadership Network, 2009. (240 pages)

Cole, Neil. *Organic Church: Growing Faith Where Life Happens*. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass, 2005. (272 pages)

Creasy Dean, Kendra. *Almost Christian: What the Faith of Our Teenagers Is Telling the American Church*. Oxford University Press, 2010. (264 pages)

Creps, Earl. *Reverse Mentoring: How Young Leaders Can Transform the Church and Why We Should Let Them*. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass/Leadership Network, 2008. (200 pages)

_____. *Off-Road Disciplines: Spiritual Adventures of Missional Leaders*. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass/Leadership Network, 2006. (185 pages)

Easum, Bill. *Leadership on the Other Side*. Abingdon, 2000. (217 pages)

Frost, Michael and Alan Hirsch. *The Shaping of Things to Come: Innovation and Mission for the 21st Century Church*. Hendrickson, 2003. (250 pages)

Gibbs, Eddie and Ryan Bolger. *The Emerging Churches*. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 2005. (352 pages)

- _____. *LeadershipNext: Leadership Changes in a Changing Culture*. Downers Grove, Ill.: InterVarsity, 2005. (237 pages)
- Guder, Darrell. *The Continuing Conversion of the Church*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2000. (222 pages)
- Hirsch, Alan and Dave Ferguson. *On the Verge: A Journey into the Apostolic Future of the Faith*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan/Leadership Network, 2011. (329 pages)
- Hirsch, Alan. *The Forgotten Ways: Reactivating the Missional Church*. Brazos Press, 2007. (304 pages)
- Hunter, George. *The Celtic Way of Evangelism: How Christianity Can Reach the West Again*. Rev. ed. Abingdon, 2010. (144 pages)
- Kimball, Dan. *They Like Jesus but Not the Church: Insights from Emerging Generations*. Brazos Press, 2007. (304 pages)
- Kinnaman, Dave. *unChristian: What a New Generation Really Thinks about Christianity... and Why It Matters*. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 2007. (256 pages)
- Lewis, Richard and Wayne Cordeiro. *CultureShift: Transforming Your Church from the Inside Out*. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass, 2005. (256 pages)
- Lindsley, Art. *True Truth: Defending Absolute Truth in a Relativistic World*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 2004. (180 pages)
- Lyons, Gabe. *The Next Christians: The Good News About the End of Christian America*. Doubleday Religion, 2010. (240 pages)
- Malphurs, Aubrey. *New Kind of Church: Understanding Models of Ministry for the 21st Century*. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 2007. (208 pages)
- Mancini, Will, *Church Unique: How Missional Leaders Cast Vision, Capture Culture, and Create Movement*. San Francisco: Jossey Bass/Leadership Network, 2008. (304 pages)
- McConnell. *Multi-Site Churches: Guidance for the Movement's Next Generation*. B & H Books, 2009. (256 pages)
- McNeal, Reggie. *Missional Communities: The Rise of Post-Congregational Church*. San Francisco: Jossey Bass/Leadership Network, 2011. (192 pages)

- _____. *Missional Renaissance: Changing the Scorecard for the Church*. San Francisco: Jossey Bass/Leadership Network, 2009. (224 pages)
- _____. *The Present Future: Six Tough Questions for the Church*. San Francisco: Jossey- Bass, 2003. (151 pages)
- Miller, Rex. *The Millennium Matrix: Reclaiming the Past, Reframing the Future of the Church*. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass, 2004. (256 pages)
- Olson, David T. *The American Church in Crisis*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2008. (237 pages)
- Patrick, Darrin and Matt Carter. *For the City: Proclaiming and Living Out the Gospel*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan/Leadership Network, 2011. (180 pages)
- Rainer, Thom S. *The Millennials: Connecting to America's Largest Generation*. B & H Books, 2011. (304 pages)
- _____. *Essential Church: Reclaiming a Generation of Drop-Outs*. B & H Books, 2008. (259 pages)
- _____. *Simple Church: Returning to God's Process for Making Disciples*. Broadman & Holman, 2006. (272 pages)
- Roxburgh, Alan. *The Missional Leader: Equipping Your Church to Reach a Changing World*. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass, 2006. (240 pages)
- Rusaw, Rick and Eric Swanson. *The Externally Focused Church*. Group, 2004. (224 pages)
- Stetzer, Ed. *Lost and Found: The Younger Unchurched and the Churches that Reach Them*. B & H Books, 2009. (240 pages)
- _____. *Breaking the Missional Code: Your Church Can Become a Missionary in Your Community*. Broadman & Holman, 2006. (240 pages)
- _____. *Planting Missional Churches*. Nashville: Broadman and Holman, 2006. (350 pages)
- Surratt, Geoff, Greg Ligon and Warren Bird. *The Multi-Site Church Revolution: Being One Church in Many Locations*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan: Leadership Network, 2006. (210 pages)
- Sweet, Leonard, ed. *The Church in Emerging Culture: Five Views*. El Cajon, Ca.: emergentYS, 2003. (263 pages)

_____. *Ancient-Future Evangelism: Making Your Church a Faith-Forming Community*. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 2003. (219 pages)

COURSE OUTLINE

Mon., Feb. 13 *What's Emerging in Emerging Culture?*

Tues., Feb. 14 *Broadcast Church in a Cloud Context*

Wed., Feb. 15 *The "M" Word*

Thur., Feb. 16 *Leading the Missional Organization*

Fri., Feb. 17 *Communicating with Audience Nouveau*

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. Pre-session:

- a. *Read*: 1500 pages from the Course Reading Options list. No books read previously should be counted toward the course reading requirement. Contact the professor to propose alternative readings.
[The Reading Credit Report attached to this syllabus should be turned in on the last day of class. The percentage of reading completed will be multiplied by 100 points and included in the participant's final score.]
- b. *Write*: of a Reading Reflection paper of 3-5 pages summarizing the three key ideas from the pre-course reading that you found most important, disturbing, and/or enlightening. Summarize the significant arguments briefly and then reflect on how they apply to your present or future ministry context. This paper is due on the first day of class, and is worth 100 points. Participants will present an oral summary of their papers in class.

2. During the session:

- a. *Attendance*: at all course sessions is required.
- b. *Participation*: in all classroom discussions, exercises, and field trips is required. The class may travel during the week to visit ministry venues.

3. Post-Session:

- a. *Field research*: visit a ministry actively engaged in reaching emerging culture. Keep a written journal of this experience to be turned in with other post-session assignments. Write a 10 page response to our field experiences integrating personal journals, course readings, class sessions, and personal reflection. The

purpose of the paper is to use the experience to reflect on the nature of today's culture, the ministry that will be needed to reach it, and the specific implications for your ministry. 200 points are available for this paper. **Due date: May 17, 2012.** [Option: field visits during the course are eligible for this assignment.]

b. Choose *two* of the following options (200 points each): **Due date: May 17, 2012**

- 1) *Produce a multi-media documentary*: on some significant feature of emerging culture and/or the ministry that is rising up to engage it. Examples could include documenting a non-traditional local church in-depth, surveying and evaluating significant internet ministries, on-the-street interviews with "natives" of emerging culture, the influence of popular culture, sampling various preaching styles in non-traditional worship services, comparing young adult ministries, etc. Documentaries must be multi-media in format and approximately 4-5 minutes in length.
- 2) *Write a scenario*: depicting the development of a relatively new and significant cultural force, or a new ministry that addresses emerging culture. Examples could include a plan for church planting, the establishment of a web-based ministry, creating a ministry to post-moderns within an existing church, etc. Write a 10-page paper that presents your scenario in a credible, specific way.
- 3) *Write an in-depth reading reflection*: read an additional book from the Course Reading Options list and write a 10-page paper that outlines the author's central thesis and responds to it in terms of your ministry context. This is to be a high-quality reflective essay, not a library research assignment, and must feature specific applications to your ministry context and or your theology of ministry.
- 4) *Devise a self-development plan*: write a 10-page paper detailing your plan for developing the skills for ministry in emerging culture. This should include background research, personal growth, training, skill enhancements sought, implementation challenges, evaluation methods, and a timeline.
- 5) *Create sermons*: using insights gained from the class, write two sermons of significant length designed to reach a pre-Christian emerging culture audience. *Do not recycle old messages!* You may do either a manuscript, or a very, very detailed outline. While all sermons must be turned in hard copy, they may be accompanied by audio and/or media support (e.g., PowerPoint, video clips, etc.) If you speak without notes, an audio file is required.
- 6) *Write a research paper*: choose a major theme related to the course and write a 10-page research paper. The paper should identify and reflect upon key ideas related to the topic, report on some of the major literature in the

area, and apply conclusions to your ministry context. Supporting footnotes and a 15-item bibliography are required.

- 7) *Report on internet ministries*: research internet-based models of ministry and prepare a 10-page paper on your findings. The presentation should include a brief review of the literature, descriptions of the various models, web links, and other key features. Draw conclusions about their use of the internet itself, and the application (if any) of their ministry model to your own (i.e., what you learned from them that could be applied in your context).
- 8) *Propose a self-designed project*: every participant has the option of proposing one or more self-designed credit projects that relate specifically to a ministry or research interest relevant to the course subject matter. These projects must be approved in advance by the professor.

All written assignments are to be typed, double-spaced, represent high-quality, original, graduate-level work, and follow the latest edition of the *Turabian* style manual.

All assignments can be emailed to the professor (earlcreps@gmail.com) with a title page that includes name, address, phone and email, course number, title, and site.

Due date: all post-session assignments must be emailed or postmarked no later than **May 17, 2012**. Grades for late work will be lowered by one letter grade for each week by which the project exceeds this deadline.

(*Note*: the participant will be charged a \$15 change-of-grade fee if work is turned in after the due date stipulated on the syllabus, even if permission has been given by the instructor.)

GRADING PROCEDURE

	<u>Points</u>
Required Reading Credit Report	100
Reading Reflection Paper	100
Field Research Journal and Reflection Paper	400
Post-Session Project Option 1	200
Post-Session Project Option 2	200
TOTAL POINTS AVAILABLE:	<u>1000</u>

SPECIFIC DATA

Course syllabus prepared by Earl Creps, July 2011.

**AGTS D.MIN. PROGRAM
PTH 965 LEADING MINISTRY IN EMERGING CULTURE
COURSE READING REPORT**

Please return this report to the professor on the last day of class (February 17, 2011) Pre-session readings should total 1500 pages.

Name (Please print): _____

Books Read	<i>Pages Read</i>
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
	<i>Total Pages Read</i> <u>=====</u>

Signature _____

Percentage of Reading Completed: _____

Completion Percentage x 100 points = _____ Total Points

**PTH 965 LEADING MINISTRY IN EMERGING CULTURE
STUDENT GRADING PROFILE**

Name: _____ E-mail: _____

<u>GRADING ELEMENTS</u>	<u>Points</u>
Pre-session reading [Due date: February 17, 2012]	(_____ % completed x 100 points =) _____
Reading Reflection Paper [Due date: February 17, 2012]	(100 points available) _____
Post-Session Field Research Paper [Due date: May 17, 2012]	(400 points available) _____
Post-Session Project Option 1 [Due date: May 17, 2012]	(200 points available) _____
Post-Session Project Option 2 [Due date: May 17, 2012]	(200 points available) _____
 TOTAL POINTS:	 (1000 points available) _____
 LETTER GRADE:	 _____

AGTS Grading Scale

Publishable = A+
 100% - 94% = A
 93% - 90% = A-
 89% - 87% = B+
 86% - 84% = B
 83% - 80% = B-
 79% - 77% = C+
 76% - 74% = C
 73% - 70% = C-
 69% - 67% = D+
 66% - 64% = D
 63% - 60% = D-