



## **Cross Cultural Communication Online MS 720Z**

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\* If you send a fax, please inform me that you have done so. You are welcome to e-mail papers to me in Word format or mail them to my home address. There are times when the student may be directed to upload the assignment to the online classroom. Notifications will be made as needed. A copy of all work submitted must be kept by the student.

### **OFFICE HOURS**

I prefer to be reached after 6:00 PM in the evenings.

*Elective. Three credit hours.*

### **Course Description**

This course considers basic principles of communication and pays particular attention to the roles of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit as communicators. Students examine the impact of a given culture's norms, values, and practices on the communication of the gospel within that culture.

### **Course Purpose**

The purpose of this course is to enable students both to evaluate and to understand the impact of culture upon communication. Students will be better equipped to communicate the Gospel both within a given culture and across cultural boundaries.

### **Course Objectives**

The mission of Erskine Theological Seminary is to educate persons for service in the Christian Church. As a part of that mission, one goal is that graduates be prepared to communicate the Bible's message so as to make clear that its meaning is relevant for today's audience in all cultures. In order to begin fulfilling that goal, this course introduces students to aspects of both culture and communication, as well as to the way those elements interact in the spread of the gospel. It is the teacher's intention that by the end of the term, students will:



1. Appreciate the way the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit communicate, as well as the examples of Christian witnesses across the centuries as communicators.
2. Be able to recognize the various models of communication theory.
3. Be able to identify key components of any given society's culture.
4. Improve their ability to share the gospel in a variety of cultural settings.
5. Gain experience in evaluating, preparing, and presenting a strategy for effective communication across cultural boundaries.

### Course Method

The purpose and objectives of this course will be achieved through three learning components:

The first is the Content Component, the student's own mastery of theoretical, Biblical, historical, and practical material essential to understanding culture and communication. This will be accomplished through class lectures and textbook reading (requirement 1 below). This component addresses objectives 1, 2, and 3 above.

The second component is the Evaluative Component, the student's evaluation of the successes or failures of various cross-cultural communication styles and their importance for the student's own ministry. This will be accomplished through the students' own interaction with the material of the course in the process of completing the assigned reading chart (requirement 1 below). This component addresses objectives 1, 2, and 3 above.

The third is the Integrative Component. Each student will complete a research project as described below (requirement 3). This project will give the student the opportunity to examine one culture in depth and to prepare a relevant presentation of the gospel for that culture. This component addresses the general purpose of the course to enable the students to develop skills for utilizing cross-cultural communication, and addresses objectives 1, 4, and 5 above.

### Resources

Students are expected to secure their own copies of all required textbooks. The Erskine Campus Bookstore will carry a limited number of copies of every required text and orders for books can be placed through the Campus Bookstore. The seminary also has a bookstore portal on its website at <http://www.erskineseminary.org/bookstore.html>.

Here you will find links to familiar vendors and can check availability of texts, compare prices, and place orders. While students may order their books from any source, orders placed with the vendors listed, **through the seminary's web**

site, earn a small rebate, a percentage of which goes to benefit the Seminary's Student Body Association.

### Required Texts

Johnstone, Patrick and Jason Mandryk. *Operation World: 21st Century Edition*. 6th Edition. Waynesboro, Ga.: Paternoster, 2001.

Kraft, Charles H. *Communication Theory for Christian Witness*. Revised Edition. Maryknoll, N.Y.: Orbis, 2005.

Tucker, Ruth A. *From Jerusalem to Irian Jaya: A Biographical History of Christian Missions*. 2nd Edition. Grand Rapids, Mich.: Zondervan, 2004.

Note: The professor will post additional handouts and other reading assignments in the online classroom.

### Grading Criteria and Scale

Note current catalog:

A	95-100	4.0	A-	93-94	3.7
B+	91-92	3.3	B	88-90	3.0
B-	86-87	2.7			
C+	84-85	2.3	C	80-83	2.0
C-	78-79	1.7			
D+	76-77	1.3	D	72-75	1.0
D-	70-71	0.7			
F	0-69	0.0			

### Course Components

#### FAQ's

1. All assignments must be submitted via e-mail attachments unless otherwise notified.
2. Please use Microsoft Word when submitting assignments electronically.
3. All assignments should be clearly marked on the e-mail subject line with the student's last name and assignment number. Failure to include this information will result in a returned assignment.

#### COURSE PLATFORM

Erskine Seminary is accredited by the Association of Theological Schools (ATS). According to the ATS Standard 10.3.4.3, "Institutions shall ensure that distance



education programs provide appropriate opportunity for collaboration, personal development, interaction among peers within a community of learning, and supervised field or internship opportunities when appropriate to the degree program.” It is with this stipulation that EDEN has implemented a web-based learning platform which will serve to provide a number of collaborative learning experiences. The learning platform is Moodle and according to their website, “Moodle is a course management system designed to help educators who want to create quality online courses . . . and create effective online learning communities.” You will be provided with additional information concerning Moodle tutorials, site information, and the peer mentoring program. In order to meet the online discussion component of this course, you will need:

- A computer (or access to a computer)
- High speed access to the Internet

## Course Requirements

The purpose and objectives of this course will be achieved through the following modules.

**Requirement One (30 points):** Each student will read Tucker’s *From Jerusalem to Irian Jaya* in its entirety and complete a weekly reading log online indicating key features of 2 missionaries per chapter. The logs will serve as the foundation for the **weekly discussion board**, in which each student must participate. “Participation” means a response to the reading log and a short response to at least one other student on the discussion board (if applicable). Each student is expected to respond by 10:00 pm Saturday. Late entries will be marked down one grade point per late entry. At the end of the semester a statement will be required from each student indicating the percentage of reading completed on time throughout the semester. This assignment addresses objective 1.

**Requirement Two (20 points):** Each student will read the Kraft assignments as posted. The professor will post a question online each week which will cover material from the Kraft text. Students must participate in the discussion board postings. “Participation” means a response to the professor’s question and a short response to at least one other student on the discussion board (if applicable). Each student is expected to respond by 10:00 pm Saturday. Late entries will be marked down one grade point per late entry. At the end of the semester a statement will be required from each student indicating the percentage of reading completed on time throughout the semester. This assignment addresses objective 2.

**Requirement Three (10 points):** Each student will pray regularly for the countries listed in the Operation World text for the dates covered by the semester

in which this course is taken. Online entries are to be made recording the student's topics of prayer. This assignment addresses objectives 1, 3, 4, and 5.

**Requirement Four (40 points):** Each student will prepare a strategy for effectively communicating the Gospel in a culture different from his or her own. The project will involve extensive independent research following guidelines provided by the professor, incorporation of the lecture and textbook material, and creativity in addressing the topic. This assignment addresses objectives 1, 3, 4, and 5. Assignments will be uploaded to the online classroom.

### MODULE #1

All work for the first module is due five weeks from the **course** start date.

Weeks	Topics	Assignment
1	Introduction	Post an introduction to the online discussion board.
2	Communication Theory I	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Requirements 1 - 3</li> <li>• Read Kraft, chaps. 1, 2, 3</li> </ul>
3	Communication Theory II	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Requirements 1 - 3</li> <li>• Read Kraft, chaps. 4, 5, 6</li> </ul>
4	Communication Theory III	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Requirements 1 - 3</li> <li>• Read Kraft, chaps. 7, 8</li> <li>• Read Tucker, chaps. 1, 2</li> </ul>
5	Worldview	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Requirements 1 - 3</li> <li>• Read Kraft, chaps. 10</li> <li>• Read Tucker, chaps. 3, 4</li> </ul>

### MODULE #2

All work for the second module is due nine weeks from the **course** start date.

Weeks	Topics	Assignment
6	Cognitive Processes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Requirements 1 – 3</li> <li>• Read Tucker, chaps. 5, 6</li> </ul>
7	Linguistic Forms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Requirements 1 – 3</li> <li>• Read Tucker, chaps. 7, 8</li> </ul>
8	Behavioral Patterns	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Requirements 1 – 3</li> <li>• Read Tucker, chaps. 9, 10</li> </ul>
9	Social Structures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Requirements 1 – 3</li> <li>• Read Tucker, chaps. 11, 12</li> <li>• Begin working on Requirement 4</li> </ul>



**MODULE #3**

All work for the third module is due twelve weeks from the **course** start date.

<b>Weeks</b>	<b>Topics</b>	<b>Assignment</b>
10	Media Influences	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Requirements 1 – 4</li> <li>• Read Kraft, chaps. 9</li> <li>• Read Tucker, chaps. 13, 14</li> </ul>
11	Motivational Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Requirements 1 – 4</li> <li>• Read Kraft, chap. 11</li> <li>• Read Tucker, chaps. 15, 16</li> </ul>
12	Culture Change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Requirements 1 – 4</li> <li>• Read Kraft, chap. 12</li> <li>• Read Tucker, chaps. 17, 18</li> <li>• Final project due</li> </ul>

**WRITING THEOLOGICAL PAPERS**

The seminary has produced a *Writing Theological Papers* document that guides a student through the process of producing a high quality theological paper. It is included as part of the materials for this course located in the online classroom and is part of your Student Handbook provided by the seminary.

Please edit your paper for typographical errors, misspelled words, stylistic miscues, and grammatical mistakes. The paper should be double-spaced and constitute original work written for this course only and cannot include material previously used in another course or for another purpose. Please read over the notation regarding the seminary policy on plagiarism included at the end of this syllabus. Your use of the work or thoughts of another without proper citation and acknowledgement constitutes plagiarism. **Content found at an Internet web site is construed to be copyrighted material written and produced by another person.** Undocumented wholesale use of words from an Internet web site passed off as the student's own work in a research paper of this sort constitutes plagiarism and will be considered a violation of the seminary plagiarism policy. Students who are determined to have violated the seminary's policy on plagiarism will receive a grade of zero for the paper, will not be allowed to re-submit another paper, and will have a written record of the violation added to their permanent student record. Further violations of the seminary's plagiarism policy could result in temporary or permanent dismissal from the seminary.

**Relevant Institutional and Course Policies**

[http://seminary.erskine.edu/content\\_policies/SeminaryPoliciesforETSSStudents.pdf](http://seminary.erskine.edu/content_policies/SeminaryPoliciesforETSSStudents.pdf)