ICS590—On-line
Contextual Education: Self Care and the Contextual Learner
Fall 2013

Note: I have labeled this as ICS590B since this is the second part of the 365m signature courses that all have the ICS590 designation.

Essential Information
Please refer to the following resources for information essential for the successful completion of courses and degree programs at Nazarene Theological Seminary. Links to these resources are available in the Essential Information section at http://support.nts.edu.

- NTS Mission Statement & Purpose Degree Objectives
- Tips for online learning success
- NTS library services
- NTS textbook information
- Online technical requirements and Moodle support information
- NTS Student Handbook including statements on quality of work, plagiarism, and academic probation
- Handbook for Inclusive Language

Instructor Information
Professors: David Wesley, Ph.D. and Norm Henry, Ph.D. Email: dwwesley@nts.edu, normhenry@live.com
Office: (816) 268-5494
Office Hours: For appointments with course instructor please contact the instructors by email to set up a phone call or Skype meeting.

Catalog Description
This one hour course establishes the foundational aspects of 365m as a contextual learning experience. This course explicitly seeks to empower students for sustained cross-cultural ministry engagement by providing a basis for affective self-understanding and self-care within the environment of cross-cultural Christian ministry. This course is intended for and limited to those enrolled 365m students with an approved cross-cultural experience established.
**Course Narrative & Rationale**

Self-care that takes into account the complexities of self-understanding as well as the complexities of context is vital for long term effective ministry in cross-cultural contexts. This course is designed to specifically address that need within the framework of contextual learning in 365m.

This course is designed as a practical integration of critical reading, assessment inventories, direct interaction with course instructors and other students. A major part of this course is developing and implementing a strategy for self-care within the context of a one year learning internship. Only students who are currently in a mission assignment or urban ministry or students who anticipate in entering this type of ministry within a year through 365m or a similar ministry should take this course.

This course is part (one credit hour) of a signature course for 365m that has three parts in total. The signature course is a total of three credit hours and establishes the foundational aspects of 365m as a contextual learning experience. The signature course explicitly responds to the following objective of the Diploma in Cross-Cultural Ministry which is in the 365m program handbook:

2. **To empower students for sustained cross-cultural ministry engagement by providing fiscal, intellectual and affective self-understanding.**
   
   b. Students will demonstrate self-understanding and self-care within the environment of cross-cultural Christian ministry.

This course will be taught as a one hour fall online course. For 365m students, this course is one section of three sections of a signature course. This course will culminate with a final assessment when students return from their learning internship.

**Degree Objectives**

This course responds to the following objectives of the MDiv Degree:

1. **Mature knowledge of God and self, attained through practices of Christian formation and personal discipline, exhibited in the following outcomes; the student will:**
   
   a. Engage in ongoing Christian formation through practices grounded in the corporate life of the Church
   
   b. Draw broadly from the Christian tradition’s personal and communal formation practices
   
   c. Articulate self-knowledge of personality characteristics, strengths and weaknesses
   
   d. Engage individual traits for growth in personal devotion, relationships of integrity, and ministry effectiveness
   
   e. Renew continually into the image of Christ and participate as a vital part of the Body of Christ.
This course responds to the following objective of the MA/ICS Degree:

1. Knowledge of the Christian faith understood in its biblical foundations, historical developments, and theological expressions, exhibited in the following outcomes;
the student will:

   d. Cultivate spiritual formation, in both its personal and communal dimensions, in a variety of cultural settings.

**Course Outcomes**

a. Students will be led to identify and developing personal awareness as a cross-cultural minister. *(Assignments 1, 2, 3 and 4. Required reading)*

b. Students will cultivate personal gifts and cultural intelligence. *(Assignments 4, 5, 6, and 7. Required reading)*

c. Students will develop tools to maintain healthy relationships with others within the context of cross-cultural ministry. *(Assignments 3, 4, 5 and 6. Required reading)*

**Required Texts & Course Materials**


Up to 100 additional pages of articles and on-line sources may be required during the course.

**Course Outline**

*Course outline will be included in the course map.*

**Course Assignments & Requirements**

Assignment 1: Complete brief (2 pages) autobiography including spiritual journey and formative influences. *(Course outcome a)*

Assignment 2: Complete Ten Life Statements. Template provided by the instructor. *(Course outcome a, b and c)*

Assignment 3: Complete CernySmith Assessment Inventory, a cross-cultural adjustment instrument. A feedback report is part of the assessment. No cost, Nazarene Global Mission covers this. The instructor will send a link to each student to take the inventory. The student
will complete a brief (one page or less) response to the results of this inventory. *(course outcome a)*

Assignment 4: Introductory Skype interview with the instructor dialoging about the assignments. Following this conversation, student will share in writing one page of initial thoughts on self-care, especially in preparation for cross-cultural ministry. The spiritual area will include the search for a sustaining/encouraging Scripture for the journey. *(course outcome b and c)*

Assignment 5: "Maintaining Balance in an Unbalanced World" seminar. Each student will then be required to establish in writing their personal "Self-Care Plan" addressing each of the five areas for personal health and show understanding of how self-care contributes to Incarnational ministry. Students will also be asked to respond to the text, *Cultural Intelligence*, by responding to stimulus questions related to personal relevance of the material. *(course outcome a, b and c)*

Assignment 6: Midterm checkup will include completing the CernySmith Assessment Inventory, with feedback and Skype discussion. *(course outcome a, b and c)*

Assignment 7: Following the year of study/ministry, each student will again complete the CernySmith Assessment Inventory with the results processed. *(outcomes a, b and c)*

Students are reminded of the following *minimum* requirements for online participation:

- Students are encouraged to read posts nearly every day.
- Students are required to write a quality post at least three days each week.
- A quality post is one that begins a new topic, critical reflection on another person’s post, or one that moves the discussion in a new direction.
- Unless otherwise assigned, posts in a Forum should be at least 75 words for a new topic and at least 50 words for a response to another’s topic.
- An assignment posted in a Discussion Forum may be considered a quality post at the discretion of the instructor.
- Correct grammar and accurate spelling are expected.

**Distribution of Student Learning Hours**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Online Participation in forums, groups, etc.</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reading</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Writing</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Assignments and Learning Activities</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exams &amp; Quizzes</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>49</td>
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</tbody>
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**Method for Submitting Assignments**
All assignments for online courses will be submitted using the corresponding location within the Moodle course. Assignments should not be submitted by hardcopy, fax or email.

**Form and Style Expectations**
All assignments should reflect care and professionalism in grammar, style and presentation. A guide for each assignment will be provided on Moodle.

**Inclusive Language**
NTS is committed to the equality of women and men. Recognizing that people have often used the English language in ways that imply the exclusion or inferiority of women, NTS urges students, faculty, and staff to avoid sexist language in public discourse, in classroom discussions, and in their writings. All written work presented to meet course requirements must use gender inclusive language.

**Policy Regarding Late Work & Missed Exams**
Do to the interactive and time sensitive nature of this course, late assignments outside of extreme emergencies will not be accepted.

**Course Grading**
This course will be graded as Pass/Fail.
Passing this course will require:
1. Faithful and active participation in all classes.
2. On-time submission of assignments.
3. A satisfactory level of completion of assignments. Note that the course instructors will provide feedback if an assignment is submitted, but not satisfactory and will give a reasonable new due date to re-submit any assignment.

If a student does not meet class participation standards in an online environment, the professor may automatically fail the student.

In accordance with the provisions of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, NTS is committed to providing students with disabilities the opportunity to participate and benefit from its programs and activities. Accordingly, NTS will make reasonable modifications to its programs and activities to accommodate otherwise qualified students with disabilities, unless such modifications would impose an undue burden on the operation of the particular program or activity or would fundamentally alter the nature or purpose of the program or activity. Students needing accommodations should contact the Office of the Registrar. They also should contact the instructor no later than the end of the first class session to discuss learning needs and adaptive strategies that have been beneficial for the student in the past.

**Class Attendance**
Do to the interactive and time sensitive nature of this course, late assignments outside of extreme emergencies will not be accepted.

**Audio and Video Recordings**

In order to foster a safe learning environment in which various viewpoints are respected, audio or video recordings or transcripts thereof by students is prohibited without the permission of the faculty member in charge of the course. If permission is granted, redistribution of these recordings or transcripts thereof outside the scope of the course is prohibited.

*COURSE CALENDAR WILL BE PROVIDED WITHIN ONE WEEK OF THE BEGINNING OF THE COURSE*