

‘Cross-Cultural Communication’ – Course Curriculum

Church Planting Modules

Building Relationships

- This module will prepare students to live successfully in cross-cultural situations in a way that will prepare the people to receive the gospel. We prepare for Bible Translation, Teaching and Church Planting – but without good relationships with the people we work with, we will never see a church planted.
- How then should we live among them?
- How should we interact with the local leaders?
- What are some of key principles that apply to any cross-cultural church planting situation?

Church Planting and Doctrine

- There are many differences between believers over doctrine – some minor, some major. What are the major differences in doctrine that will impact a church planting team and prevent them from working effectively together?
- In what areas do students need to continue to study as they work through their own personal beliefs?

Church Planting Research Project

- Using an outline of the different steps involved in church planting and using a cultural write up on a people group, the student’s self-study and write up a proposal on how they would work with these people (theoretical exercise).

Foundational Bible Teaching

- NTM has found teaching chronologically (“Foundational Bible Teaching”, “Creation to Christ” or “Eternity to Eternity”) to be an extremely effective method of teaching people new to the truths of God’s Word. The purpose of this unit is to give a thorough practical knowledge of how to do this with an unreached people group.

Global Perspectives

- In this short module, an experienced missionary will give an overview of the progress of the completion of the Great Commission, especially regarding people groups that have never yet heard the gospel.

Infant Church

- This module is to help the students understand the particular challenges of the new church in its early months and to help the believers with the challenges and potential conflicts that may arise.
- How do we help the people 'live the Christian life'?
- How should they relate to each other as believers as part of the church family?
- What are the most important things they need to understand to enable them to live with joy in their new life in Christ?

Preaching and Teaching

- Missionaries and missionary candidates are often called upon to speak and preach in churches. This module will go over the steps in preparing and delivering an effective and interesting talk or sermon. The purpose of this module is to give students the necessary skills to prepare and deliver a sermon that is solidly scriptural, inspiring, informative and challenging.

Pre-teaching

- Pre-Teaching or Pre-Evangelism is the intensive period in the run up to starting Foundational Bible Teaching for the first time.
- During this period, we need to understand their worldview and how they think.
- We need to show them where there are assumptions and errors in their worldview.
- We seek to stimulate their excitement and interest in the coming message.
- How this happens is discussed and demonstrated using real life scenarios.

Support Roles

- In order to support church planting in remote areas, there needs to be a team of dedicated missionaries supporting that effort.
- This module gives an overview of the different types of support work,
- e.g. pilots, supply buyers, teachers, mechanics, builders, admin staff, accountants, nurses, doctors, physio-therapists, dentists, IT, secretaries, maintenance, advisors for language learning, literacy, church planting, etc. Students will understand how support work fits into the big picture of church planting.

Teaching Chronologically

- The purpose of this unit is to give practice in teaching God's Word chronologically to an unreached people group.
- The student will prepare Bible lessons and identify the important truths to be taught in each lesson and then teach them using illustrations that are culturally appropriate for a specific people group (one which the student has previously studied in the Culture Investigation module).

The Big Picture

- This is a presentation giving an orderly overview of the missionary candidate's future life in ministry.
- This is so that the student can see the "Big Picture" of what is involved in reaching and teaching unreached people groups in terms of evangelism and church planting. It also gives an overview of how the parts of the course relate to the whole purpose of preparing to serve as missionaries

Cross-Cultural Modules

Animism

- Animism is the religion of many people groups throughout the world.
- This module covers the general concepts and practices of animism and folk religions. The student will gain a basic understanding of how most animists think and how they relate to the world they live in.
- Students will also gain an appreciation of why a good understanding of animism is essential for working amongst remote people groups.

Cultural Anthropology

- This module provides a methodology for cultural analysis.
- The student is taught how to define culture, analyse it and file cultural data in a computer programme using the OCM (Outline of Cultural Materials).
- The student will also learn why a good understanding of culture is essential to cross-cultural evangelism and church planting.

Cultural Investigation

- The purpose of this module is to practice filing and analysing cultural data using a well-documented Northern Californian tribe.
- Also to understand how another people group thinks and then use that knowledge to summarise the themes and most important values of the group. The student is shown that using this knowledge results in teaching that is more effective with this people group.

Field Orientation

- This module seeks to provide a broad overview of what is involved in the process of arriving in a new country.
- It teaches about the necessary adjustments the new missionary will face and a general overview of how mission fields function.
- The module includes presentations of the various ministries from missionaries who have served on the field.

Ministering Cross Culturally

- The key components in becoming an effective communicator in a cross-cultural context are covered in this module.
Different values in cultures are compared, e.g. time versus event orientation so as to understand the differences better.
- The student will gain an understanding of how individuals acquire and apply cultural information, how conflicts arise in cross-cultural situations, and tools to help them adapt to cultures different from their own.
- The student will also begin to gain an insight into their own cultural values so as to be more aware of areas of potential conflict with other cultures.

Understanding Buddhism

- The purpose of this module is to give a basic introduction to Buddhism, its history, beliefs and practices.

Understanding Islam

- The purpose of this module is to give a basic introduction to Islam, its history, beliefs and practices.

Working With Other Cultures

- Ways to more effectively work with other cultures, in teams overseas are discussed.

Language/Linguistic Modules

Linguistic Aptitude Evaluation

- An evaluation to assess linguistic aptitude

Learning Styles Workshop

- The different learning styles are presented and students are encouraged to reflect on what is their optimal learning style.

Phonemics

- This unit builds on the knowledge gained in Phonetics and is the science of alphabet formation.
- The course introduces the process of reducing a language to writing as this is a vital first step towards literacy and Bible translation.
- Students will learn how to determine the phonology of a language and understand the necessary steps to produce an alphabet in that language.
- They will practice doing this using language problems that are based on real languages.

Phonetics

- Using the IPA (International Phonetic Alphabet) phonetic system, this unit teaches how speech sounds are produced, as well as how to accurately recognise, transcribe and reproduce them.
- These skills are important tools in learning unwritten languages where many of the speech sounds will differ from the missionary's mother tongue.
- Students will learn how to accurately recognise, transcribe and reproduce the sounds of the International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA).

Christian Life Modules

Chapel

- Chapel times are shared by all the students of the different courses two or three times a week.
- The purpose of chapel is to focus on the Lord and spend time in worship together, as well as to hear practical teaching from the Bible.
- Often overseas missionaries pass through the college and share of their experiences on the field in the chapel class time.

Christian Life

- This module begins with a brief look at the believer's position in Christ and the need to be God-focused rather than self-focused. It is a very practical class showing how to apply the teaching in the NT to our daily lives.
- Students are taken through a series of studies based on Romans 5 to 8 as well as the book of 1 John. The course will include the origin of self-focused thinking, Christ and the cross, the believer's position in Christ and the ministry of the Holy Spirit in a believer's life. This module begins with a brief look at the believer's position in Christ and the need to be God-focused rather than self-focused. It is a very practical class showing how to apply the teaching in the NT to our daily lives. Students will learn how to have a spiritually stable walk with the Lord, as they learn to depend on Him.

Days of Prayer

- Students meet to pray about a range of topics in groups and individually.

Hold the Ropes

- Students pray in groups about various situations around the world.

Leadership

- In this module the student will learn the biblical principles of leadership.
- The study includes both the personal and spiritual characteristics of a leader, together with how leadership principles work in everyday life, particularly on the mission field.

Spiritual Gifts Workshop

- Time for the students to explore and consider what are the spiritual gifts God gives to all believers to edify the church.

Teamwork

- Teamwork often involves interpersonal conflict and this is a major reason why missionaries return home.
- In this important module, the student learns the basic principles of how to work well together with others on a team, particularly in a church planting situation.
- The student is also taught:
 - The biblical basis of teamwork;
 - To understand different team structures.
 - To see the importance of teams having shared vision, goals and objectives.

Time Management

- This class teaches the vital importance of managing time effectively, including the 'why' and 'how' of setting goals in a way to glorify God.

Family Relationships/Singles Modules

Missionary Kids Education

- Missionary's children (MK's) are an important part of the missionary team. The choices parents make for their children's education not only affects their children but also the team they are working in.
- In this module we will look at the different educational options on the mission field and the value of long-term educational planning.

Relationships and Ministry 1

- The Relationships and Ministry modules teach on the biblical values of love and respect for others, using the Bible to demonstrate the basis and reasons for these.
- In reference to vocational work as a missionary, the Relationships and Ministry modules cover some of the core relationships of the missionary with those they work closely with, i.e. married couples, single people and the relationship of parents to their children. Typically, missionaries with NTM work in teams that will include these relationships lived out before the people among whom they work, so whatever a person's situation in life, they will be working with others who are dealing with the relationship issues covered in these modules.

- This module is designed to equip students with sound biblical principles for family life, particularly in relationship to living in a foreign culture.
- The module also has valuable lessons on how men and women communicate in different ways and shows how to understand others better.
- There is an emphasis on how to improve communication, love and respect for others, especially between a married couple, however, many of these lessons also apply to other relationships with co-workers.

Relationships and Ministry 2

- The Relationships and Ministry modules teach on the biblical values of love and respect for others, using the Bible to demonstrate the basis and reasons for these.
- In reference to vocational work as a missionary, the Relationships and Ministry modules cover some of the core relationships of the missionary with those they work closely with, i.e. married couples, single people and the relationship of parents to their children. Typically, missionaries with NTM work in teams that will include these relationships lived out before the people among whom they work, so whatever a person's situation in life, they will be working with others who are dealing with the relationship issues covered in these modules.
- This module seeks to provide practical Biblical help for developing good parent-child relationships that can bring glory to God, both on the mission field and in the home country.

Relationships and Ministry 3

- The Relationships and Ministry modules teach on the biblical values of love and respect for others, using the Bible to demonstrate the basis and reasons for these.
- In reference to vocational work as a missionary, the Relationships and Ministry modules cover some of the core relationships of the missionary with those they work closely with, i.e. married couples, single people and the relationship of parents to their children. Typically, missionaries with NTM work in teams that will include these relationships lived out before the people among whom they work, so whatever a person's situation in life, they will be working with others who are dealing with the relationship issues covered in these modules.
- Whether single or married, all believers have an important role in the body of Christ and as a part of the NTM team.
- This class considers the blessings and challenges unique to the single life, and students can contemplate the implications for serving overseas where many of our teams combine singles and married couples/families and work together harmoniously.

- Understanding one another enables us to treat each other with dignity and respect, to better care for and encourage one another and therefore bring honour and glory to God.

Safeguarding

- This module defines child abuse and aims to raise the student's awareness of its different forms.
- It also looks at the major areas of abuse; how to recognise and respond to it, and also how to deal with the long-term effects of abuse.
- We talk about how to put measures in place to safeguard and protect children and to prevent abuse from taking place.
- We teach about how to safeguard children in an overseas situation and also how to teach children in this area.

Practical Living Modules

Cookery

- This module is a hands-on experience!
- Multiple uses for one recipe are explained and students are taught quick, easy and adaptable recipes, as well as doing a variety of food preparation and cooking.
- Meal planning and special occasions are discussed, as well as long term supply buying and substitutions for items they might not be able to get on the mission field.
- Useful tips learned over many years from experienced missionaries will be shared.
- Students will gain the skills that will help them practically on the mission field with being able to cook meals that are quick, easy and adapted to the culture in which they are living.
- At the conclusion of the module, students will cook an evening buffet meal based on these concepts.

Community Work Day

- Practice service in the community to foster good relationships.

Medical Matters

- This module prepares the missionary candidate for life in the developing world.
- The module will show how to maintain good health in a challenging environment. It will cover how to recognise common diseases as well as serious illness.
- It will cover guidelines on what to do in an emergency when medical help is not readily available

- Students will be taught how to make use of the existing medical help and facilities in that country.

Off Grid Tech

- Living in an isolated setting without electricity or other amenities presents unique challenges!
- This module is designed to give hands-on instruction in various technical skills such as setting up a solar power electrical system, water filtration models and simple building techniques.
- The student will see how many of these projects can also be used to also help indigenous people in community development.

Orientation

- Students are given orientation to the course and college.

Outdoor Survival Training

- In this four-day experience, living and sleeping outdoors, an expert in outdoor survival will teach the following:
- How to build a shelter from materials found in the forest.
- How to light a fire without using matches.
- How to collect and filter water and also how to recognise and gather edible wild food.
- During it, students will acquire the basic skills needed to survive outdoors in a remote situation.

Photography

- This course is designed to give the student tools to enhance their ability to communicate effectively using photographs.
- The student will learn basic tips and helps for composing photos to a higher standard than the average camera user.
- They will also learn how to alter a digital image of a self-portrait to produce a prayer card, along with the skills and software needed for that purpose.
- The student will learn how to compose photos more effectively.
- They will learn how to alter a digital image of a self-portrait to produce a prayer card, along with the skills and software needed for that purpose

Practical Programme

- This normally runs three afternoons each week, and is a time when all students join together in a practical programme in which various tasks are given to assist in the practical running of the campus. It also provides useful experience in learning to apply Christian life principles at work and a practical opportunity to serve the Lord and each other.

Preparation and Partnership

- This module seeks to provide the student with a good understanding of all aspects of preparation for the field as well as how to present their work to various audiences during home leave times.
- This is a practical module with opportunities for students to present in various churches the Biblical basis for missionary work, and communicate that vision clearly.
- Students will be shown how to do present in a manner that stimulates an interest and burden for the needs of unreached people groups.
- The student will also learn how to establish and maintain a partnership with interested supporters.