

Cross Cultural Education at

Drew Theological School

HISTORY/PURPOSE

"In a world where diversity is often an excuse for hatred and a trigger for violence, Drew students learn to use diversity as a key to unlock the mysteries of a God beyond individual understanding, who is revealed more fully through our shared faith and experience." (Drew catalog 2003-2005, pg.9)

In May of 2000 the faculty of Drew Theological School voted to require all Master of Divinity students to enroll in a cross-cultural course as part of the degree requirements. Students choose from several options, both domestic and abroad, to fulfill this requirement. This experience of difference will allow students to view their own lives, values, and belief systems with greater objectivity while encouraging them to experience a culture that is not their own. The following topics are representative of the issues addressed in cross-cultural study in the Theological School: Health care, healing rituals, liberation theology, economic development, socialism and politics, inter-religious conflict and dialog, ecology, women and children, family structures and systems, social justice and the role of the church in social transformation. Reflection on these and related topics enables students to think more critically about issues of ministry and the role of the religious leader in the greater society.

DETAILS OF COURSE CREDITS.

All cross cultural courses consist of an on-campus class prior to a two to three week immersion experience in a culture with which the student is not familiar. Traveling in groups of 10-15 and accompanied by a member of the Theological School faculty, students study the religious, political, economic, social, and historical realities of the region. Upon returning to campus students engage in several hours of debriefing and discussion of the experience. The class makes a presentation to the wider Theological School community about the experience, usually in a chapel service in the semester following the travel off-campus.

REGISTRATION/FINANCIAL ISSUES

Students register for a cross-cultural course the semester before they travel off-campus. Pre-departure courses are scheduled in the fall for January trips and in the spring for credit for the pre-departure coursework and two (2) credits for the off-campus immersion experience. Students are responsible for both tuition and travel costs for the trip.

Tuition costs for the 3 credit course are covered by financial aid at the same percentage as regular academic coursework.

Travel costs, i.e. airfare, lodging, meals, admission fees, are not covered by financial aid and are calculated based on the number of participants and vary dependent on

destination. Estimates will be recalculated closer to departure times to reflect prevailing economic realities. Prices quoted reflect a substantial subsidy through the Melander-Bollenger Fund of Drew Theological School and therefore no additional scholarship help is available from Drew. Prices are based on 10 student participants.

PROPOSED SCHEDULE

The following schedule of courses is offered as an aid in planning to fulfill the requirement. For more information about a specific course, please contact the professor.

January 2009

CRCUL 725: Native America
Dr. Herbert Huffman
January 2-17, 2009
\$1300

CRCUL 725: El Salvador
Dr. Otto Maduro
January 3-16, 2009
\$1500

Summer 2009

CRCUL 725: Appalachia
Religion and Arts in Appalachia
Rev. Ben and Nina Poague
May 22-June 5, 2009
\$950

CRCUL 725: The Philippines
Drs. Elizabeth Tapia and
Ada Maria Isasi Diaz
June 9-26, 2009
price \$1800

CRCUL 725: Taize
Rev. Jeff Markay
Pilgrimage to Taize, France
July 23-August 3, 2009
\$2,000 payable to Greater NJ
Conference of the UMC

January 2010

CRCUL725: Mexico City
Drs. Arthur Pressley & Elizabeth Tapia

CRCUL 725: India
Dr. Wesley Ariarajah

Summer 2010

CRCUL 725: Hawaii
Drs. Lynne Westfield & Heather Elkins

CRCUL 725: Taize , France
Rev. Jeff Markay
July

January 2011

CRCUL 725: Turkey
Dr. Melanie Johnson DeBaufre

Summer 2011

CRCUL 725: Appalachia
Dr. Heather Elkins

CRCUL 725: The Philippines
Dr. Elizabeth Tapia

Other Approved Programs

Border Links: www.borderlinks.org

Ghost Ranch: www.ghost ranch.org

Any non-Drew programs must be
approved in advance by the cross-cultural
committee.

DEADLINES AND TIMELINES

Two-thirds of the travel cost will be billed
upon enrollment in the pre-departure
course. The remaining one-third will be
billed with the two credit course. Once the
add drop period for the pre-departure
course is over, the student is liable for the
travel fee even if he/she does not go on
the trip. Additional costs, i.e. visas, shots,
may be incurred depending on destination.
Consult the lead professor for details.

The travel component of each course is
subsidized by the Theological School.
Students receive one subsidy during their
time at Drew. Students electing to do
additional cross cultural study will be
charged the full price of the trip.

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