

MN438/538 PLANNING AND LEADING SHORT-TERM MISSIONS

Course Description University of Dubuque

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Letter Grade
3 Credits

Students may participate in an online section,
or a residential section that will meet in part on Mondays 3:00-4:40.

This course prepares college and seminary students to develop ministries of short-term mission (local, domestic, or international). Attention is given to outreach that is theologically grounded, culturally sensitive, tied to the ministry and mission of the sending and receiving communities, and carried out by participants who are practically and spiritually well prepared.

The class is open to students who do not intend to participate in a seminary mission team and choose to select a particular outreach context for their final project.

This course also satisfies prerequisite classwork for UDTS sponsored mission trips. The 2016 UDTS mission trip will be in the Dominican Republic with the Foundation for Peace, May 15-26. We likely will be returning to work among Haitians in the D.R., the site facilitator is UDTS alumna Kristin Hamner. Students participating in this trip will focus their final project on preparation and implementation of that short-term mission.

Course Objectives

Students who complete this course will be able to:

1. Develop short-term mission programs that are shaped by a Christian theology of mission.
2. Describe several models for participation in short-term mission and their strengths and weaknesses.
3. Plan short-term mission in relationship with the sending and receiving communities.
4. Build, orient, disciple, lead and debrief short-term teams for effective mission.
5. Be familiar with resources for preparation and debriefing for short-term mission teams.
6. Make all necessary arrangements for domestic and international trips.

M.Div. Curricular Goals Fulfilled by This Course

- Nurture habits and disciplines of study, prayer and reflection that increase their love of God and neighbor and shape their personal and professional lives.
- Evangelize the world with faithfulness and contextual sensitivity.
- Lead and nurture congregations to promote peace and justice in the public arena and encourage the witness and service of the church in mission to the world.

- Integrate theology and practice in all areas of life and ministry.

Requirements

1. Regular attendance in class and participation in class discussion (whether online or in classroom). (10% of grade)
2. Timely completion of the assigned reading. Reading measured by weekly posting of up to 200 word responses to one of texts for the week. Post due by Sunday midnight prior to discussion online or in class on Monday's topic. (10% of grade)
3. Resource binder, 10 pages (40% of grade)
Creation and brief presentation of ten one-page tools for orientation and debriefing for use with a short-term mission team. Elements to be included in the resource notebook will be reviewed on the first day of class and will be due throughout the semester as we build up these resource kits.
4. Final project (40% of grade). Choose *a* or *b*:
 - a. For those participating in the Dominican Republic Mission trip: Weekly participation in and contribution to a virtual orientation program for this STM. There will be five one-page pre-trip written assignments related to preparation, and a final three to five page paper that addresses reflection questions. For the reflection paper, participants may choose pre-trip reflection, or post-trip evaluation (by extension, end of May).
 - b. For those focusing on another short-term mission context: Creation of a 10 page workbook for small-group orientation and debriefing related to a particular context (i.e. mission site/community) chosen by the student.

Bibliography Required

Books

- Corbett, Steve and Brian Fikkert. *Helping Without Hurting in Short-Term Missions* Leader's Guide. And *Helping Without Hurting in Short-Term Missions* Participant's Guide. Both - Chicago: Moody Publishers, 2014.
- Dearborn, Tim. *Short-Term Missions Workbook*. Downers Grove, Illinois: InterVarsity Press, 2003. Available on Kindle and Googleplay.
- Priest, Robert J., ed. *Effective Engagement in Short-Term Missions: Doing it Right!* Pasadena: Evangelical Missiological Society, 2008. Selections.
- McCaw, Beth. *Preparing for Mission*, unpublished, 2016. (Copies provided)

Articles/chapters – available by e-reserve:

- Adeney, Miriam. "McMissions: Short-Termers Have Their Place, But Not at the Expense of Career Missionaries." *Christianity Today*, November 11, 1996: 14-15.
- Bonk, Jonathan J. "Mission and the Problem of Affluence." In *Toward the 21st Century in Christian Mission*, edited by James M. Phillips and Robert T. Coote, 295-309. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Eerdmans, 1993.
- George, Sherron. *Called as Partners in Christ's Service*. Louisville, Kentucky: Geneva

- Press, 2004: chapter one required.
- Linhart, Terence D. "They were so alive!: The Spectacle Self and Youth Group Short-Term Mission Trips," *Missiology* 34 (October 2006), 451-462.
- May, Stan. "Short-Term Mission Trips are Great IF . . .," *Evangelical Missions Quarterly* 36, (2000), 444-449
- Slimbach, Richard. "First, Do No Harm," *Evangelical Missions Quarterly* 36 (October 2000): 428-441.

Several websites, links to be provided through Moodle, including that for the U.S. Standards of Excellence in Short-Term Mission.

Recommended

- George, Sherron. *Called As Partners in Christ's Service*. Louisville: Geneva Press, 2004.
The entire book is recommended, but especially chapter 2 (chapter 1 is required).
- Corbett, Steve and Brian Fikkert. *When Helping Hurts: How to Alleviate Poverty Without Hurting the Poor and Yourself*. Chicago: Moody Press, 2014.
- Howell, Brian M. *Short-Term Mission: An Ethnography of Christian Travel Narrative and Experience*. Downers Grover: InterVarsity Press, 2012.
- Peterson, Roger P., Gordon Aeschliman, and R. Wayne Sneed. *Maximum Impact Short-Term Mission*. Minneapolis, Minnesota: STEM Press, 2008. Selections.