

Syllabus

Learning Culture through Purposeful Observation

Course Creators and Facilitators

This course was created by Mark Morgenstern and Bob Mackey. Mark is the former training director for ReachGlobal and current director for continuing learning through the CIT Next ministry of Center for Intercultural Training. Bob serves on the training team for World Team and has past experience as the training director for UWM during which time he also served as a member of the Center for Intercultural Training facilitation team.

Course Description

Learning Culture through Purposeful Observation is a one-week CIT Next online course designed to help you as a new missionary or cross-cultural worker beginning to put into practice your culture learning skills. The course asks you to make an **investment of 4-6 hours of learning time**. First, you'll review some basic concepts of culture and participant observation. Next, you'll get to practice observation and assessment through a fiction-based activity. And the final task is a guided observation project on-site at a venue of your choice -- a Christian gathering, a social event, a public place...

Learning Culture will afford you not just the opportunity to explore some interesting information regarding culture and observation methods, but, more importantly, it will connect you with fellow learners who are in a similar stage of culture learning themselves. You'll be able to help each other and learn from one-another. Your course facilitator will also be a great resource for clarifying what you are learning and providing you with input on assignments you will complete and discussions in which you will participate.

Intended Audience

Learning Culture through Purposeful Observation is designed for those desiring to truly understand culture and contextualize ministry to the local situation where they minister. If you've been settled into your place of ongoing ministry for 2-12 months and have a commitment to grow in your contextualization abilities, this would be a good course for you.

Course Materials

All readings and materials required will be available on the course site or through sites visited by Internet.

Course Mechanics

The key to successful learning in this course is interaction. This interaction takes place both with the facilitator and with the other participants in the course. It is vital that each participant faithfully post responses on time and reply to the posts of other participants. You will not receive a grade or mark from your facilitator. Your success in learning will be measured by you

and your team when they notice the impact of the lessons learned on your culture-learning abilities.

Please note that ideally, for maximum learning impact, a learner in this course will spend 30-90 minutes daily (Monday - Friday) working on the material. Some of the course work will involve reading, writing, listening and viewing cultural videos on the computer. Other pieces will involve interacting with other learners and engaging in your local community practicing the skills you are learning.

We want you to engage with each other as well as with the subject matter. Don't be afraid to articulate your unique ideas, think critically, or ask challenging questions of others in a godly manner. Of course, your words of encouragement to fellow participants are always welcome. Before you begin the course content and activities, please carefully review and complete activities under "Getting Started." Important introductory information and course navigation tips are presented there.

The course will require 4 - 6 hours of work, depending on your level of interaction with the other students. All the material is presented online, and will be a mix of text, audio and video.

Please complete all the activities in the order they are presented. A main part of the course is the interaction between participants and the facilitator through forums. This is an asynchronous course, so there are not specific times you need to be online. Participants will be in several different time zones around the world, so there is not one set time when everyone is online at the same time. The assignments have due dates, and within the boundaries of those due dates you are free to complete those assignments according to your schedule (i.e., you can do them at night, in the morning, at lunch, etc.). Please note that all references in the instructions forums, quizzes, and wikis to days when an item is due (without a particular time on the clock included), refers to Eastern Time, USA (New York).

Copyright Issues

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