

# Syllabus for Contextualization and Culture Study

## Course Creators

This course was created by a team led by Dr. Jeff Hogue. Jeff is a veteran church planter in Southeast Asia and college professor. He holds a Masters Degree in Biblical Studies and a Doctorate in Intercultural Studies. He is passionate about ethnographic research and contextualization. His most recent academic work is entitled: *Incorporating a Religious Logic into a Discipleship Program: A Strategy for Khmer House Churches*. The design team also includes Dr. Donald Grigorenko, Rev. Ted Szymczak, Dr. Karry Kelly and Mark Morgenstern, all of whom also have extensive cross-cultural ministry experience.

## Course Description

*Contextualization and Culture Study* introduces foundational concepts of contextualization and its importance for effective ministry and underlines contextualization's inseparable link to purposeful culture study. In order to effectively minister in a culturally distant context, the practitioner needs to address the cultural separation. Failing to do so will often lead to a failure to communicate the good news significantly in the new culture.

The intended audience for this course are those that have been on the field more than 2 months desire to truly understand culture and contextualize ministry to the local situation where they minister.

## Time commitment involved

This course asks you to make an investment of 5-7 hours of learning time over the 8-day period. Please note that ideally, for maximum learning impact, a learner in this course will spend 45-75 minutes daily working on the material. Some of the coursework will involve reading, writing, listening and viewing videos on the computer. Other pieces will involve interacting with other learners and engaging in your local community while practicing the skills you are learning.

## Course Outcomes

As a result of robust participation in the course and all its elements and activities, our hope is that each learner will grow in knowledge, beliefs, and skills.

This course will help you...

- Define Contextualization and explore its components
- Identify biblical examples of contextualization

- Explain why contextualization is an important concept in today's cross-cultural ministry work.
- Value cultural understanding as a strategic component of the missionary task.
- Define Indigenization.
- Describe the commonly employed translation contextualization model and realize its dangers.
- Understand the big picture of ethnography as being qualitative open-ended inquiry.
- Summarize the basic ethnographic progression from identifying something of interest in the host culture to the final ethnographic report.
- Be aware of and understand key terms and concepts useful for culture study (ethnography.)
- Create within yourself incentive and processing opportunity around significant cultural interaction and learning in your host culture

### **Course Materials**

All readings and materials required for this course 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 walk with God and your implementation of ministry.

You should plan to participate in the course almost every day. 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 work, please carefully complete the introductory activities that will help you in navigating the course. The course will require 5-7 hours a week 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 weekly 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 to due dates and times refer to Eastern Time, USA (New York).

**Copyright Issues**

Please note that materials available through this course may be copyright protected by third parties. They are provided here solely for use by the participants enrolled in this course. Please do not distribute, post, or publish any materials in this course without the express permission of the copyright holders.