

Note:

COURSE CONTENT MAY BE CHANGED, TERM TO TERM, WITHOUT NOTICE. THE INFORMATION BELOW IS PROVIDED AS A GUIDE FOR COURSE SELECTION AND IS NOT BINDING IN ANY FORM.

MOODY DISTANCE LEARNING

Course Number, Name, and Credit Hours

CUL3301 Analyzing Cultural Challenges - Action Research, 3 credit hours (in 8-week, online format)

Course Description

An introduction to the theory and practice of action research methodologies. Focus on the application of action research methods to a cultural challenge. Data gathering, organization, and analysis will also be addressed.

Course Objectives

By the completion of this course, the learners should be able to:

1. **Defend** the role of research in ministry
2. **Recognize** the attributes of a specific culture using research methods
3. **Synthesize** information from a variety of sources through action research
4. **Develop** a theologically-informed proposal analyzing cultural change
5. **Produce** a presentation about their research findings

Content Expectations

Books

Required textbooks for all Moody Online classes can be found on the [Required Textbooks](#) section of the Moody website.

Course Weekly Topics

Week 1: What is Action Research?

Week 2: Analyzing A Culture Of Your Choosing: Finding a Research Topic

Week 3: Literature Review: What Have Other Authors Said About Your Topic?

Week 4: What is a Research Interview? (Part 1)

Week 5: What is a Research Interview? (Part 2)

Week 6: Analyzing Data: Ways to Analyze Information in Research

Week 7: Reporting Your Findings

Week 8: Research Proposal: Ready for Action

Assignments

All assignments are due according to the schedule listed on the Course Schedule.

CLASS PARTICIPATION: Active participation is expected in this online course. Participation includes two main areas: discussion boards and reading. **Class Participation will account for 20% of final course grade.** A student will submit through Blackboard (Bb), a weekly submission of what material they read. If students read material, but the given week the reading was assigned has past, a 15% penalty will apply. Once the 8 weeks has ended, any reading material that has not been completed will receive a 0.

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DISCUSSION BOARDS: You must maintain a significant presence in the discussion board. Please refer to the discussion board rubric included in the Documents section of this course for more information on how your participation in the discussion board will be assessed. **PLEASE ENTER YOUR INITIAL DISCUSSION POST NOT LATER THAN FRIDAY 11:59 PM CT (THE EARLIER THE BETTER). YOUR RESPONSES TO OTHER'S DISCUSSIONS SHOULD BE DONE BY SUNDAY 11:59 PM CT.**

READING: The completion of the course reading/viewing is an important part of the course. You are expected to complete the content requirements prior to projects assigned for the given weeks.

ASSIGNMENTS:

1-1 Quiz on Reading: This will be a quiz in Blackboard on the reading.

NOTE: The test is NOT timed, but you can only take it once.

Week 1 Journal: Write a TWO page (600 words) self-reflection journal entry. This is to help the instructor advise you about your proposed research project in this course. (Journals in this course are set up to be "private"; in other words, only visible to your Instructor.) This journal entry will be referenced throughout this course in your interaction with your Instructor, and more specifically, it will be used in Week 2.

2-1 Identify Research Topic: Based on the reading and viewing and your self-assessments this week, keeping in mind where you are situated in life at this moment, identify a research topic of an area where you would like to impact a cultural change. Write a 2 page paper on the change you would like to focus on throughout this course.

Disclaimer: If your life circumstance does not allow you to study an actual change you can implement at the end of this course, you may choose a hypothetical situation or change but you will have to add one more page to this assignment explaining what prevents you from being able to impact an actual change. Writing the added page will not guarantee approval by the instructor, you will be approved upon grading your paper.

Week 2 Journal: Create a Week 2 Journal on the results of your self-evaluation using the three tests provided in class. There is no minimum or maximum requirement on this post.

3-1 Relevant Sources List: Find relevant sources (articles, books, videos, journal articles, etc.) on the topic you chose to study in Week 2, and write a one-sentence explanation under each source detailing why you think this source is relevant to your research topic. Upload a Word Document with the list of hyper-links.

3-2 Three Reading Review Worksheets: Complete three **Reading Review Worksheets** on 3 different sources of your choosing, preferably journal articles, articles or book chapters. For more specific information on the Reading Review Worksheet please download the Reading Review Worksheet Instructions document.

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Week 3 Journal: Create a Week 3 Journal Entry by the end of this week. There is no minimum or maximum requirement on this post. Write down your thoughts, feelings, reactions to this week's information and assignments. This journal entry is only visible to your instructor.

4-1 Thick Description of Research Context: Write 2-3 page thick ("rich") description of your research context.

4-2 Participant Observation Excerpt: Post a **one (1) page** excerpt of a participant observation entry from your research context.

Week 4 Journal: Create a Week 4 Journal Entry by the end of this week.

5-1 Three Interviews: Complete 3 interviews with separate subjects (people) on your research topic. Transcribe your interview to the best of your ability and upload a word document with all 3 interviews. At least one of these interviews has to be in person, face to face. For the others you can use Skype/Google hangouts/FaceTime... or any other tools to reach people. NOTE: Email interviews are not encouraged.

Week 5 Journal: Create a Week 5 Journal Entry by the end of this week. This journal entry is only visible to your instructor.

6-1 Preliminary Data Analysis: After carefully reviewing the articles provided in class and viewing this week's video, upload a Word document with your preliminary data analysis. There is no page limit to this document. Keep in mind that you are analyzing data you have gathered for the last 5 weeks; therefore, this cannot be a one-page document. You will have to make sense of all the data you have gathered so far: journals, assignments, literature review, interviews, participant observations, and every other method you might have used to collect data.

Week 6 Journal: Create a Week 6 Journal Entry by the end of this week. This journal entry is only visible to your instructor.

7-1 Preliminary Action Research Proposal: Complete a Preliminary Action Research Proposal. Now that you have dedicated 6 weeks to learning about research and you invested time into researching a practical response to a cultural challenge by improving your practice, you are ready to compile an Action Research Proposal on the change you are going to impact. Please download the **Action Research Proposal template** and carefully respond to every point in this template.

Note: It is okay to upload a draft, but all sections in the proposal template have to be addressed. You will upload a final proposal in Week 8 after you have received feedback from your colleagues and instructor.

Week 7 Journal: Journaling this week will be a 2-step process:

1. Spend time in prayer and Scripture meditation, after that:
2. Journal about the FOUR questions below:
 - How did your studies in this class affect your Christian worldview? (Please refer to particular readings, parts of the course and any scriptures that you have found relevant.)

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- What questions or tensions did they raise in terms of your understanding of God and your relationship with Him?
- What is the Spirit teaching you through what you have studied?
- Have you decided that you really will apply the change you are proposing?

8-1 Final Action Research Proposal: Improve your Action Research Proposal by incorporating the feedback you have received from your colleagues and your instructor on your Preliminary Action Research Proposal. Then upload your Final Action Research Proposal.

8-2 Final Proposal Presentation: Using your **8-1 Final Action Research Proposal** as a starting point, and any other material from this class, prepare a detailed outline AND a PowerPoint presentation to create a 20 minute presentation, plus a 10 minute Q&A session at the end, for a total of a 30-minute presentation. This presentation should be done in front of a live audience and should be titled: "The Role and Importance of Biblical Interpretation."

You need to find at least 2 people to attend your presentation. You can do this in your home, small group, church, or anywhere you have access to a live audience, or even using technology such as Skype or Google Hangouts. However, this has to be a formal presentation, even if it is in informal settings.

For full credit, you will be required to submit BOTH your (1) presentation outline, which must include the questions and answers from your Q&A session, and (2) your PowerPoint presentation.

Writing Style

Undergraduate students at Moody Bible Institute are to follow the **Modern Language Association (MLA)** style for all written assignments. Your instructor may waive this requirement for specific assignments such as discussion boards, blogs, emails, and the like, but if not stated otherwise, follow MLA guidelines. Assignments not in proper MLA format may be returned with a request to redo the assignment and could be subject to a late penalty.

At a minimum, all assignments submitted as a document are to be in a standard 12-point font (limited to Time New Roman, Arial, Calibri, Cambria, Century Schoolbook), 8½ x 11 page size, double-spaced with 1" margins. Papers are to be submitted as a Microsoft Word document (.doc or .docx). Papers that cite other works should include a Works Cited page.

Students should follow the latest version of the *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers* (currently the 7th edition) or use the OWL website at <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/>

Assessments

Your grade for this course will consist of:

Assessments (# in parentheses)	% of Total
Discussions & Study Reports (8)	20



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Weekly Journals (7)	15
1-1 Quiz on McNiff Reading	2
2-1 Identify Research Topic	3
3-1 Relevant Sources List	5
3-2 Three Reading Review Worksheets	5
4-1 Thick Description of Research Context	5
4-2 Participant Observation Excerpt	5
5-1 Three Interviews	5
6-1 Preliminary Data Analysis	5
7-1 Preliminary Action Research Proposal	5
8-1 Final Action Research Proposal	10
8-2 Final Proposal Presentation	15
Total:	100%

Letter grades are determined by the following scale:

Letter Grade	Percentage Equivalent	Letter Grade	Percentage Equivalent
A	96% or higher	C	73 - 76.9%
A-	90 - 95.9%	C-	70 - 72.9%
B+	87 - 89.9%	D+	67 - 69.9%
B	83 - 86.9%	D	63 - 66.9%
B-	80 - 82.9%	D-	60 - 62.9%
C+	77 - 79.9%	F	Below 60%

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ADA Compliance Statement

Moody Bible Institute complies with the ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) as well as Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, by providing appropriate accommodations to qualified students with disabilities. We value diversity and inclusion and recognize disability as an aspect of diversity. Our shared goal is to create learning environments that are accessible, equitable, and inclusive. If you anticipate barriers related to the format, requirements, or assessment of this course, you are invited to address the professor with your concerns; additionally, you are encouraged to contact Gayla Gates, our disability services provider, at the Student Resource Center to discuss possible environmental modifications or adaptations. Please note, accommodations are not retroactive, therefore we encourage you to contact our service

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provider within the first two weeks of the semester. Contact Gayla Gates at ggates@moody.edu or 312-329-2177.