

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

PS 4463 Cultural Dynamics of Congregational Ministry—3 Credit Hours

Course Description

This course examines the human and religious dynamics that affect congregational ministry. It will explore the differences in thinking and values that affect ministry. Special attention will be given to the differences between ministry in the smaller church and the larger congregation and to the nature and importance of congregational culture.

Prerequisites: None

Course Goals

In this course you will:

- Examine the nature of culture
- Explore the factors that shape congregational culture
- Develop a foundational theology for cultural engagement
- Appreciate the challenge of transforming congregational culture

Course Objectives

After completing this course you should be able to:

1. Give a basic definition of culture
2. Describe the various layers of culture
3. Articulate a taxonomy that describes how the use of physical space affects relationships and ministry
4. Explain the characteristics of various sizes and stages of organizational growth experienced by the church
5. Describe how church size affects the dynamics of congregational culture
6. Analyze a cultural setting for ministry purposes

Course Textbooks and/or Supplemental Material

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

The following articles are available online:

Bird, Warren and Scott Thumma. "A New Decade of Megachurches" from Hartford Institute for Religious Research, 2011. http://hrr.hartsem.edu/megachurch/megachurches_research.html.

Bird, Warren, Scott Thumma and David Travis. "Not Who You Think They Are: The Real Story of for America's Megachurches" from Hartford Institute for Religious Research, 2008. http://hrr.hartsem.edu/megachurch/megachurches_research.html.

Hadaway, C. Kirk. "Facts on Growth: 2010" from Hartford Institute for Religious Research, 2011. <http://faithcommunitiestoday.org/publications>.

McMullen, Mike. "Attracting and Keeping Congregational Members" from Hartford Institute for Religious Research. <http://faithcommunitiestoday.org/publications>.

Roozen, David A. "A Decade of Change in American Congregations: 2000-2010" from Hartford Institute for Religious Research, 2011. <http://faithcommunitiestoday.org/publications>.

The following articles are available from the ATLA* database:

Hiebert, Paul G. "Critical Contextualization." *Missiology an International Review* 12.3 (1984): 287-296. Print.

Koessler, John M. "The Dynamics of Small Church Ministry." *The Master's Seminary Journal* 3.2 (1992): 175-189. Print.

Schaller, Lyle E. "Human Ethology: The Most Neglected Factor in Church Planting." *Review of Religious Research* 17.1 (1975): 2-14. Print.

Williams, Roman R. "Space for God. Lived Religion at Work, Home, and Play." *Sociology of Religion* 71.3 (2010): 257-279. Print.

The following videos are posted in the week it is assigned:

"What is Culture?"

"Layers of Culture"

"The Church and Culture"

"Sacred Space & the Geography of Relationships"

“Size Matters”

“Congregational Exegesis: Part 1”

“Congregational Exegesis: Part 2”

*ATLASerials® (ATLAS®) stands for “American Theological Library Association.” It is an online full-text collection of major religion and theology journals used by libraries, librarians, religion scholars, theologians, and clergy. It can be found in the Crowell MBI Library online. (If you would like to view a tutorial on how to use the periodicals in the MBI online library, please download and view this video by the MBI library staff:

[http://openaudiovideo.moody.edu/OSAM/OSAM/Video/wmv/Education/Courses-Blackboard/Video Files/BI-5528 Koehler Articles.wmv](http://openaudiovideo.moody.edu/OSAM/OSAM/Video/wmv/Education/Courses-Blackboard/Video%20Files/BI-5528%20Koehler%20Articles.wmv))

Assignments

All Assignments are due at the end of the week that it is assigned, unless otherwise directed. Reading should be completed according to the schedule listed in the Course Schedule.

1. **READING:** The completion of reading is an important part of the course. You are expected to complete the reading according to the course schedule. You will be required to submit a reading report at the end of the semester.
2. **WEEKLY ASSIGNMENTS:** Students will complete weekly assignments. These assignments are components of the final cultural analysis project. Students will receive a completion grade for these assignments.
3. **CULTURAL ANALYSIS OF A CONGREGATION:** Students will select a congregational setting and analyze it in stages as part of the work for this course (see the course schedule for details). Weekly assignments should be incorporated into this analysis.
4. **EXAMS:** There will be two exams based on the videos & reading.

Assessments

Your grade for this course will consist of:

Reading & Videos	15%
Weekly Assignments	15%
Congregational Analysis	30%
Exams	40%
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%

Course Resources

Online students have access to the Moody Library. Though students may wish to check out books via inter-library loan, the online database has a number of articles and reviews available for download. You can access the online database by logging into your account at my.moody.edu. If you have not previous access the library database you may wish to complete the database tutorial at <http://library.moody.edu>.

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Course Bibliography

Hadaway, C. Kirk. "Facts on Growth: 2010," (Hartford: Hartford Institute for Religious Research, 2011).

Hall, Edward T. *The Silent Language*, New York: Anchor, 1990.

Hiebert, Paul G. "Critical Contextualization," *Missiology an International Review*, Vol. XII, No. 3, (July 1984): 287-296.

Koessler, John M. "The Dynamics of Small Church Ministry," *The Master's Seminary Journal*, Vol. 3, No. 2, (Fall 1992): 175-189.

Lingenfelter, Sherwood. G. and Marvin K. Meyers. *Ministering Cross Culturally: An Incarnational Model for Personal Relationships*, Second Edition. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2003.

Livermore, David A. *Cultural Intelligence: Improving Your CQ to Engage Our Multicultural World*, Grand Rapids: Baker, 2009.

McMullen, Mike, "Attracting and Keeping Congregational Members," Hartford: Hartford Institute for Religious Research, 2011.

Meyers, Joseph M. *The Search to Belong: Rethinking Intimacy, Community and Small Groups*, Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2003.

Rah, Soong-Chan, *Many Colors: Cultural Intelligence for a Changing Church*, Chicago: Moody, 2010.

Roizen, David A. "A Decade of Change in American Congregations: 2000-2010," Hartford: Hartford Institute for Religious Research.

Schein, Edgar. *Organizational Culture and Leadership*, Fourth Edition, San Francisco: Jossey-Bass, 2010.

Schaller, Lyle. E. *The Small Church is Different*, Nashville: Abingdon, 1982.

_____. "Human Ethology: The Most Neglected Factor in Church Planning," *Review of Religious Research*, Vol. 17, No. 1, (Fall 1975): 2-14.

Smith, Donald K. *Creating Understanding*, Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1992.

Storti, Craig. *The Art of Crossing Cultures*, Boston: Brealey, 2007.