

**MN438/538 PLANNING AND LEADING SHORT-TERM MISSION  
Course Description**

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2 Credits, Letter Grade  
Online

**Course Description**

This course prepares students to develop ministries of short-term mission and community outreach that are theologically grounded, culturally sensitive, tied to the ministry and mission of the wider church, and carried out by participants who are practically and spiritually well prepared.

The content of the class is applicable for formation and preparation related to diverse ministries of outreach. The class is open to both students who do and student who do not intend to participate in a seminary short-term mission ministry being prepared for May 11-19 2024, for which this class serves as a pre-requisite. Students may register for an additional independent study credit in conjunction with a short-term mission that would include reflection and analysis of the mission.

**Course Objectives**

Students who complete this course will be able to:

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

**Curricular Goals Fulfilled by This Course**

**M.Div.**

- Engage contemporary theological and ethical issues with insight and humility
- 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
- Educate and equip individuals and congregations to live and minister joyfully and faithfully as part of their own denomination and the ecumenical church.

## **M.A.M.D.**

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

## **M.A.M.**

- Articulate and interpret key Christian theological affirmations for Christian discipleship and ecclesial life.
- Develop pastoral and practical theological methods and strategies for cultivating renewed and transformative ministry contexts.
- Apply key practices for personal, communal, and ministerial flourishing and compose a coherent plan for life and ministry.

## **Requirements**

1. Regular reading and posting and participation in online discussion. (10% of grade)
2. Timely completion of the assigned reading. (10% of grade)
3. Creation of an annotated bibliography of community outreach and short-term mission resources, minimum of seven entries. (20% of grade)
4. Final project, 15 pages minimum: (60% of grade)  
Creation and brief presentation of elements for a program of orientation and debriefing for use with a ministry related to community outreach or short-term mission ministry. Elements to be included in the resource notebook to be turned in will be discussed on the first day of class. Some of these elements will be prepared prior to their inclusion in the final notebook due on the last day of class. Due dates for these particular assignments will be shown on the syllabus.

## **Bibliography**

### **Required**

- Howell, Brian. *Short-Term Mission: An Ethnography of Christian Travel Narrative and Experience*. Downers Grove: IVP Academic, 2012.
- Corbett, Steven and Fikkert, Brian. *Helping Without Hurting: Short Term Missions Participants' Guide*. Chicago: Moody Publishers, 2014.
- Corbett, Steven and Fikkert, Brian. *Helping Without Hurting in Short Term Mission: Leader's Guide*. Chicago: Moody Publishers, 2014.
- Priest, Robert. *Effective Engagement in Short-Term Missions: Doing It Right*. William Carey Library, 2008. Kindle version acceptable for class also.

### **Articles:**

Select articles will be made available as e-reserve readings on the course site.