

IN 782: Gospel in Context

January Term 2018

3 Credits, letter grade only

Prerequisite: IN 581: Theology of Mission & Evangelism or IN 520: God's Redeeming Mission

Course Description

Wherever one does ministry, the character of the context shapes the forms of evangelism and mission that are viable, appropriate, and faithful. This course explores the work of contextualization—how the gospel is proclaimed and embodied contextually. This course includes an **immersion trip, January 12-16 in Dane County, WI**, as well as classroom sessions to help students develop an initial skill at reading contexts for Christian ministry. Building on a theological foundation, it considers how context is reflected in the forms of ministry and witness observed. Cost per person for the immersion, to be billed to students by the student accounts office, is \$350.00. The prerequisite is Theology of Mission and Evangelism (IN581) or God's Redeeming Mission (IN520) and priority is given to seniors for choice of immersion context. However, final section assignments for all will be determined by the instructors.

Student Learning Objectives

By participating fully in this class, students will:

1. Be able to recognize that the Gospel is always proclaimed and incarnated within particular cultures.
2. Begin to read the important dynamics – e.g. historical, social, political, geographical, spiritual – that enter into the context of the visited location.
3. Apply the theological foundations for incarnational mission learned in IN581 or IN520 to the cross-cultural immersion experience.

M.Div. Curricular Goals

1. Evangelize the world with faithfulness and contextual sensitivity.
2. Educate and equip individuals and congregations to live and minister joyfully and faithfully as part of their own denomination and the ecumenical church.
3. 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.

MAMD Curricular Goals

1. Develop, implement, and assess strategies for missional living in a specific cultural context.
2. Adopt spiritual practices that nurture personal lives as faithful disciples and witnesses.
3. Develop skills and capacities for faithful and competent Christian witness.

Required Reading for All Students

Vincent J. Donovan, *Christianity Rediscovered (25th Anniversary Edition)*

Clemens Sedmak, *Doing Local Theology: A Guide for Artisans of a New Humanity*

Eric Jacobsen, *Sidewalks in the Kingdom: New Urbanism and the Christian Faith*