Nazarene Theological Seminary
MSS780 Senior Integrative Seminar (Missiology)
Spring Semester 2006
Syllabus (Tentative)

Instructors:
William L. Selvidge
David W. Wesley

1. Purpose:
The Senior Integrative Seminar comes at the end of a student's work in the MA in Missiology degree program and is an opportunity to integrate what has been studied throughout the program with case studies of actual or possible situations one might face in a cross-cultural missionary assignment. Each student will be assigned a hypothetical missionary assignment as a basis for developing a theology/philosophy of ministry strategy for implementing that assignment.

2. Requirements:

A. The seminar group will meet five times during the semester for approximately two and a half hours each session. During these sessions we will discuss the theology/philosophy of ministry strategy as well as the four case studies.

B. Participate in discussions on the NTS Blackboard website. Each week a topic for discussion is given. Enter into the discussion by logging onto Blackboard. Each student is to offer at least TWO substantive contributions to the weekly discussion.

1. Week: February 20-26
   Starter question: "What is the role of the Old Testament in a properly formed theology/philosophy of ministry?"

2. Week: February 27-March 5
   Starter question: "Is Jesus Christ the only way to God?"

3. Week: March 6-12
   Starter question: "What are some ways that the pastoral leadership of a local Church of the Nazarene can help its people overcome the local church ministry *here*, missions over *there* mentality?"

4. Week: March 13-19
   Starter question: "Is every Christian a missionary?"

5. Week March 27-April 2
   Starter question: "How does the role of a cross-cultural minister differ from that of a minister within one's own cultural context?"

6. Week: April 3-9
   Starter question: "Who has been the most influential person in your development as a cross-cultural minister?"

C. Case studies

A series of four case studies will be provided, one at a time. The first two case studies are included with this syllabus, and are in the Course Documents section of Blackboard. After thoughtfully and prayerfully reading the case study several times, write a paper of approximately 700 words in response to the issues involved. Indicate what you would do and why. Reflect back over the courses you have taken at NTS including the reading you have done. Integrate your work in the program with this specific case study.

At the sessions be prepared to discuss the issues and to defend your approach to handling the situation. The case study is due three days prior to the meeting and is to be submitted to the instructors via the Blackboard Digital Drop Box. Once all of the responses have been received they will be available on Blackboard.

D. Develop and present in written form a Theology/Philosophy of Ministry Strategy based on one of the following missionary assignments. In your research for the assignment take into consideration cultural and religious contexts, history of the Church of the Nazarene in the area, strategies already in place, your role in relationship to other missionaries and national leaders, financial resources, and the possible use of volunteers.

1. Africa – Ethiopia.
   The Church of the Nazarene has developed some initial contacts with other evangelical groups in Ethiopia and now is ready to establish more permanent churches. Your assignment is to develop a strategy for Christian witness and development of a leadership development program, as well as discipleship for new believers.

2. Asia-Pacific – South Asia.
   In the wake of the recent tsunami, the Church of the Nazarene is ready to develop permanent compassionate ministries in the countries of Indonesia, Sri Lanka, and Thailand. Your assignment is to develop a compassionate ministry strategy with a goal toward long term compassion and the establishing of evangelistic centers.

3. Eurasia – Eastern Europe.
   The Church of the Nazarene in Bulgaria already consists of several churches and is developing a district ministry center. You are assigned to plant a church as an integral part of the ministry center and to develop a program for developing pastoral leaders in Bulgaria.

4. North America – Boston
   New Hope Church of the Nazarene on the New England District is a multi-congregational church that includes Anglo, Cape Verdan, and Chinese (Cantonese) congregations. You have been invited on staff as multi-cultural ministries pastor with the task of coordinating outreach ministries among these three congregations that bear witness to the kingdom of God with a goal for

communicating the good news of Jesus. The church has kicked around ideas such as a food pantry, tutoring program for middle and high school students, an ESL program, and a community advocacy program. Your exact ministry description is vague – the church knows they need to be more focused on ministering to the community but is not sure how to accomplish this. Your assignment is to develop a ministry description for yourself and an outreach program that to some degree includes all three congregations.

5. South America – Regional Office
   The South American Region has an extensive program of theological education for the preparation of pastors. However, the Region has recently been challenging its people to respond to God's call to missions – both within and outside the South American and the other Latin American Regions. You are assigned to develop a missiology training program that will equip those who respond to God's call to most effectively fulfill their call as missionaries. In consideration of the existing educational structures for the Church of the Nazarene in South America, the varying educational levels and cultural contexts of South American Nazarenes, and the needs and contexts of the unevangelized peoples of the world, what will be the design of your missiology training program (strategy) and why will you design it in that way (theology of ministry)?

3. Schedule

Session 1.
Date: Monday, March 6
Time: 2:00-4:30
Place: Room 306
Discussion of responses to Case Study #1 "Is This for Me?"
and Case Study #2 "Missionary Conflict"

Session 2.
Date: Monday, March 13
Time: 2:00-4:30
Place: Room 306
Presentation and discussion of missionary assignments (preliminary)

Session 3.
Date: Monday, March 27
Time: 2:00-4:30
Place: Room 306
Discussion of responses to Case Studies #3 "An Open Letter to Pope John Paul II"
Presentation and discussion of missionary assignments (preliminary)

Session 4.
Date: Monday, April 10
Time: 2:00-4:30
Place: Room 306
Discussion of responses to Case Studies #4 – "A Wedding in the PRC"
Presentation and discussion of missionary assignments (final)

Session 5.
Date: Monday, April 17
Time: 2:00-4:30
Place: Room 306
Presentation and discussion of missionary assignments (final)

4. Grade

The grade for the Seminar will be determined on the basis of participation in the Seminar and the quality of work indicated in the Case Study responses and the theology/philosophy of ministry.

Case study responses and participation in the Seminar sessions	40%
Contributions to the Blackboard discussions	20%
Theology/philosophy of Ministry Strategy	40%

Please note that a course grade of (A) is possible only of all requirements of the course have been completed.

5. Plagiarism

Be sure to read and understand the content and implications of the Plagiarism statement in the NTS Student Handbook. All assignments in this course are made with the expectation that the work you submit is your own work. Failure to adhere to these requirements will result in a failing grade for the Seminar.

Guidelines for Developing a Theology/Philosophy of Ministry Strategy for a Missionary Assignment

Areas to cover in your Theology/Philosophy of Ministry Strategy.

A Theology (philosophy) of Ministry provides the foundational perspective from which a person functions as a minister, the primary motivations for ministry, and priorities within the range of demands upon that ministry. When integrated with a Strategy for a missionary assignment, the Theology/Philosophy of Ministry Strategy provides a powerful basis for understanding one's appreach to ministry within the context of Christian ministry.

A Theology/philosophy of Ministry Strategy should include (but not necessarily be limited to) the following elements:

1. An understanding of the biblical foundation that mandates ministry, especially cross-cultural ministry.

2. An understanding of who Jesus Christ is and the life/ministry to which Christ calls us.

3. An understanding of the nature of the Church as the Body of Christ, and the role of the Church in cross-cultural witness, especially among other religions and philosophies.

4. An understanding of the nature of cross-cultural ministry and the role of the cross-cultural minister.

5. The prioritization of tasks and ministries in light of the nature and roles required in cross-cultural ministry.

6. The persons, or other factors, that have had influenced your development of a Theology/philosophy of Ministry Strategy, especially as a cross-cultural minister of the gospel.

7. The integration of these and other influences and factors into a workable strategy for a specific ministry context.

Giving shape to your Theology/Philosophy of Ministry Strategy.

A. Note the goals and objectives of the ministry assignment you have been given for this Seminar. In the light of this assignment, what is theological / philosophical basis for the strategy you are suggesting?

B. The paper. Thoughtfully present your work in a paper that articulates your Theology/philosophy of Ministry Strategy for this specific assignment. The paper should be as long as you need for it to adequately express your philosophy of cross-cultural ministry, particularly for this (hypothetical) missions assignment. The final paper is due on the senior due date of April 18. (Submit the paper through the Digital Drop Box in Blackboard)