DM9011W Cultural Anthropology for Cross-Cultural Engagement & Development

Offered: 2017: Intensive – September/October
[Unit offered alternatively as AR9011W]

This unit introduces students to the field of cultural anthropology by describing the nature of culture and outlining various anthropological theories of culture and society. It examines human beings within the context of their social systems, relationships, economies, political institutions, religions, rituals, objects, activities and the meanings that people apply to them. Furthermore, it introduces methods for investigating and understanding culture and worldview, the relationship between Christianity and culture, and it emphasises the importance of cultural investigation and understanding for fruitful intercultural encounters and ministry.

Upon successful completion of this unit, it is expected that students will be able to:

1. Outline the role of Cultural Anthropology in cross-cultural interaction and engagement.
2. Articulate an understanding the main theories of culture.
3. Identify perspectives on culture held by different religious and cultural communities.
4. Outline biblical approaches to intercultural engagement.
5. Demonstrate an ability to investigate and understand the culture and worldview of a people.
6. Evaluate different approaches to culture by different non-government organisations and Christian mission agencies and the impact this has on cross-cultural engagement.

Prerequisites: Nil

Class Time: 6 days (2 x 3 days)

Assessment:
- One book/article review (750 words) (15%)
- One Descriptive Exercise (750 words) (15%)
- One tutorial paper (1,500 words) (30%)
- One essay (3,000 words) (40%)

Faculty: Dr Ian Dicks

Recommended Reading:
* = set texts recommended for purchase