

DVCC655
Cross-Cultural Ministry Practicum
Summer 2024
Dr. David Parks

General Description

This practicum seeks to expose students to issues related to cross-cultural ministry through first-hand experience in a cross-cultural ministry setting.

Rationale

A cross-cultural ministry practicum is required of all Beeson students enrolled in the Master of Divinity program. The requirement itself arises from the recognition that cross-cultural ministry is no longer exceptional but normative for Christian ministers. Communities across the United States are increasingly multi-cultural, and opportunities for mission involvement internationally are rapidly expanding. Competent ministry leaders in the 21st century must be prepared to cross cultural boundaries in the course of (and for the sake of) sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ. It is an objective of the cross-cultural ministry requirement that such preparation might be the beginning for some and be advanced for others.

Course Objectives

This course intends to help students achieve the following objectives:

- Gain exposure to issues related to crossing cultural boundaries
- Gain an introduction to resources related to cross-cultural issues and ministry
- Gain exposure to cross-cultural ministry through hands-on ministry experience
- Develop a vision for long-term involvement in the task of reaching people of all tongues, tribes, and nations.
- Develop skills for processing cross-cultural ministry issues through journaling, interaction with a mentor, and a reflection paper

Course Credit

Students will take DVCC655 (CCMP) as a 0 credit course, graded as pass or fail. (This falls in conjunction with the extension of the required missions course to 3 hours.)

Criteria and CCMP Destinations

The Global Center has partnered with ministries in various parts of the U.S. and internationally to provide optimal experiences for students. Students will choose from these selected options based on the ministry, the location, budget, and time frames available to visit the ministry. These pre-approved CCMP destinations and ministries have been chosen to meet the following criteria that have previously existed for the course:

- I. Location: Outside of the American South
- II. Duration: Fourteen (14) consecutive days on location
- III. Residence: In the community where the ministry is taking place
- IV. Substance: Ministering in a different cultural setting
- V. Supervision: On-site mentor

While the ministries are already pre-approved, our ministry partners will vary regarding the times students will be able to join them, how many students they can effectively host, the cost to join them, etc. After Dr. Parks gives approval for a Beeson student to join a CCMP destination, final approval will need to be given by the ministry partner.

Submit Paperwork

To receive credit for a cross-cultural ministry practicum, students should submit:

1. Samford University Assumption of Risk, Release, and Indemnity Agreement*
2. Global Center Registration Form for the DVCC655 course
3. Travel-Grant Application (if seeking financial assistance for the trip)
4. Medical Information Form

For students accomplishing their CCMP during the Summer of 2024, paperwork should be submitted to the Global Center by *February 24, 2024*. They will be notified about approval and receiving a travel grant by *mid-April*. Students may find this paperwork at the Global Center or online at <https://www.beesondivinity.com/cross-cultural-ministry-practicums> under the “Syllabus and Forms” tab. **Note that the trip mentors and agencies may have earlier due dates for their registrations.**

In addition to the paperwork required by the date above, all students completing a CCMP are required to submit **proof of insurance for medical evacuation** from the country of your visit to the United States. See the Global Center for more information about insurance.

*In the case that Samford University updates the forms (or e-forms) used to guard Samford from legal liability if you are injured during one of these trips, you may be asked to complete that form in addition to or instead of the current *Assumption of Risk, Release, and Indemnity Agreement* before you leave for your CCMP.

Requirements

Before you leave...

- A. After the Global Center arranges the initial connection between the student and the ministry/CCMP destination, the student needs to begin working directly with the ministry to finalize details of the CCMP experience. This is to allow for flexibility with the dates and some of the specifics of the ministry experience itself.
- B. Either meet with your CCMP mentor (in person, video, or phone call) to learn the basics of the people and culture of your destination or read resources recommended by them. This should include: geography, ethnicities, religions, history of the people in general, history of the church, and any other relevant demographics.
- C. **Read the CCMP Culture Guide and fill out Section I of the CCMP Reflection Guide.** *The Culture Guide and Reflection Guide are in “Files” in Canvas.* The

Culture Guide will serve as your reminder of relevant lessons from Introduction to Christian Missions and the Reflection Guide will provide an outline for your CCMP journaling.

While you are there...

- D. Continue to use your *CCMP Reflection Guide* daily throughout your trip. Each day you will need to enter reflections on each of the following: 1. General questions about what you have learned and your personal growth and what God seems to be teaching you. 2. Observations you have made that relate to the content of the *CCMP Culture Guide* (The Reflection Guide will explain this). Questions to be considered include the following (Not every question is to be answered every day):
- a. What have you learned about the history of the church, both national and local?
 - b. What are the cognitive and affective aspects of culture you have observed today?
 - c. Have you come across any stories or other cultural phenomenon that could be used (or is being used) as a redemptive analogy to communicate the gospel?
 - d. Have you experienced something that has produced any level of culture shock? How can you take the upper track (according to Elmer's model) in order to move forward?
 - e. Considering David Hesselgrave's cross-cultural communication model, what have you encountered which could be "noise" or "feedback" while communicating the gospel with the people you are encountering?
 - f. Using the worldview questions provided in the *CCMP Learning Guide*, are there any insights gained today that would help you understand the worldview(s) held by the people around you?
 - g. What have you learned from the missionary, mentor, or local Christians today?
 - h. Did you observe any cultural issues that would or do pose the potential for syncretism with the church? If so, what would it look like to employ Paul Hiebert's critical contextualization process to this issue?
- D. Meet with your mentor on a weekly basis during the practicum to engage in theological reflection on your ministry experiences. Report on the ministry activities of the past week. Reflect on those experiences that have been most significant, and explore why. Anticipate what ministry opportunities may be approaching, and prepare yourself to be effective and to learn. Keep notes from the mentor meetings.
- E. (*Optional*) Students are encouraged to take pictures when appropriate (ask your ministry site leaders what is and what is not appropriate!). Group pictures and photos of natural beauty are good, but don't miss opportunities to capture unique

aspects of Christian worship in the host culture or human and spiritual needs as well. Appropriate pictures (again, ask your hosts!) can be shared to social media. Please tag Beeson Divinity School (@beesondivinity) when appropriate. We may request use of these pictures at a later time for CCMP promotion.

Once you return...

- E. Meet with the Global Center Director for a reflection interview. Ideally, it's best to meet within 2 weeks of your return. Often this is not possible. If it isn't, please contact Dr. Parks ahead of time to plan for the earliest date possible. For your reflection time, be prepared to:
- a. *Discuss how insights from the CCMP Culture Guide intersected with your experience on the field.*
 - b. *Use the worldview mapping tool to visualize the majority worldview of the people in your CCMP location. Discuss how they do or could best understand the gospel.*
 - c. *Discuss what you did during your CCMP and what you learned.*
 - d. *Bring your journal to demonstrate that you answered the daily questions above.*

Grading

The student will be graded on the basis of preparation for the practicum, participation in the required elements of the practicum, and reflection on the practicum.

For those taking the course for **0 credit hours**, a grade of either Passing (P) or Failing (F) will be awarded.

A Passing grade will be issued if all of the course requirements listed above are met.

A Failing grade will be awarded if the course requirements listed above are not met.

Because cross-cultural ministry practicums take place during the Summer schedule, and since the course requirements (mainly the reflection meeting) extend beyond the time of the practicum itself, grading for the course will typically not be completed until after the regular grading period for the term of registration. For instance, if one is registered for a practicum in the first Summer term, it is most likely that the grade for the course will not be recorded until sometime early in the Fall semester.

Suggested Reading:

Steve Corbett and Brian Fikkert. *When Helping Hurts: How to Alleviate Poverty Without Hurting The Poor and Yourself*. Chicago, IL: 2012.

Duane Elmer. *Cross-Cultural Connections: Stepping Out and Fitting In Around the World*. Downers Grove, IL: Intervarsity Press, 2002.

COVID-19 Contingency Plan

In that event that student trips are cancelled or are unable to take place due to COVID-19, the Global Center will work with you to either postpone your CCMP until another time,

or organize an alternative local or virtual CCMP for you to complete. Your ability to graduate on time will not be impacted by a cancelled CCMP trip.

Disability Statement

Samford University complies with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act and the Americans with Disabilities Act. Students with disabilities who seek accommodations must make their request by contacting Disability Resources, located in the University Center within the Career Development office, Room 205 (telephone number: 726-4078). A faculty member will grant reasonable accommodations *only* upon written notification from Disability Support Services.

For students with disabilities that may make the current CCMP options impossible, please contact Dr. Parks to discuss another arrangement.

Academic Dishonesty: Plagiarism and Cheating

Plagiarism and cheating are forms of academic dishonesty and are therefore forbidden in all Beeson Divinity School courses. For the full policy (including a description of the sanctions) consult the *Beeson Divinity School Student Handbook*. If you have a question of whether or not something is plagiarism, please consult the professor *before* turning in the assignment.

Incompletes Statement

A grade of “Incomplete” for the semester’s grade is granted only at the discretion of the professor. It is not automatic. Per the *Beeson Bulletin* an Incomplete is given only for an unavoidable absence from a final exam or an excusable failure to complete assignments due to serious illness or family crisis; an Incomplete (INC) grade automatically becomes an F if not removed within one semester after the grade is given. This grade of F may not be challenged. For the policy and procedures for an Incomplete (INC) see the *Beeson Bulletin*.

Computer and Phone Use Statement

Computer and Phone Use: When appropriate, students are encouraged to upload pictures to social media. However, you are asked to keep your phone use to a minimum during your CCMP. In some cases, it may not be appropriate to take pictures at all at your ministry site. Please ask your on-site mentor / CCMP ministry site for instructions since, in some cases, **an inappropriate picture could either hurt their ministry or put someone at risk.**
