**ACADEMIC COURSE OUTLINES GUATEMALA 2019-20**

**CHRISTIAN FOUNDATIONS**

BTS-1010/6 credits

**Outtatown Discipleship School, a program of CMU**

Course Syllabus 2019/2020

**Course Supervisor: Jonathan Dueck (PhD)**

**Course Description:**

Within the context of a mentoring environment students will be encouraged to explore the nature of Christian discipleship and an understanding of Christian faith. Lectures will introduce students to an overview of Old and New Testaments, the character of God, the nature of the Church, Christian ethics, the practice of spiritual disciplines and corporate worship, and the attempts to interpret Christian faith in our world today. Selected readings have been chosen to represent some of the current attempts to interpret Christian faith in our time. Within the “circle of trust” of a Christian community, students will be encouraged to wrestle with the difficult theological questions with a mentor or during group discussion.

Throughout this study, the students will be encouraged to consider the expressed mission of the Outtatown discipleship program, which is “to inspire and nurture students in their life of discipleship with Jesus Christ in a journey towards: Knowing God - in truth and relationship; Knowing yourself - in personality and character, in abilities and gifts; and, Knowing the world - in its beauty, diversity and pain.” As a result, the community conversation will often centre on the intersection of the larger story of Christian faith and one’s own life story in an attempt to discover effective ways of living as a faithful Christian in the post-modern world.

*This course will be given a pass/fail evaluation and may be used to fulfill one of the first year introductory requirements in Biblical and Theological Studies (3 credits) and an additional elective (3 credits) in BTS.*

**Learning Objectives:**

1. To gain an understanding of Christian discipleship, Christian community, and the call of Jesus to “follow me”.
2. To develop a basic knowledge of the major themes of the Bible and how these relate to one another to form one biblical story.
3. To learn, and to practice spiritual disciplines that will enable the continued development of strong Christian character.
4. To explore the understandings of the nature of the Church today.
5. To gain an understanding of the challenges all young adults face seeking to establish reasonable goals and objectives for further growth and decision making.
6. To do a study of one’s own spiritual origins (church or denomination) and to become more capable of expressing one’s own convictions about faith.

**Course Lecture Series:**

Each lecture series will generally include six to eight, two hour sessions of instruction and directed interaction. At times instructor will be living on site with students which will provide additional time of discussion. Students will receive lectures from several different instructors. Further study and reflection will take place under the direction of the site leaders and within the various interactive group settings. Through a written response to a set of questions for each lecture series, as well as through journaling, and group discussion, students will indicate their grasp of the material under discussion.

**Instructors 2019/2020:**

All site leaders who direct the student learning and assist in the evaluation have a completed undergraduate degree, extensive training, and in some cases further study towards a master’s degree. All instructors have appropriate academic credentials and exceptional field experience.

Scripture Overview Dan Epp-Thiessen, PhD

Doing Justly: Maintaining a Relationship Focus in Development Work Jacquie, MTS and Rick Block, MSc

Christ at the Crux of Knowing Ourselves and Knowing God Paul Cumin, PhD

Theology and Jesus Janessa Nayler Giesbrecht, MA (in process)

Understanding and Experiencing Church Jonathan Janzen, MA

Listening to God: Studies in the Book of Mark Steve Klassen, MDiv

**Required Student Reading:** Discussion, a written reflective response, and specific questions will be assigned in relation to each reading.

Cavey, Bruxy. *Reunion: the Good News of Jesus for Seekers, Saints, and Sinners*. Harrisonburg, Virginia: Herald Press, 2017.

Day, Tim. *God Enters Stage Left*. Oakville: The Meeting House, 2013

Kristian, Bonnie. *A Flexible Faith*. New York: Faith Words, 2018.

Paul, Greg. God in the Alley. Colorado Springs: WaterBrook Press, 2004.

Yancey, Philip. *What’s So Amazing about Grace?* Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1997.

**Key Biblical Readings, Study and Reflection:**

The lecture materials in New Testament and Old Testament surveys, guided student devotional sessions, and related reading assignments will introduce students to the a variety of biblical texts.

**Assignments and Academic Credit:**

This is a 6 credit hour portion of the program and will be entered into the Outtatown records as a pass/fail evaluation. This course centres on a series of lectures by visiting instructors along with group discussion, assigned readings, journaling, and related assignments. Since much of this takes place in very informal settings, the evaluation process can be difficult. Furthermore, much of the learning is experiential in nature and depends on group interaction, which can further complicate the outcomes. The main assignments are as follows:

**Course Evaluation:**

Required books, questions, and journal responses 40%

- *God in the Alley*

*- A Flexible Faith*

*- Reunion*

*- What’s So Amazing about Grace?*

Home Church Study and Personal Faith Story 10%

Written response to lectures (on 5 of 7 lectures) 30%

Biblical readings, reflections, engagement in Christian Foundations

learning and mentoring sessions 20%

**BEGINNING SPANISH I & BEGINNING SPANISH II**

LANG-1211/3 credits & LANG-1221/3 Credits

**Outtatown Discipleship School, a program of CMU**

Course Syllabus 2019/2020

**Course Supervisor:** **Jonathan Dueck (PhD) in consultation with Mundo Spanish School, our academic partner in Antigua, Guatemala**

**Course Description:**

Starting with an introduction to some common Spanish expressions in the first semester, the students will then receive six weeks of Spanish language instruction while living with a Spanish family during their three months of intensive cultural engagement in Guatemala during the second semester. The Spanish classes are taught by instructors of Mundo Spanish School in Antigua. This course will fulfill the requirements LANG-1211 and LANG-1221 Beginning Spanish I and Beginning Spanish II and is available in the Guatemala program only. See <http://www.mundospanishschool.com/> for more information.

**Methodology:**

Students spend 6 weeks living with a family that speaks only Spanish. At the same time they are attending morning classes Monday through Thursday from 8:00 to 12:00 where they are placed in a class of 4 or 5 students with a qualified instructor. These are intensive Spanish classes, and the instruction includes grammar, vocabulary, verb conjugations, idioms and conversation. Throughout their time in Guatemala students will have endless opportunities to develop their conversational Spanish skills on the street and in the markets.

**Evaluation:**

Students will receive a final grade from their instructor in the Mundo program. This is based on frequent testing and a final exam. This, together with demonstrated ability to negotiate basic language requirements for travel and events, will result in a final grade. If a student wishes to withdraw from the Spanish program due to difficulties accessing the language or due to health reasons, they may do so with the consent of their mentor by March 15, 2017. This will then be recorded on the transcript as a withdrawal.

Mundo Spanish School weekly test and exam results 60%

Cultural engagement 20%

Language usage by the end of the semester 20%

**CROSS-CULTURAL SERVICE LEARNING**

PRAC-1000/6 credits

**Outtatown Discipleship School, a program of CMU**

Course Syllabus 2019/2020

**Course Supervisor: Jonathan Dueck (PhD)**

**Course Description:**

Service Learning is a supervised, structured, experience-based learning opportunity that involves the student in action, reflection, and response on: teamwork, cooperation, leadership, cross-cultural communication and relationships, as well as the role that money, education, and power dynamics can play in these situations. During the first semester in Canada, students will serve in urban ministries in Winnipeg and Vancouver, complete various work assignments with Christian retreat centres, and participate in a learning community with a First Nation community. During the second semester students will serve in their international location assisting with local construction projects, working with children in orphanages and schools and providing assistance in the various Churches and ministries we are associated with in that country. (This course will fulfill the requirements for a 6 credit practicum in most CMU programs except those with very specific practicum requirements such as music therapy and IDS).

**Assignments:**

Various studies have demonstrated that students’ overall learning in a service assignment is enhanced if they have opportunity to reflect on and discuss their experiences and insights with others. After each of the major service assignments there will be an opportunity for group reflection and students will be asked to provide a reflective journal entry evaluating their experience and what they have learned.

Students on this program can expect to spend approximately 30-40 hours in service assignments in the first semester during their urban plunge programs and various Christian ministry programs. During the second semester the students can expect to spend approximately 80–120 hours in service ministry. A full group discussion, journaling and further discussion in small groups or mentoring sessions will allow for the interpretive process to be realized.

**Evaluation:**

Journal entry for urban plunge projects (two events) 20%

Journal entry for First Nations experience 10%

Journal entries, discussion, and engagement with international programs

(i.e., Tuesday afternoon service, Independent service week,

MCC, Panajachel, Guatemala City weekend, etc.) 60%

Required books, questions, and journal responses

* Joseph, Bob*. 21 Things You May Not Know About the Indian Act* 4%
* Nouwen, Henri. *Love in a Fearful Land* and selected readings 3%
* Course reader 3%