

e-cwip

interactive apostolic ministry training

Class 205—How to Engage Culture without Marrying It

Course Syllabus

Course Description:

Class 205 is a five week course designed to help participants become acquainted with shifts in contemporary culture and the challenges and opportunities those shifts present for evangelism.

Course Objectives:

- To help participants gain an understanding of cultural shift from modernism to postmodernism.
- To help participants gain an understanding of the philosophical, moral and social mindsets prevalent among younger generations of Americans.
- To equip participants to surmount the challenges that postmodernism presents to evangelism.
- To equip participants to take advantage of the opportunities that postmodernism creates for evangelism.
- To equip participants to address ethical and moral “hot button issues” in our culture.

Course Text:

Kinnaman, David. and Gabe Lyons. *Unchristian*, Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 2007.

Course Methods:

This course will consist of class lecture and discussion led by the course facilitator, reading and written assignments.

Course Requirements: (Ordination Track)

- **Course attendance.** Attendance is required at all five course sessions. If an absence is necessary, participants can attend class on the alternate night or watch the course via the internet.
- **Reading assignments.** The required textbook will be read in full by the completion of the course.
- **Written assignments.** Each participant will prepare one written assignment.

“God’s Desire: To Give Us a Future And A Hope”

Discuss an issue or cultural phenomenon which you believe will present an important challenge for the American Church over the next twenty (20) years.

What will be the consequences for the Church and for society in general if the Church is not able to meet the challenges presented by the issue you select?

Describe how the Church can effectively meet this challenge and surmount it by bringing the values and the power of the Kingdom of God into the “discussion” which society is currently having about this issue.

For the sake of example, you may choose to discuss one of the cultural phenomena below or select one of your own choosing.

- The growth in North America of major world religions which were traditionally not practiced here, such as Islam and Buddhism.
- The transition in America from being largely monocultural to being a multicultural and even multilingual society.
- The phenomenon of Christian denominations drifting away from the faith and even becoming hostile to people expressing a preference for traditional Christian belief and sexual morality.
- The “age wave” in society, which is causing the ranks of the retired and elderly to swell while there are relatively fewer workers to pay taxes and care for them.
- The continue growth and newfound assertiveness of atheism and anti-Christian secularism in American society.
- The lingering problems of racism and economic inequality we see in places like Connecticut, which simultaneously has some of the wealthiest and some of the poorest municipalities in the United States.
- The explosive growth of interest in occultic phenomena of all kinds.
- The targeting of children and teens by advertising, entertainment and media which is meant to oversexualize them and trap them in consumerism.

Course Fulfillment:

Attendance at all course sessions and completion of all reading and written assignments. Participants will be graded on a Complete or Incomplete basis.

Specific Data:

Prepared by Rev. Glenn A. Harvison, M.Div., and Pastor Nick Uva, J.D., June 2008