



EVA 315 - 3 credits
Cultural Studies

Description

An independent study designed to familiarize you with the geography, climate, culture, politics, religions and specific challenges of the nation or culture to which you will be ministering. You will do independent research from a variety of sources, allow the Holy Spirit to speak to you about what you have discovered, and present a completed paper documenting what you have learned.

Requirements

It is assumed that you are taking this course because God has already called you to serve in a specific region, nation, culture or religion. The more knowledgeable you are, the more effectively you will be able to be used by the Lord. Therefore, you are to examine a variety of sources, including but not limited to the Bible, other books (from both Christian and secular sources), magazines, encyclopedias, and the Internet, to find answers to the following questions:

- 1) Is the region or nation mentioned in the Bible? What is its biblical history? Are there any promises about the area that are yet to be fulfilled?
- 2) Where is the region located? What are the neighboring countries? What are the significant land features and bodies of water? What is the geography of the region? What is the climate of the region?
- 3) Who are the people of the region? What is their ethnic background? How do they make a living? What is their history?
- 4) What is the religious history of the region? Are there particular spiritual strongholds that need to be addressed? Have covenants been made with evil spirits that are still having an effect today?
- 5) What are the current religions of the region? How devout are the adherents of the various religions? How are the religions practiced? What are the unique challenges that these religions present to the ministry of the Gospel?

- 6) What is the Christian presence like in the region? What percentage of the population claims to be Christian? What denominations are represented and in what percentage?
- 7) What is the political history of the region?
- 8) What is the current political situation? What kind of government is it? Who are the current people in power? What are their beliefs and philosophies? What are their goals for their nation?
- 9) Who are the people from the region who are currently in the news? Are there people in the areas of sports, religion, politics, education, business, humanitarian aid, or any other arena whose names would be recognized by the nationals? What are their beliefs and philosophies?
- 10) What is the missionary presence in the region? What mission organizations have outreaches there? What kinds of mission activities have been tried? What have been most successful?
- 11) What are the greatest needs of the people of the region? In what ways are these being met by mission organizations?
- 12) Add any other questions that will help you be better prepared for your calling.

After you have documented all of this information, meditate upon it in the presence of the Lord, asking Him what He wants to say to you specifically about what you have discovered. Write down what He says to you. Dialogue with Him about His plans for you. Find out if He has any particular instructions for you right now. Include this in your paper.

All of the questions above may not be relevant to every calling. Feel free to adjust them, omit some, or add to them as necessary to develop a thorough understanding of the area of your calling. The purpose of this course is to prepare you for the future God has planned for you. CLU

doesn't particularly need this information. You do. The amount of time and effort you put into it will determine the benefit you receive from it and the level of preparation you will have.

Minimum Standards

- 1) This is a 3-credit course, and therefore it is expected that you will invest approximately 75 hours into its completion.
- 2) You should read at least four different books. (This does not include encyclopedias.)
- 3) You should reference current information from the Internet, periodicals and/or newspapers.
- 4) Your final paper must be at least 25 pages long (single-spaced). It must be properly documented with footnotes and bibliography. (If you are not sure of proper formats, order the "Guidelines for Study, Research and Writing" booklet from CLU. It costs \$5.95, and will also give you instruction on how to do a complete biblical search.)
- 5) Contact your instructor if you have any problems or questions. She is there to assist you in any way she can.

Standards for Grading Assignments

As indicated below, "C" or 2.0 level work is considered average. **Leaders are not average people.** You are therefore expected (required) to put forth the effort necessary to demonstrate at least "B" (3.0) level work or higher on all assignments which you submit. Any which do not will be returned to you with input from your instructor on how you can raise your grade to the expected level. **A course grade will not be given until your assignments demonstrate that you have understood the material presented in the course and allowed your life to be transformed by the Spirit and the Word studied** — the requirements for attaining a "B".

Your individual assignments (notebooks, tests, reports) will be graded according to the following standards. These grades will be averaged together to determine your course grade. Remember, CLU is training leaders and leaders are above-average people. Your work will reflect that.

- "D"
 - Indicates barely passing work that is inferior to the average both in quantity and in quality.
 - Manifests a lack of initiative or sense of responsibility or both.
- "C"
 - Average work; either steady work of an acceptable quality, or work of a high quality which is uneven, irregular or fragmentary.
 - May be mechanically or outwardly correct but shows little reflection upon or personal assimilation of the material.
- "B"
 - Intelligently has fulfilled the requirements of this course.
 - Understands the subject matter presented and has applied it to his life in a limited manner but has not really made the truths his own.
- "A"
 - Grasped the material with thoroughness, industry and correctness of detail.
 - Made the material his own by thinking about it and integrating it, using originality, natural ability, and insight.