



Nipawin Bible College
PR1033 Freshmen Ministry Practicum
Winter 2024
3 Credit Hours
Coordinator: Mr. Doug Harkness
dharkness@nipawin.org

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Students will participate in an intense ministry practicum designed to expose them to a broad range of needs and ministry opportunities in varying cultural, economic, and social settings, incorporating cross-cultural ministry exposure.

COURSE TEXTBOOK

Lingenfelter, Sherwood G. *Ministering Cross-Culturally: An Incarnational Model for Personal Relationships* (2nd ed.). Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2003.

THE BIG QUESTION

How can I serve Christ effectively as part of a ministry team in differing cultural, social, and economic-settings?

LEARNING OUTCOMES

- Greater awareness of differing cultural and socioeconomic settings within Canada.
- Being stretched through exposure to perceived less-fortunate or vulnerable people.
- Increased humility, compassion, and obedience to share the love of Christ with all people.
- Increased familiarity in serving in a vocational ministry context.
- Growth in understanding or awareness of spiritual gifts, strengths, and weaknesses.
- An increased desire to dedicate one's life to serving in Christ's name.
- Maturity in one's willingness to serve, a Christ-like attitude, and in working with others.
- Increased competence in sharing the gospel, or leading short devotionals/or testimonials if asked ahead of time.

ORIENTATION

In pursuit of the desired outcomes, NBC freshmen will receive some orientation. The orientation will focus on the above outcomes, while also taking time to note the importance of:

- Self-discipline: Proper sleep, rest, and daily personal devotions.
- Self-control: Limiting your time with entertainment and spending time in relationally growing ways (e.g., *play a card game with others before watching YouTube videos*).

Seek to be part of activities that maximize interaction with others (*movies or screen entertainment should be a last option. Books, podcasts, etc., can be an alternative.*)

- Self-motivation: This is connected to self-control. Strive to motivate yourself to interact with billets (*if applicable*), and to look for ways to have intentional conversations with people (*aim to ask more questions that allow you to listen, rather than to spend more time talking about yourself.*)

TEAMBUILDING

Expect to have daily team devotional/debrief meetings. These will be in addition to your personal quiet time with the Lord each day. As the week progresses, you may spend time as a team discussing any of the following topics:

- How has the ministry (or ministries) you're serving with been different than NBC or your home church? Some possible differences include:
 - Theological positions (e.g., role of women in ministry, different interpretation of Bible passages like creation, or social justice, etc.)
 - Are there any differences on moral stances or more/less focus on something (e.g., dating relationships, modesty, unique approach to addiction, etc.)?

It's important to note that NBC may not condone or endorse some practices or beliefs held by organizations we serve with/visit. Your staff leader may point these out. That said, with discretion, we recognize the value of exposure to the needs of our lost world provided through these organizations (like a federal penitentiary, for example), as we prayerfully discern how we might reach the lost with the good news of Jesus.

- What significant personal experiences have you had where you have seen God's hand at work in a specific situation? Did you experience increased intimacy with the Lord? Why?
- What Scripture passages have helped you understand your Christian duty during your ministry time?
- Who in your life has impacted your walk with Christ? What made them so influential in your life? Do you believe that your short time interacting with people during this practicum could be impactful?
- How has knowing God changed your life and attitude from your past to the present? Do you believe that this trip was more powerful than it would have been if you had done it before your time at Bible College? Why or why not?
- Was there a time during this trip when your faith was challenged, or you struggled in your relationship with the Lord? Is there any reason behind this? How did you overcome this?
- What are some of the benefits of being a follower of Christ that you became aware of while serving on FMP?
- Are there ways that intentional observation, listening, and relationship-building in these cross-cultural and different socioeconomic environments helped you to become a better communicator of God's story in a particular context? Did you have a chance during the practicum to observe or experience this?
- Do you think that you have something to learn in the interactions you've been having during this trip? What have you found impactful during your time at _____?

- Were there particular situations that drove you to increased, prayerful dependence on the Lord?

COURSE ASSIGNMENTS

Textbook Reading – 20%

- Each student will read the entire textbook and submit a reading report indicating:
 - Affirmation of each chapter read.
 - One thought from each chapter.
 - Example: “I read the Preface. Thought: Understanding one’s own cultural bias is helpful for clarifying and resolving conflicts in every relationship.” Note: You cannot use *this* example as one of your points!

DUE: Friday, Jan. 19, 2024

Daily Journal - 30%

- Each student will keep a daily journal that will include:
 - A record of daily personal devotions (passage & thoughts)
 - A record of the daily group devotion/debrief (passage & thoughts)
 - A summary of the day’s activities:
 - Overview (What we did).
 - Observations (What I saw).
 - Insights (What I learned).
 - See “Teambuilding” above for suggestions about what to include.
 - A personal testimony, that includes:
 - Something personal that God either has done or is now doing in your life.
 - How He is accomplishing it.
 - Why it’s important enough to share with others.
 - A devotional prepared by you to be shared with others.
 - Point form is acceptable.
 - Include:
 - Scripture text.
 - Something learned from the Scripture passage.
 - An illustration – preferably from your own personal life experience.
 - Encouragement to respond appropriately (Application).
 - You will be given time to prepare the testimony and devotional during orientation.
 - You need to be ready to share your testimony or devotional when asked to do so.
- The journal will demonstrate your involvement and perception of what was going on each day and at each ministry location.
- The journal will help process experiences, preserve impressions and provide valuable source material for the synthesis paper (see below).
- The journal is to be handed in with the synthesis paper (see below).

DUE: Monday, Jan. 29, 2024

Synthesis Paper - 30% of the final grade

Note: You will be answering what you have learned about yourself, others, and ministry. The additional questions are there to help prompt reflection and to process your response. Depending on whether your trip was more exposure-based or hands-on, some of these may need to be more or less emphasized. Answer what is applicable.

- The synthesis paper will allow each student to evaluate their experience.
- Minimum 5 pages
- Include:
 - What have you learned about yourself?
 - How did you do at each location? Were you able to process what you observed?
 - How did God use your gifting?
 - How will this trip affect your future contributions in a team setting?
 - What have you learned about others?
 - How do you think your team was able to work together? Was it always smooth or were there times of struggle?
 - What did you learn about teamwork in ministry?
 - Did you learn more about the personal character traits of your teammates because of this trip?
 - What have you learned about ministry?
 - How do you think individual people were affected by your ministry in each location (family life, work, community, education, extra-curricular activities, etc.,)?
 - What did you learn about the people to whom you were ministering?
 - Was the experience what you expected? How was it different from what you expected?
 - From your observation, how do you think the local ministries adapted to their setting to communicate the Gospel clearly? How did they meet the needs of the community?

DUE: Monday, Jan. 29, 2024

Evaluations - 20%

- Half of the evaluation score will be determined by peers and half will be determined by team leaders.
- Each student will be given a sheet to evaluate themselves, their peers, leaders and site supervisors, which will include:
 - Personal Integrity
 - Group Support
 - Teachability
 - Enthusiasm & Willingness to Serve
 - Communication

DUE: Friday, Jan. 19, 2024

NOTE: All written assignments are to be typed in accordance with the guidelines in Kate L. Turabian's *A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*, 9th ed. (Chicago, IL: The University of Chicago Press, 2018) for papers. Assignments will be graded on the basis of content, clarity, grammar, and spelling. Assignments will be due **at 8:30 am on the date assigned.**

ATTENDANCE POLICY: Refer to the NBC Handbook 2023-2024

LATE ASSIGNMENT POLICY: Refer to the NBC Handbook 2023-2024

Reading: 122 pages

Writing: 10 pages (Journal [5], Synthesis [5]).



FMP EVALUATION

Due: Fri., Jan. 19, 2024

Please see reverse for evaluation descriptions.

Evaluation for:

Completed by:

Personal Integrity

Teachability

Group Support

Enthusiasm & Willingness to Serve

Communication

PEERS					
Bell, Bryan					
Bennett, Donovan					
Bueckert, Lauren					
Buhler, Ben					
Colwell, Jenna					
Driedger, Amy					
Edmond, Noah					
Kroeker, Cameron					
Kroeker, Jenny					
Langendoen, Sierra					
Lefthand, Sara					
Miller, Andrew					
LEADERS					
Lorenda Friesen					
Doug Harkness					
Dana Willson					
SITE SUPERVISORS					
Devin Dyck					
Jessica Dyck					
Jennifer Enns					

INSTRUCTIONS/NOTES:

- Score on a scale of 1 to 10, 1 being the lowest, 10 being the highest.
- We realize that you may not have spent much time with the person you are evaluating, but please fill out this form to the best of your knowledge. Be objective, fair, and honest. If you are unsure, please mark "unsure".
- The results of this evaluation will be kept confidential.

CATEGORY DESCRIPTIONS

Personal Integrity

Positive - Clearly seeks to abide by boundaries and expectations set by leadership. Demonstrates a promptness and readiness for scheduled meetings and tasks. Listens well to instructions. Watchful and attentive to their surroundings and responsibilities.

Negative - Stays within boundaries when it serves their interests; struggles with authority. Careless with time and schedules. Unprepared for meetings and tasks. Demonstrates a pattern of not listening to instructions. Careless and inattentive to their surroundings and responsibilities.

Group Support

Positive - Shows a sensitivity to and an interest in the needs of all team members. Demonstrates a willingness to contribute to the group and the tasks at hand. Able to get along well with others.

Negative - Shows interest in own needs and/or needs of an inner circle rather than the needs of the group. Not able to get along well with others.

Teachability

Positive - Demonstrates a willingness to learn, and to consider another perspective or opinion. Demonstrates a willingness to adapt as necessary to new situations. Willing to accept correction.

Negative - Demonstrates an unwillingness to learn, and to consider another perspective or opinion; demonstrates an unwillingness to adapt to new situations/resistant to change; actively or passively resistant to correction.

Enthusiasm & Willingness to Serve

Positive - Demonstrates willing and positive engagement with the tasks presented to them. Works diligently, with a positive and gracious attitude. Willing to work through difficult, repetitive or mundane tasks without complaining, half-heartedness, or laziness. Exhibits enthusiasm (this can be done quietly) and commitment, engagement, self-motivation, and care, whether or not anyone is watching.

Negative - Poorly engaged with tasks presented to them. Seeks to avoid work/responsibility. Poor attitude.

Communication

Positive - Demonstrates the ability to ask questions, or to share ideas and concerns with grace, respect, and tact.

Negative - Demonstrates an unwillingness to seek needed clarification. Withdrawn or demanding with ideas or concerns. Prone to speaking about an issue/person indirectly, inappropriately, or unkindly. Prone to grumbling and complaining.