

MTW262.7 Interpreting Cultures

Name of Unit 1 (Unit Code 1)

Interpreting Cultures (MTW262.7)

SECTION 1 – GENERAL INFORMATION

Administrative details

Associated higher education awards	Duration	Level	Unit Coordinator
Bachelor	One semester	Advanced	Dr David Turnbull

Core or elective unit

Indicate if the unit is a

- core unit
 elective unit
 other (please specify below):

Core: Bachelor of Intercultural Studies Elective: Bachelor of Ministry and Bachelor of Theology
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Unit weighting

Using the table below, indicate the credit point weighting of this unit and the credit point total for the course of study (for example, 10 credit points for the unit and 320 credit points for the course of study).

Unit credit points	Total course credit points
6 credit points	144 credit points

Student workload

Using the table below, indicate the expected student workload per week for this unit.

No. timetabled hours per week*	No. personal study hours per week**	Total workload hours per week***
3	6	9

For those students requiring additional English language support, how many additional hours per week is it expected that they will undertake?

Additional English language support: 0_____ hours per week

Pre-requisites and co-requisites

Are students required have undertaken a prerequisite or co-requisite unit for this unit?

- Yes No

If **YES**, provide details of the prerequisite or co-requisite requirements below.

Pre-requisite: MTR190.5 Developing Cultural Intelligence
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SECTION 2 – ACADEMIC DETAILS

Brief description of the content of the unit (key topics):

We are all immersed in a culture. This unit explores culture as the context for human existence and applies anthropological understanding and theories to the task of ministry and vocation in various cultural and multi-cultural contexts. It strongly connects with the MTC formation domain, Engaging the World/Others' Stories. This unit will equip students with skills and conceptual tools to engage effectively inter- and intra-culturally. Key topics include: the nature of culture, the use of cultural symbols and associated meanings, cultural worldview, language – verbal and non-verbal, the role of family and kinship in society, economics and technology, religion and politics, social status and stratification of society and social change theory for monocultural and multicultural ministry.

Learning outcomes for unit:

1. Explain the concepts, theories, and methodologies associated with cultural anthropology which contribute to cross-cultural engagement practice in Australia and beyond, especially from within the Christian tradition
2. Identify some of one's own personal cultural distinctives and analyse the effect of these on personal spirituality and cross-cultural engagement
3. Devise an ethnographic study within a specific cultural setting, utilising relevant organizational, participant observation and well developed written and oral communication skills
4. With cultural sensitivity, analyse how anthropological theory and methodology applies in particular vocational or ministry contexts, such as indigenous leadership development, holistic development, service delivery in a multicultural society and church planting

Assessment tasks

Type	Learning Outcome/s assessed	When assessed	Weighting
1) 5 x Reading Responses Demonstrate understanding of key concepts, theories, methodologies, and cultural distinctives and their personal impact (of approx 400 words each) (2,000 words)	1, 2	Fortnightly up to week 10 of semester	30%
2) Major Research Paper Assess how a particular anthropological theory or methodology can be applied to a selected context for cross-cultural engagement (eg the engagement with culture and religion, form and meaning association, language and social structures). The paper must show evidence of critical analysis of relevant theory and the use of primary texts. (1,500 words)	4	Week 9	35%
3) Ethnography Report Arising from participant observation in an approved cultural setting. The report should document the results of the cultural observations and the implications for personal, cross-cultural engagement within this particular setting. The paper must show evidence of personal engagement with the cultural group chosen (1,500 words)	2, 3 and 4	Week 13	35%

2.1 Prescribed and recommended readings

Provide below, in formal reference format, a list of the prescribed and recommended readings for the unit.

- Branson, Mark L., and Juan F. Martinez, *Churches, Cultures and Leadership: A Practical Theology of Congregations and Ethnicities*. Edited by Mark L. Branson and Juan F. Martinez. Downers Grove, IL: IVP Academic, 2011.
- Guest, Kenneth J. *Essentials of Cultural Anthropology: A Toolkit for a Global Age*. 3rd ed. New York, NY: Norton, 2020.
- Haviland, William A., Harald E. L. Prins, Bunny McBride, and Dana Walrath. *Cultural Anthropology: The Human Challenge*. Boston, MA: Cengage Learning, 2017.
- Hiebert, Paul G. *The Gospel in Human Contexts: Anthropological Explorations for Contemporary Missions*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2009.
- Howell, Brian M., and Jenell Williams Paris. *Introducing Cultural Anthropology: A Christian Perspective*. 2nd ed. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2019.
- Kraft, Charles H. *Anthropology for Christian Witness*. Maryknoll, New York: Orbis, 1996.
- *Worldview for Christian Witness*. Pasadena, CA: William Carey Library, 2008.
- Lingenfelter, Sherwood G., and Marvin K. Mayers, *Ministering Cross-Culturally: An Incarnational Model for Personal Relationships*. 3rd ed. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker, 2016.
- Livemore, David. *Leading with Cultural Intelligence: The New Secret to Success*. New York: American Management Association, 2010.
- Lustig Myron W. and Jolene Koester. *Intercultural Competence: Interpersonal Communication Across Cultures*. Prearson International Edition. Boston, MA: Allyn and Bacon, 2010.
- Miller, Barbara D. *Cultural Anthropology in a Globalizing World*. 3rd ed. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall, 2012.
- Munson, Robert. *Ministry in Diversity: Applied Cultural Anthropology in a Multicultural World*. Scotts Valley, CA: CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform, 2016.
- Nanda, Serena, and Richard L. Warms. *Cultural Anthropology*. Los Angeles: Sage Publications, 2020.
- Otaigbe, Osoba O. *Building Cultural Intelligence in Church and Ministry: 10 Ways to Assess and Improve Cross-Cultural Competence in Church, Ministry and the Workplace*. Bloomington, IN: Author House UK, 2016.
- Plueddemann, James E. *Leading Across Cultures: Effective Ministry and Mission in the Global Church*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP Academic, 2009.
- Rynkiewich, Michael A. *Soul, Self, and Society: A Postmodern Anthropology for Mission in a Postcolonial World*. Eugene, Or.: Cascade Books, 2011.
- Scupin, Raymond. *Cultural Anthropology: A Global Perspective*. 10th ed. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall, 2021.
- Tucker, Frank. *Centre, Edges and Beyond*. Adelaide, SA: Frank Tucker, 2017.