Bethany Theological Seminary
CC2
I-410 Cross-Cultural Independent Study Proposal

All requests for an I-410 Cross-Cultural Independent Study course must be approved by the Educational Policies and Advisory Committee (EPAC). For approval, complete this form, secure the consent and signature of Cross-Cultural Director, and return the completed form to the Office of the Academic Dean. EPAC will then act on the proposal and inform you of its decision.

If this proposal is approved by EPAC, the following individuals will be informed by the Dean: Director of Cross-Cultural Studies, Director of Academic Services, Student Services Coordinator, and the Faculty Advisor. This course will carry three (3) semester hours of credit. Please see the Goals and Objectives for Cross-Cultural Courses on the reverse side.

Name: ___________________________________________________ Date: ____________________

Faculty member willing to evaluate course work: ________________________________

Academic Advisor: ____________________________________________________________

(signature)

Academic Dean: _____________________________________________________________

(signature)

Location: _________________________________ Dates: _____________________________

Brief Description of Proposed Study Experience: (attach related documents)

Brief Description of Projected Costs and Sources of Funding:

Please attach the following items:

• A list of how you plan to fulfill your goals/objectives for your Cross-Cultural Course (see attached Goals and Objectives for Cross-Cultural Course
• A detailed outline of what you plan to do to prepare for, carry out, and debrief the Cross-Cultural experience
• A list of background readings as agreed upon by supervising faculty

Statement of Cross-Cultural Director:
I support this course proposal.

Signature ________________________________________________
Goals and Objectives for Cross-Cultural Courses

Primary goals for the Cross-Cultural requirement include the following:

• To experience and learn about a specific cultural context and people whose world and experience of life are different from one’s own,
• To encourage appreciation and respect for different cultural perspectives that are discovered through engagement with people from different cultures,
• To increase awareness of being a person shaped by particular social, cultural, geographic, and national locations,
• To encourage the discovery of biases, assumptions, values, and commitments that are present in different cultures and societies,
• To increase ability to critique one’s own culture/society and that of the people one experiences,
• To increase ability to articulate a theology of culture, person, church, or ministry that honors the particularities of the society/culture experienced as well as one’s own society/culture.

Additional goals, particularly applicable to M.Div. students, include the following:

• To be able to articulate ways God’s work/reign/presence was experienced in another society/culture,
• To explore how one’s assumptions about the practice of ministry are socially and culturally derived,
• To explore possibilities for ministry to others in a different social/cultural context.

The faculty has established the following guidelines (which the faculty also use in designing travel seminars or study tours that they lead):

1. Adequate preparation for entry into another cultural context, including but not limited to (a) attention to issues in cross-cultural immersion; (b) background readings as agreed upon by supervising faculty; (c) orientation to basic manners in a new culture; (d) a briefing on being a participant/observer.

2. Engagement with local people within the social/cultural setting in specified ministry, work camp, special assignment, or supervised study (typically for a period of fulltime involvement of 2 weeks).

3. Utilizing local resource people for information, interpretation, mentoring, and supervision.

4. Daily journal writing (with specified questions or format).

5. Integrative project exploring an issue within the scope of disciplines related to theological education (e.g., a paper, multi-media presentation, cultural performance, exploration of a special social/economic issue, etc.), which demonstrates the student’s articulation of an understanding of ministry and/or theological understanding of a particular society/culture.

6. Debriefing experiences with others on the trip and with faculty who have interest/skills/experiences in the area. A minimum of 8-10 hours should be scheduled for these experiences in whatever schedule format is desirable. Topics to be explored in the debriefing experiences should include but not be limited to the following: (a) sharing plans for integration project itself, (b) personal learning’s from the experience, (c) personal growth areas during the period in another cultural context as well as after return, (d) theology of ministry and/or reflections on the contextual nature of ministry, (e) experience of God/Christ/Holy Spirit in that location, (f) questions/issues, (g) charting future learning goals.