Perspectives on the World Christian Movement: Class Format

Including: General Information, Enrollment Options, and the Weekly Lessons.

General Information

So how does Perspectives work?

Perspectives on the World Christian Movement is a biblically based course designed to help believers learn more about God's heart for all nations and to show believers how to play an active role in the Great Commission. It is run locally, coordinated regionally, and supported behind the scenes by the national office. There are over 200 course locations each year around the US and more locations worldwide.

Who runs Perspectives?

- The Perspectives Study Program is a ministry of the U.S. Center for World Mission - a non-denominational parachurch ministry that works with thousands of churches, mission agencies, and campus ministries around the world.
- Perspectives is run locally around the country by teams of volunteers, usually alumni, who have been personally impacted by Perspectives and have a desire to mobilize their community to God's global purposes.
- Perspectives is hosted by various churches or non-profits around the country. Usually local coordinators have Perspectives hosted by a different church around the community, because it is not owned or operated by the local church. The churches are serving as hosts and supporters of the study program. Shifting the location from year to year helps foster the mentality of neutrality, and promotes a community-wide movement.

16 Lessons

- Perspectives classes are 16 weeks, one night a week, for a 3 hour session. Class begins August 13th and ends December 10th. We will break the week of Labor Day and the week of Thanksgiving.

What happens each week?

- A variety of instructors with expertise and experience in that week's lesson come from around the country come to teach the class.
- The three hour class normally has two one-hour teaching sessions with a break in the middle, and some time at the beginning and end to review last week's and conduct a practical application.
- Teaching formats vary each week depending on the instructor's personality. It is not uncommon to have small group discussions, short videos, incredible testimonies, Q&A, and teaching.

Course Materials – Included in course fee & provided the first night of class.

- Perspectives Reader - a collection of hundreds of articles written by men and women from various backgrounds, denominations, and ministries. It is a unique collection of pointed articles that help you grasp what God has and is doing around the world and how you can be involved.
- Perspectives Study Guide - a workbook with homework/quizzes and personal response sheets to help you learn and apply what you've read in the articles and heard from the lecturers.
Enrollment options

Certificate

- Enhance your understanding of God's global purpose through lectures, activities, and selected readings. Receive individualized feedback upon completing weekly homework, personal response sheets and the semester project, deepening your understanding. If you are not interested in receiving credit for the Course, we recommend this as the best option for getting the most out of Perspectives. The cost to take the Course at the Certificate level is $250. (At the Certificate level, you will receive a $15 discount if you are taking the Course for the first time and register by June 30th.)

Credit

- Earn undergraduate or graduate level credit hours for completing the Course. Additional reading or assignments are required. We are offering undergraduate and graduate credit through Trinity International University, and transfer credit for High School & Home Schooled students through Geneva College. The cost to receive credit for the Course is $500. (At the credit level, you will receive a $15 discount if you are taking the Course for the first time and register by June 30th.)

Key Reading Level

- You receive the same teaching and lectures as the certificate level, and are encouraged to read one or two key articles a week and complete several personal response sheets during the semester to help you process the material. You are not required to take part in the additional readings, weekly homework, or project, and will not receive a grade. You will not receive a certificate saying that you completed the Perspectives course. The Key Reading Level cost is $250.

Alumni Levels

- There are various options for those who have taken the course before and wish to take it again. All Alumni are invited to come any Tuesday night to hear one or more of the speakers for free. See the form for pricing on the other options.

Weekly Lessons:  Mondays, 8/13 – 12/10 2012

#0. Perspectives-The Big Picture **FIRST NIGHT OF CLASS
Walk through the strategic purpose of the Perspectives Course.

Biblical

#1. The Living God is a Missionary God
Explore God's intent for every nation on the planet through his promise to Abraham: redemption and blessing. In this lesson, explore God's purpose for the world since before the time of the patriarchs, and the ways in which He wants to bless the world. Learn about God's two-fold problem, and His single purpose.

#2. The Story of His Glory
Explore God's purpose for Himself: to be glorified. See how He's been unfolding a plan throughout all nations and generations to bring about His greater glory, ultimately drawing to Himself the prayers, the passion, and the worship of all people.
#3. Your Kingdom Come
Learn how God’s purpose regards evil, how God has accomplished a defeat of evil powers in order to open an era of history in which the nations can freely follow Christ. Take a look at the kingdom of God for what it really is: the destination of all history. Our prayers contend with Satan’s attacks in order to speed the coming of God’s kingdom. With this in mind, have a warfare mentality.

#4. Mandate for the Nations
Jesus shows us the wisdom of placing our focus on the gentiles. What is the great commission, and how did Jesus live out His example of how to best fulfill that commission through discipleship? Are missions even relevant in light of the teachings of pluralism and universalism? Does Jesus have something unique to offer?

#5. Unleashing the Gospel
The foundations of the gospel are laid with costly obedience: the way for gentiles to enter faith is opened. Discover what the climactic book of Acts can tell us about how this fundamental act of God can speak to ministry situations today. Strategic suffering and apostolic passion go hand in hand with the spread of God's word.

### Historical

#6. The Expansion of the Christian Movement
In this lesson, get an overview of the largest, longest-running movement in all of history: the world Christian movement. Study how the gospel relentlessly surged through peoples and countries, changing entire cultures, and discover insights for our day.

#7. Eras of Mission History
In the last 200 years, there have been three "bursts" of mission’s activity, which have seen the most explosive growth in the history of the gospel. We may be on the verge of the final era of missions. Global mission forces are increasingly comprised of non-westerners. Also, in this lesson, understand the four stages of church-mission dynamics, and the value of student movements.

#8. Pioneers of the World Christian Movement
Because missions today is beginning to enter its last stages, we have no excuse for failing to learn from and absorb the vast body of wisdom and knowledge left to us from our predecessors. Learn from ordinary people, not unlike you, who have done extraordinary things through Jesus Christ who gave them strength, specifically focusing on William Carey, Hudson Taylor, Cam Townsend and others. Finally, learn the historic role of women in missions.

#9. The Task Remaining
God has pressed his purpose forward, leading all the way up to the present hour of great opportunity. Understanding the concept of an "un-reached people group" will greatly aid in comprehending the remaining task entrusted to us on Earth. Recognize the current imbalance of mission resources and allocation that mistakenly shape strategic priorities. A basic minimal missiological achievement in a given people group opens the way to declaring God's power with clarity. Learn about the need and opportunity of urban missions, among other mobilization possibilities.

### Cultural

#10. How Shall They Hear?
Learning how to communicate in a cross-cultural way is a vital and challenging aspect to transmitting God’s message of salvation. Learn to incorporate relevance at the world-view level, and to avoid syncretism (blending of cultural error with God's truth in exchange for faster and wider acceptance.) Sensitive missionaries can often uncover redemptive analogies that God Himself has embedded in the culture.
#11. Building Bridges of Love
Take a look at the incarnation of our Lord Christ as a model for missionary humility. See how missionaries can take on community roles in order to form relationships of trust and respect to develop a sense of belonging, and thus, to communicate with credibility. Recognize the dynamics of social structure in order to initiate growing movements of ongoing communication throughout the society.

Strategic

#12. Christian Community Development
A review of world need. The role of social action and the balance it must maintain with the work of evangelism. Build community development into outreach as a sign of Christ's Lordship. Examine the charge that missionaries destroy culture instead of serving it.

#13. The Spontaneous Multiplication of Churches
The spread of the good news through a culture is anything but a chance, random occurrence. Missionaries can plant multiplying churches that reach entire families and communities. Look at the vision for saturation church planting. Find out about house church movements and how they fit into the grand scheme.

#14. Pioneer Church Planting
How is it different being the first representative of Christ to bring His gospel to a people? What is frontier church planting, and what are its dynamics? Examine the reasons for "de-westernizing" a gospel presentation, and why it's important in pioneer church planting. Look at some case studies.

#15. World Christian Discipleship
In the final lesson, study what it means to integrate God's global purpose and mission into your life, and to have a war-time lifestyle. Compare and contrast the respective roles of going and sending. Learn to value the work of mobilization as a strategic aspect of effective sending. Seek wisdom in pursuing partnership with local churches, mission agencies, non-western missions and more. Seek God's will in all these matters, and let Him make clear to you your future role in His plan. Find practical hope and guidance for the task.

Registration and more Information

For more information about the course in Katy, including testimonies, pictures and registration visit katyperspectives.com. Also, visit the official Perspectives website: www.perspectives.org.

Additional questions can be sent to kkershner@whatisgrace.org.