Rosebud Immersion Experience – July 11-17, 2015
Wiconi, Int’l and Sioux Falls Seminary: Partners in providing a quality, intensive cross-cultural experience

Introduction:
There are certain aspects of ourselves, culture, and faith that we can only learn by deeply engaging ourselves in another culture. This immersion experience will expose and challenge you to a wider appreciation of Creator’s creative wonder in the light of being fully human and fully a follower of Jesus. This course is available to take for graduate level credit or for audit.

Graduate level credit – requires completion of all course requirements. Work is graded with graduate-level expectations. If you want to take this graduate level course for credit as an undergraduate, you will need to work out an agreement with the accrediting institution. There will be corresponding tuition costs for anyone taking this course for credit.

Audit – Auditors attend and participate in all activities at the same level as those attending for seminary or university credit without any assignments and without the full cost of credits. In addition to an application fee, the cost to audit is $50 per credit hour.

To learn more about the application and registration process, please contact our enrollment office at 800.440.6227 or e-mail registrar@sfseminary.edu.

Course Description:
A one-week immersion experience in intercultural studies. Our location is the Rosebud Reservation in South Dakota. As an immersion experience, you will learn from various regional speakers, interact with community members, and participate in some traditional ceremonies. We will discuss critical aspects of what contextualization is, and we will explore what it might look like if applied on the Rosebud or in any setting. We will learn about the history of missions directed at the Lakota people on the Rosebud. We will consider how colonization and Christian mission developed in this part of the world, and we will critique this history while considering other options. We will consider how we might engage in a reorientation of the gospel of Jesus as story. We will strive to listen to the culture we experience around us and allow that experience to inform our thinking and our dialogue throughout the week.

Schedule – Saturday, July 11 – Friday, July 18, 2015:
Note: If you are flying and want assistance with ground transportation to Rosebud, you will need to fly to Sioux Falls. Contact Doug Anderson (danderson@sfseminary.edu) for help with ground transportation. For those driving or flying to Sioux Falls on July 10, we may arrange to meet somewhere that evening to get acquainted prior to our departure in the morning.

Some attending the class may be driving in from various parts of the country. You are welcome to meet us in Sioux Falls and drive out together. However, you are also free to meet us in Mission, SD, on the 11th if you so desire.

We will need several of you who attend from the Sioux Falls area to drive to the reservation and to be able to drive a group of students around during the week. We probably drive about 750 miles during the week. If you are willing and able to drive, and if you have a vehicle that can hold three or four people and their things, let Doug Anderson know (danderson@sfseminary.edu). We can all share travel costs if that is a need.

Saturday, July 11
--8:00 a.m. - Depart from Sioux Falls, SD: Sioux Falls Seminary parking lot, 2100 S. Summit Ave.
--Late Afternoon - Arrive at Sicangu Owayawa Oti (Todd County High School dorms), Mission, SD.
During the Week
We will have several different speakers join us, and we will have some formal class time and a good deal of group dialogue. We will also drive to various locations and participate in various activities.

Friday, July 18
--12:00 Noon – Depart from Mission, SD. We will arrive back at Sioux Falls Seminary in the late afternoon.

Your Costs:
Tuition and audit fees from Sioux Falls Seminary, or your accrediting institution, will be based on your level of participation in the class (credit or audit).

In addition, a fee of $450, per person, is paid to Wiconi International, Box 1346 Vancouver, WA 98668 by June 30th. This fee covers food and lodging for the week and assists with expenses for speakers and other activities of the week.

We will make arrangements for lodging and all meals. Contact Doug Anderson at Sioux Falls Seminary (danderson@sfsseminary.edu) for assistance on transportation.

Course Objectives:
Our goal is to expose students to aspects of culture, religion and faith that they normally are not exposed to in order to sensitize them to the issues, needs, and opportunities for living out ones faith in Jesus in the midst of “otherness.” One of the major benefits of a cross-cultural immersion experience is the opportunity to recognize your own cultural ways, biases and prejudices more clearly as you learn to understand and appreciate those of another. This unique experience will challenge and assist participants to discover Creator’s work in all cultures. The following objectives strive to achieve this goal:

- Encounter another culture and begin engaging yourselves with others in that culture. In the process, we learn to love one another as ourselves.

- Gain a better grasp of the dynamic of clashing worldview assumptions in the process of cross-cultural communications.

- Gain a greater understanding of the larger context of intercultural relationships and global service by learning about the history of missions among the tribes of North America.

- Be prepared (by being stretched and molded) to be used by the Creator in your own as well as another culture.

- Begin to understand and practice some basic principles of intercultural service, holistic/integral discipleship, critical contextualization and cultural adjustment.

- Consider opportunities for future involvement in intercultural relationship building such as prayer, research, funding, community development and encouragement.

- Begin to understand root issues of neo-colonialism, and discover some possible Christian responses.

- For those students who attend and for whom professional counseling is your career goal, develop a clear understanding of how all psychotherapy is cross-cultural, and develop personal and professional skills in thinking and working cross-culturally. Counseling students in the group will meet separately a time or two during the week.

Course Requirements:
- Participation: Demonstrated by engaging in cultural immersion experiences and in thoughtful dialogue. Attend the trip with a learner's attitude, and be willing to serve in whatever capacity is needed. See yourself as a team
member that represents a larger community. Work together and encourage one another during this immersion experience. We are a team. Be open and flexible to participate in new cultural experiences. Focus on relationships both within the team and within the host community that you are visiting.

- **Mentoring:** Identify a "mentor" that will agree to serve as a sounding board for this experience. This person should be mature, and be available to listen to your story and offer any feedback in the way of prayer, reflection or encouragement that you might wish or need. They could be an aunt or uncle, parent, pastor, professor, older student, or anyone of your choosing. You are a part of a wider community and you represent them when you step out of your own culture and visit another.

- **Class Attendance:** Attend all scheduled gathering times. Participate in all lectures, events, ceremonies, community participation and other activities scheduled.
  
  - **Journal:** Spend time each day in prayerful reflection. Each day, record your thoughts, feelings, and concerns that arise during the trip. The journal may be a safe place to relieve frustration, express yourself, or reflect on what you are experiencing. You will be asked to indicate that you have completed this requirement, but it is your journal and it will not be turned in.
  
  - **Reading:** The reading requirements are meant to help the group discuss issues that are pertinent for your particular trip. While you are not required to submit a reading report, you will submit a form or note indicating that you have read all of the material. In addition, we may watch portions of several video/DVD's during the class as sources of stimulation for thoughtful discussion.

1. **Required Reading and Viewing:**
   i. Nerburn, Kent. *Neither Wolf Nor Dog: On Forgotten Roads with an Indian Elder*. Novato, CA: New World Library. 2002. This book is the first of a trilogy written by Kent Nerburn. Read all three books if you can find the time. They are hard to put down. The other two books in the series are *The Wolf at Twilight* and *The Girl who Sang to the Buffalo*.
   iii. Twiss, Richard. *Rescuing Theology from the Cowboys*. Richard Twiss is the author of this book. He was on the ground floor of creating this immersion course, and his book can be purchased through the Wiconi website (www.wiconi.com).
   iv. Other articles, books, and videos may also be required or recommended, and these will be listed on our Moodle site. You will receive information about how to get on the Moodle site once you have registered for the class through Sioux Falls Seminary.
   v. Watch the HBO DVD "Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee" prior to the trip. You should be able to find access to this DVD in several places.

2. **Recommended Reading:**

- **Prayer:** Enlist a team of people to pray for you each day. This could be your friends, professors, family, co-workers, etc. Preferably, you should have 3 or 4 people on your prayer team. This will help you, and those who pray for you will vicariously be a part of the trip and God's work in your life.

- **Final Presentation:** You will be required to write a 10 page (double spaced) report that incorporates your readings, observations, experiences and participation in the various activities. In the paper, we are asking you to describe succinctly what you did, your feelings on the trip, what you learned about yourself/others/culture/God, and how this has impacted your life. Instead of a written report, you have the option of doing this as an oral presentation. Look for creative opportunities to share your experience. You may choose to share your presentation with your own church, a youth group, a Sioux Falls Seminary (or the school you are attending) chapel or relevant class, etc. When possible, we encourage several of you to present this as a group. You now become an advocate for justice, the need for Biblically and culturally informed cross-cultural communication, and mission.

- **For Doctoral Students:** In addition to the above requirements, doctoral students will need to read an additional book (see bibliography and discuss this with the professor) and to write one page reflection papers on each of the books they read. Doctoral students will also be expected to assist the other participants throughout the week.

- **For Counseling Students:** If you are a counseling student from Sioux Falls Seminary, your requirements may be somewhat different from those listed above. We will discuss those and spell them out at a later time. Counseling students from other schools are encouraged to attend this immersion experience as well.

A bibliography of added resources will be available closer to the date of the Immersion experience. It will be posted on the Moodle site for those who sign up for this course.