

Rosebud Reservation Cultural Immersion Experience

Where: Mission, South Dakota on the Rosebud Reservation in southcentral South Dakota

When: July 13-19, 2019

Cost: \$825 (covers room and board, speakers, professors, various activities)

Sioux Falls Seminary, in partnership with Indigenous Pathways and Wiconi, is offering an experiential course in cross cultural immersion among the Sicangu Lakota. July 13-19, 2019 will be our **thirteenth year** offering this course on the Rosebud Reservation. The Rosebud Reservation makes up Todd County in South Dakota and is one of the three poorest counties in the United States. The mix of poverty within a rich cultural tradition is quite remarkable and worthy of note.

Our experience is conducted in a good way in friendship and partnership with the Sicangu Lakota people. It is a deeply enriching learning experience for those who participate. The group is limited to the first twenty-five people who register. Join us as learners as you immerse yourself in the local culture and in dialogue with a team of instructors and local Sicangu Lakota leaders. You do not need to be a student to participate in this experience. The group is commonly about half graduate students and half others who want to learn more about the Lakota and about Native/Indigenous culture and context.

The 2019 immersion experience will particularly interest anyone who wants to explore the life of Black Elk. We will spend an extended day on the Pine Ridge Reservation to visit important locations in Black Elk's life while engaging in dialogue with a Black Elk scholar, Damian Costello, PhD. Dr. Costello's key writings on Black Elk and his connections with Black Elk's family members will provide us with an intimate experience of Black Elk's life and heritage. It is particularly important to note that Black Elk is currently being considered for canonization in the Catholic Church. If Black Elk and his life are important to you as a researcher or as someone who has been personally impacted by the book, "Black Elk Speaks," you want to attend this year's immersion!

Professors:

Doug Anderson, PsyD, Sioux Falls Seminary – Dr. Anderson is a Licensed Psychologist and the Director of Clinical Services at Sioux Falls Psychological Services. He is also a Professor of Counseling at Sioux Falls Seminary. He has been involved with this immersion course since 2010, and he and his wife commonly find their way to the Rosebud throughout the year. For more info, see www.offermehope.com and www.sfseminary.edu.

Casey Church, DMis, Wiconi (an arm of Indigenous Pathways) – Dr. Church is a Potawatomi Pipe Carrier, author, and the Director of Wiconi. He has many years of personal and professional investment in contextual ministry and worship. For more info, see www.wiconi.com and www.indigenouspathways.com.

Damian Costello, PhD – Dr. Costello is a Catholic theologian who specializes in the intersection of Catholic theology, Indigenous spiritual traditions, and colonial history. He is the author of *Black Elk*:

Colonialism and Lakota Catholicism and his work is informed by five years of ethnographic work with the Navajo Nation.

Registration:

To register, please contact Sioux Falls Seminary at 605-336-6588 and ask for student enrollment. Note, however, that you do not need to take this as a course for credit. *This experience is available to any adult.*

For information or questions about this immersion experience, contact Dr. Anderson at danderson@sfseminary.edu.

Introduction:

There are certain aspects of ourselves, our own culture and faith, that we can only learn by deeply engaging in another culture. This immersion experience will expose and challenge you to a wider appreciation of our Creator and of cultural diversity as you reflect on your own humanity and on what it means to be a follower of Jesus.

You can participate in two ways. First, you can take this course for graduate level credit. In that case you would complete all course requirements (see below) and your work would be graded with graduate-level expectations. Sioux Falls Seminary is an accredited graduate school (ATS and HLC accreditation) and your credits for this course can transfer to your graduate school based on your graduate school's approval. You are able to take this course for the flat rate of \$825, and there is no added charge for credits. This immersion experience is equivalent to a three-credit course, and therefore fulfills any course requirement of 1-3 credits.

If you want to take this graduate level course for credit as an undergraduate, you will need permission from your school and from Dr. Anderson. If you are approved to take the course, you are also able to do so for the flat rate of \$825 with no added charge for the credits.

This cultural immersion course should exceed, match, or certainly approximate a variety of intercultural or cross-cultural course requirements in your institution.

Second, you can audit the course and simply attend and participate in all activities at the same level as those attending for seminary or university credit without any required assignments. You are still strongly encouraged to do the reading prior to the experience. Doing so will greatly enhance your experience. The mix of graduate students and other adults in a variety of life roles and contexts makes for a rich and rewarding experience.

Everyone who attends will pay a fee of \$825 to Sioux Falls Seminary. This fee covers the majority of your expenses for the week – meals, lodging, professors, local speakers, various events and activities.

Course Description: A one-week immersion experience in intercultural studies. The location is the Rosebud Reservation in southcentral South Dakota. During this immersion experience you will learn from various regional speakers, interact with community members, and participate in 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. The implications of contextualization for any cultural setting will become readily apparent. 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:

Depart from Sioux Falls, South Dakota from the Sioux Falls Seminary parking lot (2100 S. Summit Avenue) at 8 AM on Saturday, July 13. Arrive at Sicangu Owayawa Oti (Todd County High School Dorms) in Mission SD late afternoon. If you are flying, and you want assistance with ground transportation to Rosebud, you will need to fly in to Sioux Falls. Contact Doug Anderson (danderson@sfseminary.edu) for help with ground transportation. For those driving or flying in to Sioux Falls on July 12, we will arrange to meet somewhere for dinner 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 may wish to meet us in Sioux Falls and drive out together, or you may be driving up from the South or from out West or up North. You are free to meet us in Mission, South Dakota on the 13th if you so desire. We stop to do some things on the way to Mission, and we usually arrive in Mission, SD around 3-4 PM.

During the week we will have several different speakers join us, and we will engage in a mix of formal class time and a good deal of group dialogue. A postmodern pedagogy drives this course. We will also drive to various locations and participate in various activities. 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, please let Doug Anderson know (danderson@sfseminary.edu). I am able to assist with fuel expenses if that is a need. Thank you.

Depart from Mission, SD on Friday, July 19th by noon, with arrival in Sioux Falls by 4:00 PM.

Cost for the week on the Rosebud:

We make arrangements for lodging and all meals, and the fee you pay covers this cost. Your fee also covers the cost of various activities, speakers' fees, and the cost of your instructors. The cost for all participants, per person, is **\$825.00 to be paid to Sioux Falls Seminary, 2100 S. Summit Avenue, Sioux Falls, SD, 57105 by June 28th.** Contact Doug Anderson at Sioux Falls Seminary, (danderson@sfseminary.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 cultural and faith diversity. One of the major benefits of this kind of cross-cultural 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 reach this goal:

1. Encounter another culture and begin engaging yourselves with others in that culture. In the process, we learn to love one another as ourselves.
2. Gain a better grasp of the dynamic of clashing worldview assumptions in the process of cross-cultural communications.
3. 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.
4. Be prepared (by being stretched and molded) to be used by the Creator in your own and other cultures.
5. Begin to understand and practice some basic principles of intercultural service, holistic/integral discipleship, critical contextualization and cultural adjustment.
6. Consider opportunities for future involvement in intercultural relationship building such as prayer, research, funding, community development and encouragement.
7. Begin to understand root issues of neo-colonialism, and discover some possible Christian responses.
8. 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 may meet separately a time or two during the week.

Course Requirements:

1. **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.
2. **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 both prior to and after the course/experience. 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.
3. **Class Attendance:** Attend all scheduled gathering times. Participate in all lectures, events, ceremonies, community participation and other activities scheduled.
4. **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.
5. **Reading and Viewing Requirements:** The reading requirements are meant to help you prepare for group dialogue throughout the week. For those taking this course for credit, prior to the start of the experience you must complete the reading and viewing requirements and generate a one page phenomenological response to each assigned reading/viewing. These can be

emailed to Dr. Anderson at danderson@sfseminary.edu. Please complete this activity and send to Dr. Anderson prior to the start of the actual experience.

1. Reading and Viewing: (required for students, and recommended for other attendees)
 1. Neither Wolf Nor Dog. 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.
 2. Black Elk Speaks. This book is the story of Black Elk's life as a Holy Man of the Oglala Sioux. It is told by John Neihardt. Few books are more important than this book when addressing Native American spirituality and theology.
 3. 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) or on Amazon.
 4. Black Elk: Colonialism and Lakota Catholicism. Damian Costello is the author of this book and is an expert on Black Elk's life. This book is available on Amazon. Dr. Costello will be with us for the 2019 Rosebud Immersion.
 5. 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.
6. **Prayer:** You are encouraged to enlist a team of people to pray for you each day. This could be friends, professors, family, co-workers, etc. Preferably, you should have 3 or 4 people on your prayer team. This will help both you and those who pray for you to be a part of the trip and God's work in your life.
7. **Final Project:** During the week of the immersion you are to keep a journal (see #4 above). Using your journal entries and your personal reflections throughout the week, you are to write a summary of your experience and its value for you in your life context, journey, and vocation. What did you learn about yourself/others/culture/God, and how might this experience impact your personal and professional life? We will have time for reflection at the end of the week. Plan to complete your final project during the week of the immersion so that you are able to share your process with the group during our time of reflection on Friday.
8. **For Doctoral Students:** In addition to the above requirements, doctoral students will need to read an additional book (see bibliography and discuss this with Dr. Anderson) and turn in a robust paper or presentation. Discuss with Dr. Anderson so that the paper or presentation can be contextualized to the student's setting and activity.

Rosebud Immersion Experience – Packing List and Other Reminders:

1. Bible (gotta start with that!), pen, journal

2. Small flashlight
3. Comfortable and modest clothing. It may get quite warm in the day, and it can get quite cool at night. Plan your clothing accordingly. Check the forecast for the week in Mission, SD just prior to packing.
4. Light jacket (rain-repellent might be helpful)
5. Comfortable shoes. We will do some walking, but nothing major and nothing at a fast pace.
6. Clothes for playing basketball, volleyball, or throwing a Frisbee around. And feel free to bring a good Frisbee.
7. Hat, sunscreen, and water bottle for outings (Pow Wow, Wounded Knee...)
8. All toiletries – soap, shampoo, toothbrush, towel
9. Personal medications
10. Sleeping bag or set of sheets for a twin mattress, and a pillow
11. We may have air conditioned comfort when in doors (I anticipate this to be the case), but you may wish to bring a small fan, ear plugs (for when a person in your room snores throughout the night!), surge protector (very optional, but would protect your phone and computer if plugged in during a raucous South Dakota thunderstorm), and a camera (most cameras these days include a phone and access to the web!)
12. **Important:** For the Sweat Lodge – Wear cotton. Nothing on the clothing that will easily get hot. Absolutely no metal (jewelry, zippers, piercings, etc). Bring an extra towel (large towel, not a hand towel) for this ceremony. Men can wear a t-shirt and a pair of shorts or swim trunks. Women can wear a t-shirt and a long cotton skirt (like a broomstick skirt – this is traditional), or modest shorts (modesty is very important). Bring a sports bra with no metal clips (no underwire bras).
13. **Important:** Bring gifts to give to others that you meet on the reservation. Gift-giving is a way to establish and maintain relationships, and the gifts you bring can communicate in ways that words may not. In the past, people have brought home-made jams, mugs, home-made jewelry, all sorts of things. The more personal and thoughtful your gift the better. Be creative and plan to bring a number of gifts to give away during the week. This is always a fun and deeply meaningful experience for both givers and recipients.
14. **Important:** Bring a story (3-5 minutes). We want to hear each other's stories, and we want to be able to share our stories with those we meet at times. Humorous is good. Serious is good. Your choice. We want the story to be about you.
15. Plan to learn from and care for one another.
16. Plan to laugh, but know that you will also discover plenty of reasons to cry.
17. Plan to exercise the Gumby Principle: In all things be flexible.

Financial Reminder:

1. \$825 to Sioux Falls Seminary by June 28
2. Extra cash for personal spending while on the reservation (snacks, coffee, ice cream, gifts, coffee, tips for professors, coffee). There are several places where you will be able to purchase a variety of gifts, and I like to think of such expenditures as contributions to the economy on the reservation.

See you on the Rosebud!