

ANDOVER NEWTON THEOLOGICAL SCHOOL
BORDER-CROSSING IMMERSION HANDBOOK

2016-2018



Border Sculpture by Taller Yonke at University of Arizona campus

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BORDER-CROSSING IMMERSION HANDBOOK

Purpose

To provide an opportunity through confronting the challenges of a social context other than one's own for social analysis, theological reflection, deeper self-knowledge and the development of multicultural sensitivity and skills. This class/experience seeks to deepen commitment to live one's faith through engaging with vital issues for the church and world. It is intended as an integrative catalyst in the new curriculum.

Goals of Border-Crossing Immersions

The Border-Crossing Immersion Requirement is one way Andover Newton seeks to deeply engage students with communities and persons of different social, cultural, ethnic, racial, economic, national, and faith identities other than their own in order:

- to develop greater understanding and sensitivity to the dynamics of privilege, power and disadvantage as they are seen in patterns and structures in one's own and others' contexts;
- to work toward the elimination of the category of "the other," while developing hospitable ways to relate to difference;
- to provide an opportunity to develop tools for social analysis, theological reflection, and deeper self knowledge;
- to create visible change, evidenced in possessing a larger lens, to see themselves and the world in which they live;
- to contribute to the development of multicultural sensitivity and skills which help one become more agile, knowledgeable and respectful in border crossings and;
- to deepen the student's commitment to live one's faith through engaging vital issues for the church and the world with communities and persons who challenge one's own assumptive world and meaning making.

Competencies sought in Border-Crossing Immersions

By the end of a border-crossing immersion students should have the following competencies:

- an increase in self-knowledge through an examination of one's assumptions, beliefs and stereotypes (specifically in relation to privilege, power and disadvantage), as it relates to a new cultural context;
- a capacity to be able to read and interpret another cultural context while learning what is distinctive and particular to ministry in this new context and how it relates to one's own ministry;
- an ability to critically reflect upon issues impacting one's context while drawing upon tools of analysis for understanding injustice and tools for dismantling structures of injustice;
- the capacity to connect the dots and think systemically, with an increased capacity to make the connections between the local and global and between one's locale and the new context in which one is immersed;
- greater flexibility, adaptability and resiliency as it relates to living in situations of dislocation, difference and conflict;
- an ability to reflect theologically on one's experience and how it relates it to one's own context for ministry;
- the capacity to name one's contributions and limitations in living and working with a group in a different social context.

- a demonstrated hospitable manner in communicating across difference and conflict that shows openness, understanding, empathy and sensitivity to others and a growing capacity to live tolerantly with conflicting narratives.

Master of Divinity and MA GIL Requirement

All Master of Divinity students at Andover Newton are required to complete 3 credit hours of a Border-Crossing Immersion course that may be local, national or international. If there is room on an immersion other degree candidates, BTI students, Ministers in the Vicinity, Special Students and alumnae may apply.

All Master of Arts in Global Interreligious Leadership students at Andover Newton are required to complete 6 credit hours of global Border-Crossing Immersion courses that must be in an international setting or at the Mexico/US border.

Border-Crossing Immersions are offered throughout the academic year, with most being offered in the winter and summer sessions. There will be some “intense immersions” lasting from ten days to twenty-one days, and some “slow simmers” happening over the course of a semester or full year.

Applications may be found at the back of this Handbook, or may be obtained in the registrar’s office, and more detailed information on Border-Crossing Immersions from the Faculty Director of Border-Crossing Immersions.

Coursework Requirements for Border Crossing Immersions

Every student taking a Border Crossing Immersion must complete two assignments for the course to meet the Border Crossing Immersion Integrative Catalyst requirement in the Master of Divinity and MA GIL degree programs: 1) an oral presentation based on BCI experience and 2) a 10-12-page written reflection. Listed below are the guidelines for each. Some instructors integrate these assignments into the course's expectations, and in other cases the assignments are supplemental to other course requirements. In the latter case, students who do not complete these BCI assignments may still receive course credit.

Final Written Reflection Assignment Requirement

Task: You are to divide this reflection into three parts, but to integrate the three parts into one single essay. Use as many **concrete examples and stories** from your own experience as you can **and reflect on the assigned reading in each of the three parts**. Use the questions as a way to draw out what is most important for you to focus on in each section. You are not expected to answer all of them, but to use what helps you deepen your reflection. Use the questions to develop a framework for your essay.

Part I - Shifts in Self-knowledge:

The focus of this part of your essay is on how this border crossing immersion contributed to self-knowledge. Please consider using the prompts below for addressing shifts in self-knowledge:

- Look at your admissions essay to Andover Newton and ask yourself how your priorities and views have changed as a result of your border crossing? How have you been changed by this experience? In thinking about this question, consider how and where you were made aware of your assumptions, beliefs or stereotypes in a new way. What most contributed to your own awareness of the dynamics of privilege and power in this context? What did you learn about engaging with persons from different backgrounds of your own gifts and limitations in crossing borders? What did you learn about yourself that was new or that deepened your self-knowledge in terms of your own flexibility, adaptability, and resiliency? What experiences, readings, encounters or relationships allowed you to critically reflect on your own way of being in a new context? Did anything in your experience shed new light on a class you have taken or on a paper you did for a class? What new areas of study and experience might you pursue in your seminary program to deepen your self-knowledge and preparation for ministry as a result of border crossing?"

Part II - Focus on the Context and Theme of the Border Crossing Immersion

Every border crossing has a central theme or focus around which it is organized and every border crossing has a context (Appalachia, Myanmar, Israel-Palestine, Homelessness, etc.). This part of your essay is to address the central focus and context of your immersion. Please use the following prompts to reflect on how you think about the theme and context of this border crossing in some new ways:

- How did this border crossing help you connect the dots and think systemically in relationship to the focus of your border crossing? Where has your awareness in particular been deepened? What resources were most helpful for you in understanding injustice and for understanding what is needed to dismantle structures of injustice. Which readings were particularly helpful in helping you think critically concerning an issue? Give an example of this. What did you find most helpful in being able to understand and interpret another context? Where did this particular context stretch you into some new understanding? What did you learn about this context in particular that made you think about your own in a new way? How did the dynamics of privilege and power show up in your experience and reflection on it? How might this learning impact your own ministry now and in the future?

Part III - Thinking Theologically about your Border Crossing Immersion

This part of your essay is to reflect on how your theology and spirituality were shaped by your immersion. Use the questions below to help you in your reflection:

- How would you describe the impact of this immersion on your own faith? Did you question any previous beliefs? Did you find yourself understanding any part of your faith in a new light? Which readings and experiences were the most provocative for you as you reflect on how you will enact God's ways of love and justice in the world? How through this immersion might God have been doing a new thing in your life? How would you describe the change, transformation or experience theologically? If you were to recall a scripture that helps you speak about this experience what would it be? How do you think your own present and future ministry might be shaped by this experience? What is the good news that you have to share from immersion in this context?

Final Oral Public Presentation Requirement

Every student must complete a quality public presentation of their Border-Crossing Immersion, preferably outside the Andover Newton context, in order to receive credit.

Goal:

Border-Crossing Immersions provide an opportunity to confront the challenges of a social context other than one's own for social analysis, theological reflection, deeper self-knowledge and the development of multi-cultural sensitivity and skills. This class/immersion seeks to deepen commitment to live one's faith through engaging with vital issues for the church and the world. Bearing witness to what one has seen and heard is a critical part of the experience. Developing the skill to evoke curiosity and hopefully some deepened engagement on the part of others around an issue is also an expectation.

Content:

This presentation needs to include a critical analysis of an issue or question that one confronted on one's Border Crossing. The issues or questions chosen should focus on at least one of the following: the economic, cultural, educational, religious or political life of the culture you visited. You must also address how this question or issue intersects with the life of the church in the context visited. You also need to address how this Border Crossing has changed your understanding of the ministry and mission of the church and specifically its implications for your own life and ministry.

Form:

The form for the presentation could include: a power point presentation to a church or community group, a Christian education class for adults or teenagers, the creation of a full worship service including the sermon, or some other format approved by the professor. These presentations may be done in groups of 3 or 4, but each student must show clearly the part for which he/she was responsible. Presentations need to be at least 60 minutes in length with a question period included. A proposal for a presentation must be approved by the faculty within a week of returning from the immersion.

To be submitted to the professor:

Each student must also submit to their professor the following:

- 1) If your presentation is a power-point, submit the slides with your note pages for the presentation.
- 2) If your presentation is a class, submit the focus, goals and objectives of your class and the lesson plan you presented with notes attached.

- 3) If your presentation is in another format approved by your professor, then submit the agreed-upon appropriate material to your professor.
- 4) If your presentation is a full worship service, you should submit the whole liturgy including all prayers and sermon.
- 5) Include citations for any outside material that is used. If the Web or media is used, the exact website address and chapter/time of DVD should also be included.
- 6) Each student should also turn in a two- to three-page evaluation of their public presentation that would include:
 - a) the title and a description of the audience to which the presentation was given;
 - b) a rationale in which you explain why you chose the focus you did and why you made the choices you did for your presentation;
 - c) what you think was the most effective part of the presentation;
 - d) what you would change if you were to do it again;
 - e) what follow up you commit yourself to from this experience.

Due Date: This assignment must be turned in within 6 weeks after your Border-Crossing Immersion experience. The exact date will be set by each professor.

All presentations, with title, date, time and place are to be turned in to Brita Gill-Austern at least two weeks before the presentation so that they can be publicized on campus, on the school's webpage and through enews.

Faculty and Staff Responsible for Border-Crossing Immersions

Faculty Director of Border-Crossing Immersions

Brita Gill-Austern

ext. 2360 bgillaus@ants.edu

- Call or e-mail for any questions
- Make an appointment within two weeks after filing application

Program Administrative Assistant

Jim Leavitt

Office of the Registrar, Worcester 104

ext. 2436 jleavitt@ants.edu

- Handbook with application forms may be found on line or picked up in this office
- Submit all application materials by the listed deadline for the Border-Crossing Immersion

Business Office

Business Office, 1st floor Dabney Hall

ext. 2422 PGibson@ants.edu

- Submit all application fee checks and trip/program costs to this office by the due dates provided for each trip.

Financial Aid Officer

Rosemary Turano

Worcester Hall 210

ext. 2451 RTurano@ants.edu

- If you are seeking financial help with Border-Crossing Immersion trip costs, submit the Financial Assistance Application form (from the Handbook) to this office

Faculty and Adjunct Teaching Faculty for 2016-2018

Fall – Spring 2016-2017

Reverend Mary Martha Thiel

INTE 602Y [BC] CPE at Hebrew SeniorLife/Hebrew Rehabilitation Center: Crossing Borders of Religion, Age, Ethnicity and Socio-economic Status

Reverend June Cooper

INTE 605Y [BC] Seminarians in the City

Professor Gill-Austern

JUST/PSYP 747Y [BC] Mercy and Justice in the Criminal Justice System

Winterim 2017

Professors Gill-Austern & Heim

WREL/JUST/THEO 651 [IF] [BC] Walking the Path of Non-Violence in Myanmar: Buddhist and Christian Approaches

Reverend Dr. Stanfield

PRAC 630 [IF] [BC] Interfaith Community Organizing and Congregational Life

AMERC - sponsored

INTE 615 [BC] Fierce Landscapes: Listening to the People of Appalachia

Summer 2017

Reverend Mary Martha Thiel
Professors Ibrahim & Hearlson
Professor Parrish

INTE 602J [BC] CPE at Hebrew SeniorLife summer intensive
WREL 626 [IF] [BC] Islam and Muslims in America: Northern CA
WCHR 641 [BC] Zimbabwe

Fall – Spring 2017-2018

Reverend Mary Martha Thiel

INTE 602Y [BC] CPE at Hebrew SeniorLife/Hebrew Rehabilitation Center: Crossing Borders of Religion, Age, Ethnicity and Socio-economic Status

Professor Gill-Austern

JUST/PSYP 747Y [BC] Mercy and Justice in the Criminal Justice System

Fall 2017

Reverend Dr. Stanfield

PRAC 630 [IF] [BC] Interfaith Community Organizing and Congregational Life

Winterim 2018

Professor Pazmiño & Rabbi Shire

CMED 654/854 [IF] [BC] Israel/Palestine: Religious Education in the Holy Lands: Teaching and Learning In and Across Religious Traditions

Spring 2018

Professor Dávila

JUST 650 [BC] Encountering Homelessness and Housing Vulnerability

Andover Newton Border-Crossing Immersion Courses and Approved Courses in other Seminaries and Educational Organizations 2016-2018

Every year there will be two listings of courses: one listing will be the courses offered by Andover Newton faculty and adjunct faculty; a second listing will include approved courses for Border-Crossing that are offered by other seminaries or by approved educational organizations.

INTE 602Y [BC]

CPE at Hebrew SeniorLife/Hebrew Rehabilitation Center: Crossing Borders of Religion, Age, Ethnicity and Socio-economic Status

This is a year long course that will count as 6 credits, 3 for Border Crossing Immersion and 3 for CPE elective credit. This course is a full unit in Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) meeting all requirements for a Level I or II unit in CPE in an extended unit requiring two full days a week. It will provide students a border crossing immersion in a context that provides the opportunity to learn with a majority of the CPE students preparing for the rabbinate, working in a Jewish senior residence with residents who have an average age of over 90, (many of whom speak languages from their countries of birth), and most of who are supported by medicaid. Prerequisite: Completion of one year of seminary. Limit: 2

Fall/Spring 2017-2018

Application Deadline: March 1, 2017 (for 2017-2018)

Cost: \$1,000

A separate application must also be submitted by March 1, 2017 for CPE credit.

INTE 602J [BC]

CPE at Hebrew SeniorLife/Hebrew Rehabilitation Center: Crossing Borders of Religion, Age, Ethnicity and Socio-economic Status

This is a 10-week intensive course, counts as 6 credits, 3 for Border Crossing Immersion and 3 for CPE elective credit. This course is a full unit in Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) meeting all requirements for a Level I or II unit in CPE, while providing students a border crossing immersion in

a context of learning with most CPE students there preparing for the rabbinate, working in a Jewish senior residence with an average age of over 90, with residents who speak languages of their country of birth and who are mostly supported by medicaid. Prerequisite: Completion of one year of seminary. Limit: 2.

Summer 2017

Application Deadline: November 15, 2016

Cost: \$250.00

A separate application must also be submitted for CPE credit.

INTE 605Y [BC]

Seminarians in the City

Professor Gill-Austern and Reverend Cooper

This course requires a full 15 hour-a-week commitment in the city over the full academic year and will give 6 credits: 3 for Border Crossing requirement and 3 for elective credit. It may count for Field Education and includes a stipend. It will involve making a commitment of one's time and heart to engagement in the city of Boston with a placement in a city social service agency or church and interacting with the people of that neighborhood. This Border Crossing Immersion will be working with 4 or 5 students in the BTI to cultivate Christian leaders ready to take on the social and spiritual challenges of ministering in the city. The course will be sponsored and led by the City Mission Society of Boston. Prerequisite: 15 credits of seminary study. Limit: 2. Students must apply both through Andover Newton's Border-crossing process and through SITC.

Fall/Spring 2016-2017

Application Deadline: until July 1, 2016

Cost: \$250.00

JUST 747Y [BC]

[[JUST/PSYP] Mercy and Justice in the Criminal Justice System

Professor Gill-Austern

To be compassionate within the criminal justice system requires knowing the particular needs of people impacted by the criminal justice system including: those incarcerated, families and relatives of prisoners, those on parole, undocumented immigrants and those who work with this population in numerous ways. This year-long Border-Crossing Immersion class will allow students to have multiple experiences within the criminal justice system while learning about the complex interlocking realities that create suffering for the incarcerated, their families, friends and communities and which further injustice in our society.

Students will engage in ministries of compassion within the criminal justice system by engaging with those incarcerated and those impacted by incarceration. Students will be involved in some ministry of justice-making by learning about the laws and policies that contribute to de-humanization and involving oneself in the organizations and movements that are the voice of advocacy and change. A total of 80 hours of immersion is expected over the course of the year. Limit: 14.

Cost: \$250.00

Fall/Spring 2016-2017 – monthly campus meetings will take place Wednesdays, 5:30 – 8:00 p.m. on the following dates: 9/14, 10/5, 11/2, 12/7, 2/1, 3/1, 4/5, 5/3.

Application Deadline: until September 1, 2016

Fall/Spring 2017-2018 – monthly campus meetings will take place Wednesdays, 5:30 – 8:00 p.m., dates TBD.

Application Deadline: until September 1, 2017

PRAC 630 [IF] [BC]

Interfaith Community Organizing and Congregational Life

The Reverend Mr. Stanfield

Students will learn the basics of broad-based community organizing in the setting of a Presbyterian church that has been active in the work of the Greater Boston Interfaith Organization, an IAF-affiliate which has had successful campaigns in housing, health care and education. Students will explore interfaith

community work and also study how the tools of community organizing can strengthen the development of one's own particular congregation. Limit: 25. Class meets off-campus at 4th Presbyterian Church, Boston.

Winter 2017 – (intensive) January 9-13, 17-20, 1:00 – 4:00 p.m. On Friday, January 13, the class will have an extended session into the evening and participate in non-Christian worship experiences. The class will observe MLK day and not meet on January 16.

Application Deadline: until November 1, 2016

Fall 2017 – (extended) Wednesday, 9:00 – 11:50 a.m.

Application Deadline: until July 15, 2017

Cost: \$250.00

CMED 654/854 [IF] [BC]

Israel/Palestine: Religious Education in the Holy Lands: Teaching and Learning In and Across Religious Traditions

Professor Pazmiño and Rabbi Shire

This course will immerse students in religious education thought and practices in the Holy Lands and take account of that particular context with its gifts and challenges. The course seeks to explore and practice the art and craft of teaching in the Jewish, Christian and Muslim traditions. The course will focus on common issues shared by religious traditions but approached in particularistic ways: the teaching of the Bible or Koran and the Prophets, teaching social responsibility and *tzedaka*, and cultivating ritual practices and observance of a religious tradition. It also actively explores what is being learned from interfaith encounters and ministries regarding religious identity and openness to one's neighbors as a religious educator. This course may be limited to 8 Andover Newton students and 8 Hebrew College students.

Winter 2018 – December 26, 2017 – January 5, 2018 (tentative)

Application Deadline: until August 1, 2017

Estimated cost (dependent upon airfare): \$2,700 plus on-site costs. Some financial assistance is available for Andover Newton students making the trip as a border crossing class.

JUST 650 [BC]

[JUST/ETHI] Encountering Homelessness and Housing Vulnerability in the Boston Area Professor Dávila

Over a period of 14 weeks (depending on placement), students will learn about the experience of homelessness in the greater Boston area while working directly in a setting that ministers to and services homeless and housing vulnerable populations. The face of homelessness today includes an array of life experiences that often surprise our assumptions about the homeless. Housing insecurity or vulnerability is today part of many more households than it used to be. Life in shelters, housing insecurity, struggle with the housing authorities and confusing regulations, chronic abuse (physical, mental, substance, sexual), spiritual, psychological, and financial needs are some of the challenges increasingly facing those already homeless or at risk of losing their home. Through this course students will share in some of the experiences described above as well as enter the world of those providing direct services and support to diverse populations suffering from homelessness and housing insecurity.

All students will be asked to dedicate at least 6 hrs./week to their location. In addition, there will be 5 2-hour meetings to be held on campus, time based on class consensus. Prerequisite: ETHI 601 or 602. Limit: 10.

Spring 2018 – TBD

Application Deadline: until October 1, 2017

Cost: \$250.00

WCHR 641 [BC]

Zimbabwe (destination may be changed)

Professor Parrish

TBD

Summer 2017 – May 8-17 (tentative)

Application Deadline: until November 1, 2016

Cost: TBD

WREL 626 [IF] [BC]

Islam and Muslims in America: Northern CA

Ms. Ibrahim and Professor Hearlson

A domestic Islamic immersion experience in Northern California. Sites to be visited include Zaytuna College, a global hub of Islamic learning in Berkeley, the University of Spiritual Healing and Sufism, a Muslim school and retreat center in the remote mountains of Napa Valley where trip

participants will learn about Sufi meditations and reconciliation and peacebuilding based on Islamic concepts. Two days will also be spent at a Zen meditation center in the Muir Woods. This course will fulfill *either* the BC or IF catalyst requirement, but not both. Limit: 8.

Summer 2017 – May 8-17 (tentative)

Application Deadline: until November 1, 2016

Estimated cost (dependent upon airfare): \$2,300 (includes travel and lodging). Some financial assistance is available for Andover Newton students making the trip as a border crossing class.

WREL 651 [IF] [BC]

[WREL/JUST/THEO] Walking the Path of Non-Violence in Myanmar: Buddhist and Christian Approaches

Professors Gill-Austern and Heim

This Border Crossing will take students to one of the poorest of South Asian countries, which until very recently had one of the most repressive governments in the world and is now in the process of reaping some of the fruits of a long and rich history of non-violent resistance. This BCI will be focused primarily in Yangon working with the Myanmar Theological Institute and their centers of conflict resolution and interfaith relations as we explore the theory and practice of non-violence within this context, and at Pwo Kayin Seminary – the seminary of one of the most persecuted Christian ethnic groups. The group will stay a few days in a Buddhist monastery, meet with Buddhist monks and Christians who have participated in non-violent resistance in Myanmar, and discover resources and inspiration for walking the path of non-violence in our own context. Aung San Suu Kyi, Burmese Nobel Peace Prize winner, will be a rich source of inspiration for our work and travels. There will also be time to discover some of the ancient history and beauty of Myanmar in travels to Inle Lake and the mystical city of Bagan and its ancient temples. This course will fulfill *either* the BC or IF catalyst requirement, but not both. Limit: 10.

Winter 2017 – January 2-16 (tentative)

Application Deadline: Until August 15, 2016

Estimated cost (dependent upon airfare): \$3,300 (includes travel and lodging).

[Andover Newton Approved
Additional Border-Crossing Courses
through other institutions](#)

INTE 615 [BC]

**Fierce Landscapes: Listening to the People of
Appalachia (partnership)**

Dr. Leonard

This 12-day immersion is followed by 3-4 interactive distance learning sessions and a 15-20 page integrative paper. The immersion seminar finds its home among the people of Western North Carolina and Southwest Virginia. Students will enjoy on-site interactions with congregations, religious, and community leaders. Time for spiritual development, worship and reflection provides the framework for the immersion. Participants will be aided by readings prior to the immersion experience. Beginning at High Pastures Christian Retreat Center, Burnsville, NC. Sponsored by Wake Forest Divinity School. Contact Border-Crossing Immersion Director Brita Gill-Austern.

Winter 2017 – December 30, 2016 – January 8, 2017

Application Deadline: October 1, 2016

*A separate, additional application must be submitted for AMERC: by November 1, 2016; Deadline for payment: December 1, 2016.

Cost: \$1,000

Hispanic Summer Program

An ecumenical program in theology and religion for graduate students. **Students must register for this two-week program through HSP and transfer credits.** The program is limited to a maximum of two Andover Newton students. See HSP website for more information on the program: <http://hispanicsummerprogram.org/> Summer 2017

Frequently Asked Questions

Who is required to take a Border-Crossing Immersion?

Every MDiv. student who began his or her studies in the fall of 2009 and thereafter, and every MA GIL student.

Who may take a Border-Crossing Immersion?

Any degree candidate, BTI or non-BTI student, Minister in the Vicinity, or Andover Newton alumni/ae may take a Border-Crossing Immersion if places are available. The same application process and deadlines apply. ANTS alumni/ae and non-BTI students will need to pay a \$300 application fee and whatever the cost is for a particular Border-Crossing Immersion. BTI students will pay the regular \$150 application fee plus costs. Financial assistance is only available for Andover Newton students. See the Director of Border-Crossing Immersions for credit and audit issues.

When are Border-Crossing Immersions offered?

Most Border-Crossing Immersions will be offered in the winterim session, but there will be a couple offered during the fall and spring semesters, for a full year, and in the summer session.

Will the same Border-Crossing Immersions be offered each year?

There will be some annual Border-Crossing Immersions and some new ones. Check with the current Course Catalogue or the Faculty Director of Border-Crossing Immersions for information concerning the offering of a course in the future.

What does a Border-Crossing Immersion cost?

Every Border-Crossing Immersion requires a three-credit tuition in order to receive credit for graduation. There is a \$150 fee for every Border-Crossing Immersion application (see above for non-ANTS students' fee). All Border Crossings will also have some additional costs related to travel and program. These will have great variability in cost, ranging anywhere from \$250 for local immersions to \$3500, when long distance travel is involved.

Is the application fee of \$150 refundable if one has to cancel?

No, but it is a one-time fee and will be credited towards the next Border-Crossing Immersion you sign up for.

Will financial assistance or scholarships be available?

Financial assistance will apply only to the cost of the Border-Crossing Immersion. There will be some financial assistance available, for some of the cost of travel in some cases. Those students wanting some financial assistance for the travel component of a Border-Crossing Immersion must fill out a Financial Assistance application form at the same time as filing an application for a Border-Crossing Immersion course. Financial Assistance is only available to Andover Newton students.

How and when do I have to apply for a Border-Crossing Immersion?

You must first file your application by or before the listed application due date for your chosen Border-Crossing Immersion. For international trips, early submission is encouraged. See the Process for Enrollment and Registration in this Handbook for full details, and individual Border Crossings for the application deadlines. Course registration and tuition payment are done through the usual registration process for the semester in which your Border Crossing is being offered.

Within two weeks of filing your application, you need to make an appointment to meet with the Director of Border Crossing Immersions. No applications will be approved if a student has not had an appointment.

Can I arrange an Independent Study for a Border-Crossing Immersion?

This is not an option except under rare circumstances. See the Director of Border-Crossing Immersions. There are specific guidelines for an independent study that must be adhered to which require a detailed written proposal showing precisely how the border crossing immersion requirements will be met. An interview with the Director of BCI is the first step.

Can I waive the Border-Crossing Immersion requirement, or use any other course as a substitution?

This is not an option except under rare circumstances. See the Director of Border-Crossing Immersions.

May I take more than one Border-Crossing Immersion course?

Yes, if there are enough places available. Application fees apply. You are not eligible for financial assistance from BCI for more than one immersion.

May additional Border-Crossing Immersions beyond my required one(s) count toward my graduation?

Yes, as a free elective.

Process for Enrollment and Registration for Border Crossing Immersion Experiences

All Master of Divinity students at Andover Newton are required to complete 3 credit hours of an Andover Newton Approved Border-Crossing Immersion course that may be local, national or international. If there is room on the immersion, other degree candidates, Ministers in the Vicinity, Special Students and alumni/ae may apply for a course. Ministers in the Vicinity who wish to receive credit will have to pay the applicable tuition. The majority of immersion courses will be offered in the winterim and the summer, but there will be offerings in the fall, spring and throughout the full academic year.

Students should adhere to the following sequence when applying for a Border-Crossing Immersion course:

- 1) **Review** the approved courses taught by Andover Newton faculty and adjunct faculty listed in the Andover Newton catalogue under Border-Crossing Immersions ([BCI]) and the Approved Additional Courses listed in this handbook under “Andover Newton Border-Crossing Immersions”.
- 2) **Complete** the application process **before the stated deadline** in the Handbook listings for all courses and deliver it to Faculty Assistant Jennifer Shaw (Worcester Hall 103).

The application should include Application forms, and Waiver and Liability form (*either* the Andover Newton-sponsored trip or Non-Andover Newton sponsored trip, as applies). The \$150 (ANTS/BTI) Border-Crossing Application Fee for all immersions should be paid through the Business Office. All checks should be written to Andover Newton and must have a notation of the immersion course number and title for which you are applying. Financial Assistance forms, if needed, should be submitted directly to the Financial Aid officer, Rosemary Turano. The Border-Crossing Application forms and Financial Assistance Application may be found in the Appendix to this document.

- 3) Students may apply for Financial Assistance for some Border-Crossing Immersion courses at the time of submitting an Application form. This is not financial aid for tuition but for travel and program costs. **All financial assistance applications must be delivered to the Financial Aid officer, Rosemary Turano. See the Appendix in this Handbook for the Financial Assistance Application Form.**
- 4) Within two weeks after filing the Application forms, **make an appointment** with the Faculty Director of Border-Crossing Immersions, Professor Brita Gill-Austern. Her phone is extension 2360; her e-mail bgillaus@ants.edu. Sign up dates may also be posted on the faculty bulletin board on the 1st floor of Worcester Hall.
- 5) Once the Application form has been filed and your interview completed you will be contacted by the Director of Border-Crossing Immersions, Brita Gill-Austern, who will notify you whether or not you have been accepted for your selected Border-Crossing.
- 6) **You must register for academic credit and pay tuition for a three credit course with the Registrar during the regular registration period for classes of the current term. Applications must be submitted and approved prior to registering for the course.**
- 7) Applications will be reviewed by the Director of Border Crossings, the faculty person teaching the course, and the Financial Aid officer when financial assistance is involved.
- 8) Students will be notified in writing of the amount of their financial assistance.

Date submitted _____

**Andover Newton Theological School
Border-Crossing Immersion Application Form**

1st choice: _____
(Course number and Course Title)

2nd choice: _____
(Course number and Course Title)

Date to be taken Year _____ Fall _____ Winter _____ Spring _____ Summer _____.

Degree program and number of credits completed: _____ OR BTI Other

Contact Information

Name: _____ Gender: _____

Address: _____

Phone Numbers:

Home _____ Work _____ Cell _____

E-mail _____

Identification Information (for international travel)

Full Name as it appears on Passport _____

Date of Birth: _____ Birthplace: _____

Citizenship: _____

Passport Number _____ Expiration Date _____

In Case of Emergency Please Contact:

Name: _____

Relationship to self: _____

Address: _____

Phone Numbers:

Home _____ Work _____ Cell _____

Email: _____

- 7) * Do you have any special gifts, talents or skills that you might want to share on or after the immersion experience?
- 8) * Border-Crossing Immersions can be intense and require much flexibility. How do you respond under stress?
- 9) * Do you have any physical or medical limitations or dietary needs that could impact your immersion experience?
- 10) There are many sources you can explore for financial support for a Border-Crossing Immersion, including, personal savings/income, loans, letters requesting sponsorship, congregational or denominational support, promise of presentations and personal fundraising by other means, and possible scholarship funds from Border-Crossing Immersion Funds. Which of these means do you plan to use to pay for your immersion?

Return this application, medical form and waiver and application fee (\$150 or \$300 as applies) made payable to Andover Newton by the appropriate deadline for your Border Crossing (approximately three (3) months before your immersion experience begins). Check deadline dates on Border-Crossing Immersion Schedule. If you are a student requesting financial assistance, you must submit a Financial Assistance application form to Rosemary Turano, Financial Aid Officer.

I agree to set up an appointment with Professor Brita Gill-Austern (ext. 2360, email bgillaus@ants.edu) within two weeks of submitting this application. I agree to attend all pre-immersion experience sessions and post-immersion sessions, dates to be determined by faculty and delegation.

Signature _____ Date _____

Andover Newton Theological School

Border-Crossing Immersion Financial Assistance Application Form (Andover Newton students only)

Submit this form directly to Financial Aid Officer, Rosemary Turano

All awards of financial assistance to qualified applicants will be based upon the following criteria:

- 1) Total cost of the Border-Crossing Immersion
- 2) Funds available for each Border-Crossing Immersion
- 3) Financial need as reflected in the applicant's current year financial aid application.
- 4) Supplemental financial information provided below.
- 5) Previous Border-Crossing Immersion experiences of the applicant.
- 6) Efforts by individuals to raise additional funds

Financial Assistance requested through the Border Crossing Application Process will not apply to any tuition or impact your financial aid package. If you are awarded any financial aid, assistance may run from 15% to 80%. All students will be expected to pay a portion of their costs.

APPLICATION INFORMATION

Name _____

Border-Crossing Immersion Course Number, Title and Date:

1) Basic financial information: Have you submitted a standard Financial Aid Application to the Andover Newton Financial Aid office this year? Yes No

2) Are you applying for financial assistance for this Border Crossing?

3) Supplemental financial aid information: If you have not submitted a financial aid application or your financial condition has changed since you submitted an application for aid, or if there are financial factors which should be taken into consideration in awarding aid for a Border-Crossing Immersion, please include information on a separate piece of paper with your signature. Please include how you have sought to raise funds, what factors are primary in you asking for aid at this time and how much aid you would need to be able to go on this immersion experience.

Medical Information for Border-Crossing Immersion Trips

General Information

(Please print)

Name: _____

Address: _____

Home Phone: _____ Date of Birth _____

Doctor: _____ Phone Number: _____

Emergency Contact Person: _____

Address: _____

Home Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____

Cell/Pager: _____ Fax No.: _____

Medical Information Are you presently being treated for an injury or sickness or taking any form of medication for any reason? Yes ___ No ___

If Yes, Please explain and list medication

Are you allergic to any type of medication? Yes ___ No ___

If Yes, Please List _____

Please list all allergies: _____

Do you require a special diet? Yes ___ No ___

If Yes, Please explain: _____

Do you have (or have ever had) any of the following: (please check and explain below)

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Seizure disorders | <input type="checkbox"/> Hay Fever |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Asthma | <input type="checkbox"/> Kidney disease |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Heart murmur | <input type="checkbox"/> Diabetes |

Do you have any allergies other than medical? Yes ___ No ___

If yes, please list: _____

Do you have any physical handicap or illness which would prevent you from participating in normal rigorous activities? Yes ___ No ___

If yes, please explain: _____

Medical Treatment Authorization:

I understand this form will be used to judge medical attention given to me in the event of an emergency and I authorize the calling of a doctor for the providing of necessary medical services. I agree to notify the Andover Newton Theological School Border-Crossing Immersion Director in the event of any health changes, which would restrict my participation in any normal activities before and during this trip.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Printed Name: _____

Insurance Information:

Insurance Company: _____

Policy No. / Group No.: _____

Insurance Company Phone No.: _____

Note: This information is intended exclusively for the use of the Faculty of your Border-Crossing Immersion trip, and will be shared only with those who might need to administer medical care.

WAIVER OF LIABILITY AND ASSUMPTION OF RISK

For Andover Newton Theological School Sponsored Border-Crossing Immersion Experiences

(Term and Course number)

(Course Title)

The parties to this Release are _____ (Student),
and Andover Newton Theological School. The Student has chosen to participate in the border crossing
immersion (name of trip)

_____ (hereafter "Program") during

the _____ (time period).

Assumption of Risk. Student understands and agrees that national and international travel presents risks to Student and her/his property. These can include, among others: Unfamiliar or different terrain, climate, food and drink, customs, laws, social and sexual mores, safety practices and regulations, communications, criminal and law enforcement activities, disability access, driving practices, disease risks, health care, civil strife and war.

Student is responsible for researching and evaluating the risks she/he may face and is responsible for her/his actions. Any activities that Student may take part in, whether as a component of the Program or separate from it, will be considered to have been undertaken with Student's approval and understanding of any all risks involved.

Adherence to Standards. Student understands and agrees to abide by all policies, rules, and regulations of Andover Newton Theological School and all rules, regulations and laws of the respective countries to be visited. Student further agrees to obey all rules, directions and precautions issued by Andover Newton Theological School or its representatives, by any associated individuals, institutions, or organizations.

Termination of Participation. Student shall not engage in inappropriate conduct including, but not limited to, the use of physical violence or offensive language, open abuse of the customs or mores of the community, and unauthorized absences from activities. Student understands that, in its sole discretion, Andover Newton Theological School or its representative may terminate Student's participation in the Program at any time, including before departure or during the Program. Reasons for termination may include, but are not limited to: inappropriate conduct or other behaviors by Student deemed detrimental to the best interests of the Program; emergencies; or health or safety considerations. Such termination shall not diminish or otherwise alter Student's obligation to make any payment required for the Program, nor shall Andover Newton Theological School be required to make any refund to Student.

Release of Claims. In consideration of Andover Newton Theological School accepting Student into the Program, Student, his/her heirs, executors, administrators, employers, agents, representatives, insurers, and attorneys, hereby release and discharge Andover Newton Theological School, its officers, trustees, faculty, employees, agents, and representatives (hereafter "released parties") from any and all claims

which may arise from any cause whatsoever, including any negligent act or omission by the released parties. Student further releases and discharges the released parties from responsibility for any accident, illness, injury, or any other consequences arising or resulting directly or indirectly from Student's participation in the Program. The Student recognizes and agrees that the released parties assume no responsibility for any liability, damage, or injury that may be caused by Student's negligence or willful acts committed prior to, during, or after participation in the Program, or for any liability, damage, or injury caused by the intention or negligent acts or omission of any other participant in the Program, or caused by any other person.

Indemnification and Hold Harmless. Student hereby agrees to indemnify and hold harmless the released parties from any loss or liability whatsoever including reasonable attorneys' fees, caused by any act or omission of Student in the course of his or her direct or indirect participation in the Program.

Program Participation. Student understands and agrees to attend and participate in all activities that are part of the Program. Student understands that failure to do so may result in the reduction of grade, including the possibility of course failure, termination from the Program, or both.

Activities Outside Program. Should Student choose to remain at the Program location or elsewhere after participation in the Program, Andover Newton Theological School will cease to act as a sponsor for Student. Should Student drop out of the Program voluntarily or involuntarily, Andover Newton Theological School will cease to act as sponsor for Student thereafter. In either of the foregoing events, this release shall remain in full force and effect.

Program Modification and Cancellation. Andover Newton Theological School reserves the right to cancel or modify the Program before or during its operation due to circumstances including emergencies, low enrollment, unavailability of one or more facilities or personnel, or other reasons.

Severability. It is understood and agreed that, if any provision of this release or the application thereof is held invalid, the invalidity shall not affect other provision or applications of this release which can be given effect without the invalid provision or applications. To this end, the provisions of this release are declared severable.

Governing Law. This release shall be construed in accordance with, and governed by, the laws of the State of Massachusetts.

Construction and Scope of Agreement. The language of all parts of this release shall in all cases be construed as a whole, according to its fair meaning, and not strictly for or against any party. This release is the only, sole, entire, and complete agreement of the parties relating in any way to the subject matter hereof. No statements, promises, or representations have been made by any party to any other, or relied upon, and no consideration has been offered or promised, other than as may be expressly provided herein. This release supersedes any earlier written or oral understandings or agreements between the parties. Student acknowledges that she/he has read this release and that she/he understands its meaning and effect.

Date: _____ Student: _____

Date: _____ Witness: _____

WAIVER OF LIABILITY AND ASSUMPTION OF RISK

Andover Newton Theological School For Non-Andover Newton Sponsored Border-Crossing Immersion Experiences

(Term and Course number)

(Course Title)

The parties to this Release are _____ (Student), and Andover Newton Theological School. The Student has chosen to participate in the border crossing immersion

(name of trip) _____ (hereafter "Program")

sponsored by _____

during the _____ (time period).

Assumption of Risk. Student understands and agrees that national and international travel presents risks to Student and her/his property. These can include, among others: Unfamiliar or different terrain, climate, food and drink, customs, laws, social and sexual mores, safety practices and regulations, communications, criminal and law enforcement activities, disability access, driving practices, disease risks, health care, civil strife and war. The student is responsible for researching and evaluating the risks she/he may face and is responsible for her/his actions.

Any activities that Student may take part in, whether as a component of the Programs or separate from it, will be considered to have been undertaken with Student's approval and understanding of any all risks involved.

Adherence to Standards. Student understands and agrees to abide by all policies, rules, and regulations **as established by the sponsoring institution/organization** and all rules, regulations and laws of the respective countries to be visited.

Termination of Participation. The student understands that, in its sole discretion, **the sponsoring institution/organization** or its representative may terminate Student's participation in the Program at any time, including before departure or during the Program. Reasons for termination may include, but are not limited to: inappropriate conduct or other behaviors by Student deemed detrimental to the best interests of the Program; emergencies; or health or safety considerations.

Release of Claims. By voluntarily participating in **the Program sponsored by**

_____, the Student, his/her heirs, executors, administrators, employers, agents, representatives, insurers, and attorneys, hereby release and discharge Andover Newton Theological School, its officers, trustees, faculty, employees, agents, and representatives (hereafter "released parties") from any and all claims which may arise from any cause whatsoever, including any negligent act or omission by the released parties. The student further releases

and discharges the released parties from responsibility for any accident, illness, injury, or any other consequences arising or resulting directly or indirectly from Student's participation in **the Program sponsored by**

_____. The Student recognizes and agrees that the released parties assume no responsibility for any liability, damage, or injury that may be caused by Student's negligence or willful acts committed prior to, during, or after participation in the Program, or for any liability, damage, or injury caused by the intention or negligent acts or omission of any other participant in the Program, or caused by any other person.

Indemnification and Hold Harmless. Student hereby agrees to indemnify and hold harmless the released parties from any loss or liability whatsoever including reasonable attorneys' fees, caused by any act or omission of Student in the course of his or her direct or indirect participation in **the Program sponsored by**

_____.

Severability. It is understood and agreed that, if any provision of this release or the application thereof is held invalid, the invalidity shall not affect other provision or applications of this release which can be given effect without the invalid provision or applications. To this end, the provisions of this release are declared severable.

Governing Law. This release shall be construed in accordance with, and governed by, the laws of the State of Massachusetts.

Construction and Scope of Agreement. The language of all parts of this release shall in all cases be construed as a whole, according to its fair meaning, and not strictly for or against any party. This release is the only, sole, entire, and complete agreement of the parties relating in any way to the subject matter hereof. No statements, promises, or representations have been made by any party to any other, or relied upon, and no consideration has been offered or promised, other than as may be expressly provided herein. This release supersedes any earlier written or oral understandings or agreements between the parties. Student acknowledges that she/he has read this release and that she/he understands its meaning and effect.

Date: _____ Student: _____

Date: _____ Witness: _____

**Andover Newton Theological School
210 Herrick Road
Newton Centre, MA 02459**