DE 5620 | URBAN MISSION AND MINISTRY

2 sem. hrs.

I. Course Description

As the cities go, the world goes – politically, intellectually, economically, socially, and religiously. Historically, the Church has tiptoed around the City, seeing it as the playground of Satan. Not wanting to get too close to the fire, the Church has typically focused on her rural heritage. She has tried to keep the City of God away from the City of Man.

Recent trends in urbanization, however, present a new challenge for missions: if we want to reach the people, we must reach the cities. People are flocking to the cities like never before. Thus, major cities are the new frontier of Christian vocation and ministry. It is the purpose of this course, therefore, to help learners discover and explore the many aspects of urban mission and ministry in light of the increasingly urban world in which we live.

This course focuses on Christian mission and ministry in the world’s growing cities. A Biblical basis for urban ministry is presented and case studies of effective urban strategies worldwide are examined. The course provides key logistics, strategies, models, and insights from one of the day’s leading experts in urban missions. Throughout the lessons the instructor emphasizes holistic ministry, i.e., meeting the social, civil, and political needs as well as the spiritual.

II. Course Objectives

Given active participation, upon completion of this course you will be able to:

A. Articulate the biblical and theological framework for urban ministry.
B. Evaluate contemporary urban ministries in light of biblical principles.
C. Recognize various models of effective urban church planting/ministry.
D. Synthesize course content into a workable urban ministry paradigm.
E. Assess one’s giftedness and calling in light of God’s call to evangelize and minister to urban populations.

III. Course Materials

A. Required Materials


   Included with the purchase of the lectures will be the following texts:


**IV. Course Requirements**

A. The student is required to listen carefully to each of the twenty four lectures, keeping in mind the outline and questions which appear in the Interactive Learning Guide. The student is strongly encouraged to participate in the reflection questions provided after each lecture. While the questions are not factored into the grading system, the final exam will be composed exclusively of select questions from the Interactive Learning Guide. To the extent students can answer these questions, they will perform well on the exam.

B. All reading completed by the student will be stipulated and summarized in an annotated bibliography to be turned in upon completion of the course. For each reading, the student will list the number of pages and a one paragraph annotation. At least one complete book must be read. Any text not listed in the course bibliography must be approved by the Course Tutor.

C. The student is required to participate in the discussion areas of TriNet. Thoughtful responses should be given to at least one question in each discussion area, and responses to the comments of other students are encouraged.

D. The student will develop a 4-5 page research paper wherein they "update" the status of their own country in regard to ethnic breakdown and urban patterns. The paper should include the following: ethnic composition, current urban migration patterns, and religious breakdown as seen in her largest cities. The paper should be detailed by current statistics, trends, and reasons. Students will also include a reflective/theoretical section that will briefly outline practical suggestions for today's urban focus in light of the findings.

E. The student will compose a 12-15 page paper wherein they incorporate the principles learned in this course into a strategic mission plan. Students will use the nearest 100,000 population city (or a city within the land they desire to serve) as their "target." Key aspects of the course should be utilized in organizing this paper, including research, evaluation,
strategy, consideration of models, and a plan for implementation. Students will pay attention to the history, demographics, and the social/ethical/religious concerns of the city. Based on the research, specific strategies and goals will then be outlined. It is important that students be concerned with “holistic” ministry.

For guidance formatting the paper, consult the guidelines of the TIU Style and Format Guide, which can be obtained from the DE Resources Area of TriNet or from Trinity’s Library website.

F. There will be one closed book Final Examination at the close of the course.

V. Course Grading

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<th>Component</th>
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<tr>
<td>Reading</td>
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<tr>
<td>TriNet Questions</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research Paper</td>
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<td>Missions Strategy</td>
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<td>Final Exam</td>
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All assignments should be submitted directly to your Course Tutor using the icon within your TriNet course labeled with your course tutor’s name. Exams should be mailed by your proctor to the address below. Course work may be submitted by mail if necessary.

Distance Education  
Trinity Evangelical Divinity School  
2065 Half Day Road  
Deerfield, IL 60015

If you have questions related to your assignments, please contact your Course Tutor in TriNet. All other questions should be directed to the Distance Education office (email or 847-317-6554).

VI. Course Bibliography


VII. Course Lectures

Lecture I. Introduction to the Course and Why the Fuss Over Cities?

Lecture II. A Biblical Bases for Urban Mission and Ministry


Lecture IV. Theological Affirmations for Urban Ministry

Lecture V. Theological Affirmations for Urban Ministry (continued)

Lecture VI. Diaconal Roles in Today's Cities

Lecture VII. EvangelizingEthnics in American Cities

Lecture VIII. EvangelizingEthnics in American Cities (continued) and A Case Study of the Hmong People

Lecture IX. The Urban Church Builder's Tool Kit
Lecture X. The Urban Church Builder's Tool Kit (continued)

Lecture XI. Steps Toward Strategizing for Urban Church Planting and Growth

Lecture XII. Steps Toward Strategizing for Urban Church Planting and Growth (continued)

Lecture XIII. Steps Toward Strategizing for Urban Church Planting and Growth (continued)

Lecture XIV. Models of Urban Ministry

Lecture XV. Models of Urban Ministry (continued)

Lecture XVI. Models of Urban Ministry (continued)

Lecture XVII. Team Method or Strategy

Lecture XVIII. Revitalizing Older Churches

Lecture XIX. The Purpose and Value of Church Buildings in the City

Lecture XX. The Kingdom of Jesus Christ and the "Systems" of the City

Lecture XXI. The Pastor's Role in Urban Mission and Ministry

Lecture XXII. Biblical Themes for Urban Pulpits

Lecture XXIII. Urban Spirituality

Lecture XXIV. Suggestions for Tomorrow's Urban Strategies

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