Theory And Practice Of Urban Missions

Lecturer: John Edmiston

Course Description: The biblical basis for urban mission, the city as a socio-political and spiritual reality, approaches to Christian ministry, evangelism, church-planting and mission in the urban context – particularly Asian mega-cities, social justice, poverty, incarnational ministry, new approaches to urban church structures and urban spiritualities.

Assessment: Readings - a one page summary of and interaction with the readings – 25% (weekly)
Book Review – The Urban Christian by Ray Bakke (or any book by Ray Bakke, Harvie Conn, Ed Silvoso, Roger Greenway or Viv Grigg or other established urban missions author. The book must be at least 250 pages in length) – 25% (due March 21st)
Assignment: A 2500 word (5 page) paper on an area of urban missions. 25% (due January 24th)
Student Journal: A journal cataloguing how the Urban Missions course has impacted on your life and you thinking. Must show regular entries and depth of thought. (due March 21st)

Links: For useful links/references go to: http://www.aibi.ph/urban/urblinks.htm
Try also IVCF’s Urban Missions Feature: http://www.urbana.org/feat.globalurbanissues.cfm

Reference List: A reference list will be supplied but can also be found at http://www.aibi.ph/urban/references.htm

Online Discussion Forum: An online discussion forum for the class has been created:
On the left hand side under Main Menu click on Forums
You will see the Urban Missions forum listed there.

Class Readings: You will be required to buy the spiral-bound book of readings, P200 to be paid within two weeks of commencement. This is the only set text you will need to purchase. For other texts see reference list.
Each lecture will be accompanied by two fairly brief articles as readings. You are not required to totally agree with the readings. You are required to interact with them. Each week you will be required to hand in a one page summary and reaction in dot-point format answering the questions “What were the main points from this weeks readings?” & “What were my reactions and thoughts in response to this weeks readings?” all the readings are to be briefly addressed on the one page.

Reaction To Readings – Example

Name: Ima Student
Week: 9

Reading 1: Prosperity and Poverty In The Urban Context by John Edmiston

Summary:
Point 1
Points 2
Point 3
Point 4
Point 5

Reaction
It made me rethink certain views I have about poverty namely.....

Reading 2: Why Should Christian Care About The Poor? by Scott Bessenecker

Summary:
Point 1
Points 2
Point 3
Point 4
Point 5

Reaction
I found x to be true and y to be untrue and it made a good case for z... and why I think that is...
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Wk.</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Reading</th>
<th>Notes</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Nov 16</td>
<td>The Prophets – The City As A Spiritual and Political Reality</td>
<td>Cities In God's Plan – J.Ed. The Urbanization of Our World – Monssama &amp; Greenway</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>Dec 13th</td>
<td>Urban Networks &amp; Urban UPG’s</td>
<td>The City And Unreached Peoples (parts 1 and 2) – Harvie Conn</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>Dec 20th</td>
<td>Towards A Biblical View of Poverty</td>
<td>Prosperity and Poverty In The Urban Context – J.Ed. Christian Witness To The Urban Poor - Lausanne</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>Jan 10th</td>
<td>Economic Injustice, Globalization and Radicalization</td>
<td>Why Economic Injustice Is Producing Angry People. The Equal And Opposite Reaction</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>Jan 17th</td>
<td>More On Social Justice</td>
<td>Refugees The City and Missions – Harvie Conn Leddy of Cartolandia – Mark Kramer</td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>Feb 7th</td>
<td>The Church And The Media</td>
<td>Globalization, the Principles of Catholic Social Teaching and Hollywood: a Media Literacy Response – Rose Pacatte FSP The Churches' Role in Media Education and Communication Advocacy - by National Council of Churches (USA)</td>
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<td>17</td>
<td>March 14th</td>
<td>Spirituality In The City – Diversity, Technology and Intensity</td>
<td>Nehemiah And Faith-Based Organizing - Beth Freese Dammers Urban Spirituality – Mark Wendorf</td>
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Recommended References In Urban Ministry

Students are expected to do their own research and to find their own references. The following bibliography is by no means exhaustive but provides a useful starting point.

5. Bakke, Ray. The Urban Christian, MARC Europe, 1987
6. Bakke, Ray (1997) A Theology as Big as the City, Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press
8. Bradshaw, Bruce. Building Bridges.
31. Linthicum, Robert (1991) Empowering the Poor: Community Organizing Among the City's 'Rag, Tag and Bobtail,' Monrovia, CA: MARC
42. Schaller, Lyle. *Center City Churches*.
Study Hints: The Fastest Way To Do A Major Assignment

1. Divide the number of words by 120 this gives you the number of paragraphs you need to write – in this case for 2500 words its 20.8 or 21 paras.
2. Assign one para for introduction and two paragraphs for the conclusion
3. That leaves 18 paragraphs for your topic.
4. Do a quick survey of the topic. Construct an outline. Find the major division points (say 6 of them) then break the major divisions into minor ones (say three each) you now have 18 paras.
5. Only research enough to write the paragraph you need to write on that point then move on. Note down the references as you go on scrap paper.
6. Keep going until your 18 paras are done then write the intro and conclusion afterwards and add references.
7. You can easily do 2500 words in ten hours – one day’s study.

Example Outline: Praying In And For The City

1 Biblical Examples Of Praying For The City
   - Abraham and Sodom & Gomorrah
   - Jeremiah and Jerusalem
   - Paul and Ephesus

2. The Powers And The City
   - Powers and Principalities
   - The Prince Of Tyre
   - The Angel Of The Lord & Jerusalem

3 City-Wide Prayer Movements
   - Ed Silvoso & Resistencia
   - General Booth & London
   - Bogota Colombia

4. Organizing Prayer For The City
   - Creating Awareness
   - Building Unity Amongst Pastors
   - Organizing Neighborhood Prayer Cells

5. The Prayer Life Of The Urban Worker
   - Burnout and Spiritual Dryness
   - Retreats and Sabbaths
   - Creating A Prayer Shield

6. Alternative Approaches to Prayer For The City
   - Prophetic Praying And Dramatization – Ezekiel
   - Weeping In Prayer For The City – Jesus
   - Fasting For Jerusalem - Ezra

Once you have your outline it is simple to write just one paragraph on “Abraham and Sodom” etc. You can write that one paragraph in say twenty minutes at most. Then move to the next one without getting bogged down. Remember only research enough to write a quick 120 words THEN MOVE ON.
Study Hints: How to Do Your Student Journal

1. Keep a notebook in which you jot down your thoughts and ideas.
2. After each lecture, visit or piece of work you do jot down 3 paragraphs on how it has impacted you and helped you to understand urban ministry. Write a date next to your entry.
3. Do this regularly until the end of the course.
4. Every now and then type up what you have done (once you have 2-3 pages written).
5. Hand in the typed up version to the lecturer at the end of the course. The typed up version should include the dates of the original entry.
6. The journal can include your crazy ideas, inspirations and “off-the-wall” thoughts about urban missions. Be creative.

Example Entry:

12th November – Jane Smith - I am beginning to realize how strategic cities are and how complex….Greenway's reading xyz really challenged me to….maybe I'll become a nun among the poor.

Questions And Answers

Q: Are the above study hints compulsory?
A: No, they are just there to help you.

Q: What happens if I cannot pay for the notes?
A: If you are genuinely poor. I can live with it. If you are just being disorganized – that is another matter.

Q: Do I have to arrive on time?
A: Yes. Roll will be taken. Two “lates” are allowed. After that you lose 2.5% each time.

Q: What happens with late assignments?
A: Ask for an extension. I give extensions easily. But if you just presume and don’t ask then my normal policy is you lose 5% per day late.

Q: What are your standards for assessment?
A: Typed, spell-checked, referenced, well argued, thoughtful and biblical within a generally evangelical framework. You can disagree with me all you like within the general parameters of truth and accuracy and standard Christian doctrines such as the Trinity.

Q: Do you have any pet hates that we should avoid?
A: Do NOT preach in major assignments (It's Ok in the journal). I do not want a devotional; I want a tightly written, well-referenced scholarly work. Also please don’t “cut and paste” big chunks from your computer bible program or Matthew Henry’s commentary. Your words please.