

## **DM 9346 Urban Ministry: Contexts and Strategies**

Instructor: Harold J. Recinos, Ph.D.

Jan. 3-6 and 9-13 1:30 p.m.-4:30 p.m.

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### **Description**

An examination of the contexts and strategies appropriate for urban ministry in the 21st century. Focus will be on models for understanding the relationships between congregation and community in cities, but attention also will be given to broader national and global forces operating in specific urban settings.

### **Objectives**

1. To understand the impact of the urban context on the form and function of churches.
2. To think carefully about the meaning of the biblical injunction to “love our neighbor: and to “seek the Welfare of the city.”
3. To identify productive models of urban ministry.
4. To enhance skills of investigation and research in urban ministry

### **Required Texts**

Harold Recinos, *Good News from the Barrio: Prophetic Witness for the Church*.

Mark Gornik, *To Live in Peace: Biblical Faith and the Changing Inner City*.

Katherine Cramer Walsh, *Talking about Race: Community Dialogues and the Politics of Difference*.

Sharon Zukin, *Naked City: The Death and Life of Authentic Urban Places*.

Christopher L. Heuertz, Christine D. Pohl, *Friendship at the Margins: Discovering Mutuality in Service and Mission*. Intersity Press, 2010.

### **Pre-Course Requirements**

1. Read all of the required texts for the class.
2. Write a 4 page critical reflection essay on each of the books. The reflective essay should describe how various aspects of the reading can help you define Urban ministry. The paper should capture your overall response to the readings, highlighting 3-5 major concepts which had the greatest impact on your thinking.
3. Present one supplementary reading essay
4. Pre-course assignments due December 12th

## **Class Schedule**

### **Session I Introduction**

Assignment: Read Introduction and Chapter 1-3 in Mark Gornick. *To Live in Peace: Biblical Faith and the Changing Inner City*.

#### **Supplementary Reading**

1. Walter Brueggemann, "Prophetic Ministry in the National Security State" in *Theology Today*, (2008), 65: 285-311.

### **Session II To Live In Peace**

Assignment: 1. Finish reading Mark Gornick, *To Live in Peace: Biblical Faith and the Changing Inner City*.

#### **Supplementary Reading:**

1. David Smith, "Jesus and the City: Reflections on the Urban context of Galilee" in *Evangelical Quarterly*. (Oct 2010). 82 (4), 316-325. (On Reserve).

### **)Session III Urban Space**

Assignment: 1. Read Introduction and Chapters 1-3 in Sharon Zukin, *Naked City: The Death and Life of Authentic Urban Places*.

#### **Supplementary Reading:**

1. Katie Day, "The Construction of Sacred Space in Urban Ecology" in *Cross Currents*. (Fall 2008), 58 (3), 426-440. (On Reserve).

### **Session IV Religion and Place**

Assignment: 1. Finish reading Sharon Zukin, *Naked City: The Death and Life of Authentic Urban Places*.

#### **Supplementary Reading:**

1. Philip Sheldrake, "Placing the Sacred: Transcendence and the City" in *Literature & Theology*, (August 2007) 21 (3) 243-258. (On Reserve).
2. Omri Elisha, "The time and place for prayer: evangelical urbanism and citywide prayer movements" in *Religion*, (2013) 43 (3) 312-330.

## **Session V Ministry of Urban Hospitality**

Assignment: 1 Read Christopher L. Heuertz, Christine D. Pohl, *Friendship at the Margins: Discovering Mutuality in Service and Mission*.

### **Supplementary Reading:**

1. Simon James Mainwaring, "Mutuality as a Postcolonial Praxis for Mission" in (2014) *Ecclesiology* 10: 13-31. (On Reserve).

## **Session VI Urban Authenticity**

Assignment: 1. Finish reading Christopher L. Heuertz, Christine D. Pohl, *Friendship at the Margins: Discovering Mutuality in Service and Mission*.

### **Supplementary Reading:**

1. Robert Wuthnow, "Responding the New Religious Pluralism" in *Cross Currents*. (Spring 2008), 58 (1) 43-50. ( On Reserve).

## **Session VII Church at the Edge**

Assignment: 1. Read Chapters 1-5 in *Katherine Cramer Walsh, Talking about Race: Community Dialogues and the Politics of Difference*.

### **Supplementary Reading:**

1. Kevin D. Dougherty, Mark T. Mulder, "Congregational Responses to Growing Urban Diversity in a White Ethnic Denomination" in *Social Problems*. (mar 2009), 56 (2),335-356. (On Reserve).

## **Session VIII Social Witness**

Assignment: 1. Finish Reading *Katherine Cramer Walsh, Talking about Race: Community Dialogues and the Politics of Difference*.

### **Supplementary Reading:**

1. Jim Dekker, "Resilience, Theology, and the Edification of Youth: Are We Missing a Perspective" in *Journal of Youth Ministry*. Spring 2011, (9) 2, 67-89. (On Reserve).

## **Session IX Good New in Context (a.m.)**

Assignment: 1. Read Harold J. Recinos, *Good News from the Barrio: Prophetic Witness for the Church*.

### **Supplementary Reading**

1. Fernando Segovia, "Chapter 2" "Hispanic American Theology and the Bible: Effective Weapon and Faithful Ally" In *We Are a People*. (On Reserve).