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

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


Session II To Live In Peace


Supplementary Reading:


Session III Urban Space


Supplementary Reading:


Session IV Religion and Place


Supplementary Reading:

1. Philip Sheldrake, “Placing the Sacred: Transcendence and the City” in Literature & Theology, (August 2007) 21 (3) 243-258. (On Reserve).
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:


Session VI  Urban Authenticity


Supplementary Reading:


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:


Session VIII  Social Witness


Supplementary Reading:

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).