DM 9346 Urban Ministry: Contexts and Strategies
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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

Arlene Davila, Barrio Dreams: Puerto Ricans, Latinos and the Neoliberal City.

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

Fernando Azola, jr. Toward a Prophetic Youth Ministry: Theory and Praxis in Urban Context

Andrew Davey, Urban Christianity and Global Order: Theological Resources for an Urban Future.

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

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. Pre-course assignments due December 17th.
Post-Class Assignment

Following the course each participant will write a 5-7 page integrative paper that treats some aspect of your ministry. The paper should bridge theory and practice by relating theoretical insights to a specific dimension of urban ministry in which you are involved or about to be involved. Remember: 1) Integrate key learning’s from the required reading, class discussions, and lectures, and 2) build the essay on a clear thesis and sound, strong arguments.

Paper due: February 4 (e-mail as Word attachment).

Class Schedule

January 4th  Introduction

January 5th  Neo-liberal City

Assignment: 1. Read Introduction and Chapters 1-3 of Barrio Dreams: Puerto Ricans, Latinos and the Neoliberal City.

Supplementary Reading


January 6th  Neighborhoods Can Be Lost

Assignment: 1. Finish Barrio Dreams: Puerto Ricans, Latinos and the Neoliberal City

Supplementary Reading


January 7th  Changing Inner City

Assignment: 1 Read Chapters 1-3 in To Live in Peace

Supplementary Reading


January 10th  Future of Inner City

Assignment: Finish Reading To Live in Peace
Supplementary Reading


**January 11th Urban Youth**

Assignment: 1. Read Part I in *Toward a Prophetic Youth Ministry*

Supplementary Reading


**January 12th Urban Youth Workers**

Assignment: Review Part I and II of *Toward a Prophetic Youth Ministry*

Supplementary Reading


**January 13th Prophetic Urban Church**

Assignment: 1. Read *Good News from the Barrio: Prophetic Witness for the Church*

Supplementary Reading

Diana Mitlin, "Understanding Chronic Poverty in Urban Areas" in *International Planning Studies*; (2005), Vol. 10, Issue 1:3-19

**January 14th Practice of Urban Ministry**

Assignment: 1. Read *Urban Christianity and Global Order: Theological Resources for an Urban Future.*
Supplementary Reading


Recommended Reading


