

# WESTERN SEMINARY - SACRAMENTO

## Urban Mission and Ministry

DIS 563GM: 2 Credit hours

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### Syllabus – Spring 2010

**Class Info:** This course is an immersion course carried out over 4 days in urban Sacramento.

**Location:** TBA

**Dates:** March 12,13 and 19, 20.

**Times:** Fridays: 5:55PM-10:00PM. Saturdays: 9:00AM-5:00PM

#### *Course Description*

This course focuses on the mission and ministry of the church in an urban context. A Biblical basis for urban ministry is presented and case studies of effective urban strategies are examined. The course provides key logistics, strategies, models, and insights in urban missions with hands-on activities in Sacramento. Each lecture and discussion will emphasize Christ's love for the City and *holistic* approaches to ministry, i.e., meeting the communal, civil, environmental and political needs as well as the spiritual. Two hours.

#### *Course Goals*

Antioch, Athens, Ephesus, Corinth, and Rome (to name a few) were cities that Paul reached out to in his effort to follow the call and be obedient to the heavenly vision. From the urban centers of Antioch and Ephesus, for example, Paul was able to spread the good news of Jesus. Our aim is to gain a biblical vision of the City (as God sees her), to seek and construct a mission (as Paul et. al. did in living out this vision to the first century urban centers). Included in this hope is that each student would engage in an urban ministry project.

#### *Course Objectives*

Students will be inspired and prepared to:

##### **Strategic:**

- Embrace a passion and love for the City
- Build and synthesize course content into an intentional strategy for ministry in the City

##### **Cognitive:**

- Gain basic knowledge in urban and city life (socio-political, communal-festival, civil-environmental and religio-spiritual)

- Articulate the biblical and theological framework for urban ministry.
- Learn what ‘the first urban Christians’ were like
- Investigate and evaluate various intersecting and overlapping urban church planting/ministry methodologies.
- Come to appreciate the wide-range of models and curricula and solidify one that fits his/her style and philosophy of ministry.

**Affective:**

- Be challenged to a deeper level of love for people in the City.
- Be moved to integrate her/his calling to ministry with an *intentional* vision for the City.
- Confront attitudes, ideas and values that need to be aligned with biblical teaching in order to maximize personal and urban impact.
- Be impassioned afresh with the Great Commission.

**Behavioral:**

- Develop the skills to exegete a neighborhood.
- Assess your giftedness and calling in light of God’s call to evangelize and minister to urban populations.
- The students’ in-class discussion and out-of-class projects will reflect excellent familiarity with the assigned readings and ancillary research material.
- Assignments will reflect graduate-level research and writing skills, with emphasis upon understanding the core arguments of others and being able to contribute to discussion in a healthy and wholesome manner.
- Students will be able to defend and qualify personal opinions.

**Textbooks**

*Please support your seminary by using the following link for all your Amazon purchases – a minimum of 4% comes to Western Seminary.* Click [here](#) to order texts and other products.

**Required: 30 hours of reading (40 pages per hour)**

- Greenway, Robert & Monsma, Timothy. *Cities: Missions’ New Frontier.* (267) ISBN: 0801022304
- Jacobsen, Eric. *Sidewalks in the Kingdom: New Urbanism and the Christian Faith.* (166) ISBN: 1587430576
- Claerbaut, David. *Urban Ministry in a New Millennium.* (272) ISBN: 1932805352

Select One of the following as a devotional read:

- Claiborne, Shane. *Irresistible Revolution.* (358) ISBN: 0310266300
- Lapierre, Dominique. *The City of Joy.* (526) ISBN: 8176210528
- Saint Augustine. *City of God.* (read first 500 pages) ISBN: 0140448942

The Following Articles are required Reading:

- Mata, Michael. "The New Face of Urban Ministry." (*Lausanne World Pulse*)
- Kauffman, Richard & Bakke, Ray. "Apostle to the City" (*Christianity Today*)

**Read Greenway and Monsma by March 12, 2010.** The student needs to come prepared to engage in discussion and familiar with terms and concepts related to urban mission and ministry.

**All other required reading will be due by April 9, 2010.**

### *Course Requirements*

#### **1. Reading = 300 points (30 hours)**

Students are required to read at a Mastery Level (see description below) unless otherwise mentioned.

According to Western Seminary standards there are two levels

- **Familiarity level.** This level is accomplished by discovering the bottom line and the authors perspective (45 pages per hour).
- **Mastery level.** Reading at this level will average about 20 pages per hour and assumes careful reflective interaction with the ideas, taking notes, and comprehension (1000 pages = 50 hours).

These are intended to serve as flexible guidelines or rules of thumb; they are not thought to be rigid. It is certainly understood that books are printed with varying numbers of words per page and written to varying reading levels.

Each reading assignment should be completed before the class session that it is due on (see course schedule below for due dates) so that you will be able to participate in and benefit from the class discussions. ***Due date: April 9, 2010.***

#### **2. Biblical Theology of the City=100 points (10 hours)**

Students will submit a 10-page reflection paper focused on one of the following:

1. A theology of the City as seen in Jonah and Nahum: reflections on urban Nineveh.
2. A theology of the City as seen in Nehemiah: reflections on urban Jerusalem.
3. A theology of the City as seen in the life of the early church: reflections from Acts (Jerusalem, Antioch, Rome, Ephesus, Corinth, etc).
4. A Theology of the Cities: reflections on Babylon and Jerusalem from John's Apocalypse.

Questions to consider. (1) How does God see the City? (2) What is God's intention for the City? (3) What is the Biblical purpose of the City? (4) What is the call of God to and for the City? (5) How did God's people interact with the City? (6) What models or paradigms emerge for effective ministry? (7) What is the church's social, political, communal, judicial and civic responsibility to City life? Feel free to follow the text down whatever paths it leads you.

**Due date: March 26, 2010.**

### **3. Urban Ministry Practicum = 100 points (12 hours)**

Volunteer at an inner-city ministry in either feeding the homeless, teaching literacy, helping at an after-school program, mentoring delinquent youth, attending community planning events or something of your choice. You will need to volunteer 10 hours. The activity and ministry qualifies as receiving credit if the following are met: (1) it is something you have not been involved with before; (2) it is in an urban/inner city environment.

Upon completing the lab write a two page paper reflecting on what you learned, and how it benefited you and those you served. **Due date: April 9, 2010.**

### **4. Urban Research Blog = 100 points (10 hours)**

The purpose of this project is to create a class project that will not only benefit the class but be a tool for others outside the seminary. The project will be a blog with links, resources and articles that other urban students can access and educate themselves in urbanization (context) and mission (theology) and ministry (creative strategies and solutions). On the first day of the immersion class, we will discuss the blog, organize its content and map the site. We will assign roles in the creation of this blog and make the project a legacy. My hope is that this blog will be a resource for future classes as well as a hub for current academic discussion in the area of urban ministry. The following will be discussed and considered for the blog:

- Theologically Sound Approaches to Ministering in the City ('conservatives' and 'liberals' offer very different approaches on the systemic issues of "the city." Where does God's kingdom fit?)
- Exegeting a neighborhood or urban area.
  - What do they celebrate?
  - What do they do in their leisure time?
  - What do they worry or fret over most?
  - What do they do on Sunday Mornings? Saturday Mornings?
  - Favorite Foods?
  - Arts?
  - Why do they live here? What would be the one thing that would drive them out of the City?
  - From the architecture and advertisement what is the City speaking and saying?
  - What events draw the biggest crowds?
  - Who are the most marginalized and underprivileged within that demographic?
  - Where does the City derive most of its income from?
  - These questions are just some of the questions I have suggested. The area you study should inform and create its own set of questions.
  - 'If you had to prove God is alive in your city, to what would you point to prove it?'

- Demographic studies, graphs and charts. Ethnicities, median age, marital status, transportation status, education status.
- Some statistics or surveys on the prevailing human dilemma in the area. E.g., violent crime (gangs), what is the drug of choice, number of homeless people and ages, sex-slave statistics/sexual preferences, socio-economic stats.
- Some statistics on what the population under consideration sees as the biggest need for the community, for themselves individually, for their city.
- Target a neighborhood (5 block radius) and map out a strategy for reaching out to this community and a plan to implementation. It is important that the student think in terms of holistic ministry.
- A list of the various non-profits already at work in the area and what they are doing to meet the needs of the neighborhood.
- Recruit 2-3 experts in the urban ministry sector to write an article for the blog.

The blog project will include a contemplative post (25 pts), research post (50 pts), and urban ministry links/resources (25 pts).

- **Contemplative Post.** You will be required to post an inter-disciplinary reflection (e.g., urbanization and spiritual formation) on the blog (3-4 paragraphs, devotional in nature). **Due Date: March 31, 2010.**
- **Research Post.** You will be required to post some of your research from the areas outlined above (surveys, demographics, etc.). **Due Date April 10, 2010.**
- **Links.** Each student will be required to get 10 links/resources for urban ministry or solicit an author in urban ministry to write an article for the urban ministry site. **Due Date April 16, 2010.**

## 5. Class Attendance and Participation =50 points

Class sessions will be a combination of lecture, DVDs, question/answer, and small group discussions from the reading. Because of the intensive nature of this course it is essential that you attend and participate fully each day. Please see the current Western Seminary Catalog (p. 27) for attendance requirements, make-up of missed assignments, medical and family emergencies, etc.

### Grading Scale:

A+	A	A-
99-100%	95-98%	94-93%
B+	B	B-
92-91%	90-88%	87-86%
C+	C	C-
85-84%	83-81%	80-79%
D+	D	D-
78-77%	76-74%	73-70%

*In Summary: Students will be assessed in the following ways*

300	Reading (30 hours)
100	Biblical Theology of Discipleship (10 hours)
100	Discipling Practicum (12 hours)
50	Attendance and participation for the semester
<b>650</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>

### ***Standards for written work (MLA)***

Papers must be written to a near-thesis standard. That is, minimum format standards must be met, as defined below. English grammar, idiom, and spelling must be up to graduate level. Always include a strong introduction paragraph (declare what you intend to show the reader) and conclusion paragraph. Qualities valued include clarity, succinctness, and precision.

This course employs the MLA (Modern Language Association) style guide. The basic elements are:

- Double-spacing, except for block quotes
- Single space block quotes
- Page numbers appear at the upper right on every text page
- Use footnotes or parenthetical citations.
- Footnotes and parenthetical references follow standard format.

Helpful web sites on MLA style include:

<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/>

<http://www.cws.illinois.edu/workshop/writers/citation/>

[These websites are expanded and pasted into Western Seminary's "How to Write a Research Paper" located at

<http://www.westernseminary.edu/papers/Faculty/WGuideNu.doc> ]

A good website with footnote/bibliography entries is:

<http://writing.wisc.edu/Handbook/Documentation.html>

For assignments that require the use of non-course texts and include a bibliography, of the resources mentioned in the bibliography for your project/paper, two must be from a physical library. Note the physical location of each book as an addendum to each bibliographical entry.

All work must reflect master's level use of the English language. Plagiarism will result in failure of assignment. A second instance will result in failure in the course.

### ***Course Schedule***

<b>Class</b>	<b>Class Date</b>	<b>Topic &amp; Assignment</b>
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## Session

- |          |                          |   |
|----------|--------------------------|---|
| <b>1</b> | 3/12/10<br>5:55PM-10PM   | I. Why the Fuss over Cities?<br>II. Definition: “urban,” “mission” and “ministry”<br>III. Syllabus<br>IV. Biblical Basis for Urban Missions<br>V. Theology of the City  |
| <b>2</b> | 3/13/10<br>9:AM-12:30PM  | I. New Testament Urban Mission and Ministry<br>II. Evangelism, Conversion, Discipleship in the Urban Context<br>III. DVD Screening: Urban Documentary   |
| <b>3</b> | 3/13/10<br>1:30PM-5:00PM | I. A very brief history of the City.<br>II. Exegeting Sacramento:<br>III. Interpreting a City’s Culture:  |
| <b>4</b> | 3/19/10<br>5:55PM-10PM   | I. <b>A Cultural Exegesis and Prayer Walk through Sacramento:</b> we will walk around inner City Sacramento. At some locations we will have discussions, at other sites we will pray; along the way, we will take notes of the architecture, art, advertising, street life and social settings. (Be prepared to hike: walking shoes, water bottle, a small back pack may be helpful.) |
| <b>5</b> | 3/20/10<br>9:AM-12:30PM  | I. Urban Minister’s Heart<br>II. Models of Urban Ministry (1).<br>III. Models of Urban Ministry (2).<br>IV. What must be distinctive about Christian love of the city?  |
| <b>6</b> | 3/20/10<br>1:30PM-5:00PM | I. Urban Realities: Ethnic Diversity and the Kingdom of God<br>II. Urban Realities: Homelessness and the Kingdom of God<br>III. Urban Realities: Prostitution, Sex-slaves, and the Kingdom of God.<br>IV. Urban Realities: At Risk Children/Youth and the Kingdom of God. (Guest Lecturer: DDAP’s Kimo Uila)  |

## ***Bibliography***

Bakke, Ray and Jim Hart. *The Urban Christian : Effective Ministry in Today's Urban World*. Illinois: Intervarsity Press, 1987.

\_\_\_\_\_. *A Theology as Big as the City*. Illinois: Intervarsity Press, 1997.

Claerbaut, David. “The Urban Church and the Urban Minister.” In *Urban Ministry*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan (1983), 189-210.

- \_\_\_\_\_. *Urban Ministry in a new Millennium*. Authentic Books, 2005.
- Conn, Harvey, ed. *Planting and Growing Urban Churches: From Dream to Reality*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1997.
- \_\_\_\_\_. and Manuel Ortiz. *Urban Ministry: The Kingdom, the City, and the People of God*. Downer's Grove: Intervarsity Press, 2001.
- Fuder, John, ed. *A Heart for the City: Effective Ministries to the Urban Community*. Chicago: Moody, 2000.
- Greenway, Roger S., ed. *Discipling the City: A Comprehensive Approach to Urban Mission*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1992.
- \_\_\_\_\_. "Jeremiah: How to be a City Saint." In *Apostle to the City: Biblical Strategies for Urban Missions*. Grand Rapids: Baker (1979), 29-42.
- \_\_\_\_\_. "Don't Be an Urban Missionary Unless . . ." *Evangelical Missions Quarterly* 19:2 (April 1983): p. 86-94.
- \_\_\_\_\_. *Guidelines for Urban Planting*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1976. Chapters 1, 2, and 8.
- \_\_\_\_\_. and Timothy M. Monsma. *Cities: Missions' New Frontier*. Second edition. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2000.
- Green, Laurie. *Urban Ministry and the Kingdom of God*. London: SPCW, 2003.
- Harper, Nile, ed. *Urban Churches, Vital Signs: Beyond Charity Toward Justice*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1998.
- Hiebert, Paul G. and Eloise Hiebert Meneses. *Incarnational Ministry : Planting Churches in Band, Tribal, Peasant, and Urban Societies*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1996.
- Jacobsen, Eric. *Sidewalks in the Kingdom: new urbanism in the kingdom*. Grand Rapids: Brazos Press, 2003.
- Kotkin, Joel. *The City: a global history*. New York: A Modern Library, 2006.
- Meeks, Wayne. *The First Urban Christians*. Yale University Press, 2003.
- Meyers, Eleanor Scott, ed. *Envisioning a New City: A Reader on Urban Ministry*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 1992.
- Reeder, Harry L. "Revitalizing a Dying Church." In *The Pastor-Evangelist: Preacher, Model, and Mobilizer for Church Growth*, ed. Roger S. Greenway, 162-181. Philadelphia: Presbyterian and Reformed Publishing, 1987.
- Sider, Ronald J. and John Perkins. *Linking Arms, Linking Lives: how urban-suburban partnerships can transform communities*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2008.
- White, Randy. *Journey to the Center of the City: Making a Difference in an Urban Neighborhood*. Illinois: Intervarsity Press, 1997.

### ***Class policies***

**Cover page:** To safeguard confidentiality, provide a title page as a cover for all assignments. Include your student mailbox number in the upper right corner of the cover page.

**Attendance and Late Assignments:** Students are expected to attend all class meetings. Students who miss class are responsible for missed work. Unexcused absences and

tardiness will impact a student's grade. Students who anticipate an absence should discuss it in advance with the instructor. Students who miss two or more classes will not pass the course, without a request for and the completion of additional assignments. Assignments submitted after the due date and time constitutes a drop in the student's letter grade for that assignment.

**Enrichment Students:** Enrichment students are encouraged, but not obligated, to participate in assignments and class discussions. Professors are not obligated to grade participation for these students, but may opt to do so depending on class size.

**Incompletes:** Faculty members determine their own procedures and due dates for the completion of course assignments. The final deadline for submitting all course work is the last day of the semester as noted in the Academic Calendar and in the Sacramento class schedule. In the case of serious illness, family emergency, or similar extenuating circumstances, the instructor may, **if it is initiated by the student**, grant an extension. A 1-3 week extension is typical in all except the most extreme cases, and in all cases the standard decrease of a full letter grade for late work applies. Extensions desired by the student beyond 3 weeks, with prof support, must be approved by the Sacramento Academic Coordinator, with 5 weeks after the end of the course being the longest possible extension for work being due to the prof; for this semester that date is **Saturday, 5/29/10**. (This allows a 6<sup>th</sup> week for the grading of work and a grade change request to be filed.) A temporary notation of "I" (incomplete) is assigned until a final grade can be determined. Under no circumstances may the six-week period (allots 1 week to the prof for grading and grade change petition) be extended except by petition and approval of the Administrative Committee in Portland.

**The Availability of Disability Services at Western Seminary:** Western Seminary is committed to responding to the needs of students with disabilities as outlined in both the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. Western students are assisted individually as their needs dictate. It is the responsibility of students with disabilities to identify themselves and the nature of the disability. Any student who has a disability should contact the seminary's Disability (Section 504) Coordinator, Ken Epp, at 503-517-1815/1-877-517-1800, ext. 1815. His office is at the Portland campus. Students at the northern California campuses may contact Carrie Priest (Student Services Coordinator – San José) or PJ Oswald (Director of Student Development – Sacramento), or they may contact Dr. Epp directly. Appropriate forms will be provided and must be submitted to the Disability Coordinator's office.

### ***Library and internet research – Sacramento***

All class assignments with a research element require library research annotated as such in the bibliography. A minimum of two resources must be from a physical library. Note the physical location of each resource as an addendum to each bibliographical entry.

For complete library information including: hours of operation, interlibrary loan, local library resources, etc., please:

- Visit [www.westernseminary.edu/sacramento](http://www.westernseminary.edu/sacramento)
- Click the link “Library Services” in the right navigation pane.

### **Reserve Collection**

The library carries all required readings for this course.

### **Print Resources**

Use the Western-Arcade Library catalog to find books and other materials. To search the library collection:

- Visit <http://www.westernseminary.edu/Library/SAC> .
- Click the link “Search the Library Collection Online”.

### **Periodical & Research Databases**

As you complete your assignments for this course, don’t forget about the resources in the Western research databases. Remember to evaluate and cite your information too. To access the Western research databases:

- Visit <http://www.westernseminary.edu/Library/SAC> .
- Click the link “Research Databases” from the bottom menu.
- Click the link “Ebsco Host Research Databases”.
- Log in. [**User ID:** westsem / **Password:** seminary]
- Click the link “EBSCOhost Web”.
- Click the database(s) you wish to use. Start with *ATLA Religion Database with ATLASerials*.

To cite your information, consider the following MLA composers:

<http://www.noodletools.com> and <http://www.citationmachine.net>

Western-Arcade Library offers a variety of ministry related software for student use including BibleWorks, Logos Bible Software, and SeminaryLibrary.

### **Course Packs (if applicable)**

To access the course pack(s) for this course:

1. Go to the library homepage: <http://www.westernseminary.edu/Library/SAC>
2. Click the link ‘Course Packs’.

### **Reference and Research Contact Information**

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