“But seek the welfare [shalom] of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the Lord on its behalf; for in its welfare [shalom] you will find your welfare [shalom].”
- Jeremiah 29: 7

I. Course Objectives: The Student:

A. Develops his or her understanding of the biblical and theological basis of the public ministry of the Church

B. Develops his or her biblical, theological and social ethical reflection on the mission of the Church and public ministry

C. Develops an understanding of types of action which the Christian and the Church can take for faithful public ministry

II. Textbooks

A. Required:


ISBN: 066423349X CBD price = $18.00
ISBN: 0802807291   CBD price = $15.75


III. Course Requirements:

A. Common Reading: As a background for course and class lecture/discussion, the student should complete assigned readings by the following day:


September 25: Villafañe, *Seek the Peace of the City*, pp. 29-63.

October 2: Sider, pp. 41-90; Complete balance of readings in Sider and Villafañe, *Seek the Peace of the City*.

B. Critical Analysis and Reflection on three Required Texts:

Provide a brief two-page analysis of each of the following books: *Beyond Cheap Grace* by Villafañe, *Faith Works* by Wallis, and *Sabbath in the City* by Stone and Wolfteich. Include a brief synopsis of each book’s content. Select one key theme/idea in each book that will be helpful to your ministry, explaining why and how you would utilize it.

*Beyond Cheap Grace* due September 18
*Faith Works* due September 25
*Sabbath in the City* due October 2

C. Attend Community Organizing Workshop (Required)
Saturday, October 4
(From 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.)
D. **Final Paper:**

Based on class lectures, course required readings, bibliographical resources, and your knowledge, prepare a sermon, Bible study or academic paper on one of the following themes/issues:

1. Religion and Public Life
2. The Biblical Basis for Public Ministry
3. Justice and the Public Ministry of the Church
4. Politics and the Public Witness of the Church
5. Community Organizing as Public Ministry
6. Public Education and Public Ministry
7. The Public Ministry of Jesus
8. Faith-Based Groups and Public Ministry
9. Immigration and the Public Ministry of the Church
10. The Christian Community as a Public Church

Paper should be 10 pages long: **due October 24 at CUME**

IV. **Grade Evaluation**

Your class grade will be evaluated as follows:

- Common Readings: -10%
- Attendance at Workshops: -20%
- Critical Analysis and Reflection: -30%
- Final Paper: -40%

Minus any penalty for unfulfilled requirements (e.g. regular attendance, late papers)

V. **Office hours – Faculty Advisement**
September 11, 18, 25, and October 2, 2014: from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m.

Appointment should be made through Dr. Villafane’s Administrative Assistant, Mrs. Naomi Wilshire’s office @ nwilshire@gcts.edu.
Church and Community:
Introduction to the Public Ministry of the Church

(Course Outline)

Introduction

A. “Knowing Each Other”
B. Scope, Objectives, Method and Requirements of Course
C. Defining our Theme

I. Biblical and Theological Basis of the Public Ministry of the Church

A. The Jeremiah Paradigm for the City (The theological concept of Shalom)
B. A Theology of Prayer: The City and Spirituality

II. The Church and its Public Witness

A. The Church and Its Public Ministry: Lessons from Jesus
B. The Classical Missiological Categories of the Church’s Mission

III. Social Diakonia: The Public Ministry of the Church

A. Typology of Social Diakonia
B. DVD – “Holding Ground: The Rebirth of Dudley Street” (DSNI)
C. Towards Faith-Based Community Organizing: Saturday Workshop
Selected Bibliography


Carle, Robert D., and DeCaro Jr., Louis A. Signs of Hope in the City: Ministries of Community Renewal. Valley Forge, PA: Judson Press, 1997


________. *Empowering the Poor: Community Organizing Among the City’s “Rag, Tag, and Bobtail.”* Monrovia, CA: MARC, 1991

________. *Building a People of Power: Equipping Churches to Transform their Communities.* Waynesboro, GA: Authentic/World Vision, 2006


