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:

Linthicum, Robert, Empowering the Poor: Community Organizing Among the City’s ‘rag, tag, and bobtail’ (Monrovia, CA: MARC/World Vision International, 1991); or Linthicum, Robert, Building a People of Power: Equipping Churches to Transform Their Communities (Waynesboro, GA: Authentic/World Vision, 2006).


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:

   
   April 5: Villafañe, *Seek the Peace of the City*, pp. 29-63.
   
   April 12: Sider, pp. 41-90; Complete balance of readings in Sider and Villafañe, *Seek the Peace of the City*.
   
   April 28: Linthicum, *Empowering the Poor*, (complete book); or Linthicum, *Building a People of Power* (Chapters, 1, 4, 6, 8, 11, and 12).

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 March 29  
   *Faith Works* due April 12  
   *Sabbath in the City* due April 19

C. **Attend Community Organizing Workshop** (Required)
   Saturday, April 28
   (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 May 4 at CUME (May graduates: due May 1 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)
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
C. The Church and Its Public Ministry: Lessons from Jesus

II. The Church and its Public Witness

A. The Classical Missiological Categories of the Church’s Mission
B. Justice Towards the Poor

III. Social *Diakonia*: The Public Ministry of the Church

A. Typology of Social *Diakonia*
B. Towards Faith-Based Community Organizing: Saturday Workshop


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


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


