Gordon Conwell Theological Seminary - Brockton
(Center for Urban Ministerial Education)
SE/MC 602-Church and Community:
Introduction to the Public Ministry of the Church
(Spring, 2015)
Monday: January 24, 26; February 2, 9, 23; March, 9, 23, April 6

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“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 will:
A. Develop her or his understanding of the biblical and theological basis for
   the public ministry of the church
B. Develop his or her biblical, theological and social ethical reflection on the
   mission of the Church and public ministry
C. Develop an understanding of the types of action which the Christian and
   the Church can take for faithful public ministry

II. Required Textbooks
Krehbiel, Jeffrey K., Reflecting with Scripture on Community Organizing
ISBN-978-0-89746-448-6 ACTA price = $5.95
(www.actapublications.com (60) page booklet)

Perkins, John, Beyond Charity: The Call to Christian Community Development
ISBN: 978-0-8010-7122-5 Amazon price=$13.50

Sider, Ronald J., Rich Christians in an Age of Hunger: Moving from
Affluence to Generosity (Dallas, Word Publishing, 1997, 20th anniversary revision

Villafane, Eldin, Seek the Peace of the City: Reflections on Urban Ministry
ISBN: 0802807291 CBD price = $15.75

__________, Beyond Cheap Grace: A Call to Radical Discipleship,
Incarnation and Justice (Grand Rapids, Michigan: Wm. B. Eerdmans
Publishing Company, 2006)

Wallis, Jim, Faith Works: How Faith-based Organizations are Changing Lives,
ISBN: 1-879290-23-5 Amazon, through varied sellers price = $6.90 and up
III. Course Requirements:
   A. Common Reading: As a background for course and class lecture-dialogue, the student should complete assigned reading by the following day:

      February 2 - Villafane, Seek the Peace of the City
      February 16 - Sider, Rich Christians in an Age of Hunger
      February 23 - Perkins, Beyond Charity

   B. Community Asset Mapping and Learning Conversation Exercise (group project) – February 23

   C. Critical Analysis and Reflection on one Required Text:

      Provide a brief two-page analysis of the following book: Beyond Cheap Grace by Villafane.
      1. Include a brief synopsis of the book’s key themes.
      2. Select one key theme/idea in the book that will be helpful to your ministry, explaining why and how you would utilize it.
         • Beyond Cheap Grace book review due –

   D. Group Reflection: Faith Works by Jim Wallis – March 23

   E. Reflective analysis/Verbal presentation of Lausanne Congress on World Evangelization Cape Town 2010 videos (In class group assignment) April 6

   F. Final paper:
      Based on class lectures, course required readings, videos, asset mapping, bibliographical resources, and your knowledge, write a theological reflection on one of the following themes/issues:

      1. The Biblical Basis for Public Ministry
      2. The Gospel and the Public Ministry of the Church
      3. The Public Ministry of Jesus
      4. Reconciliation and the Public Ministry of the Church
      5. Immigration and the Public Ministry of the Church
      6. Justice and the Public Ministry of the Church
      7. Racial Reconciliation and the Public Ministry of the Church

      Paper should be 12 pages long, double-spaced: Due April 25

IV. Grade Evaluation - Your class grade will be evaluated as follows:
   Common Readings 10%
   Community Asset Mapping (group presentation) 10%
   Reflective Analysis of Videos (group presentation) 20%
   Critical Analysis and Reflection 20%
   Final Paper 40%

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

V. Office hours – Faculty advisement by appointment
   • Mondays – February 2,– March 2, 2015 from 5:00 to 5:45pm
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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

1. **Biblical and Theological Basis of the Public Ministry of the Church**
   A. The Jeremiah Paradigm for the City (The theological concept of Shalom)
   B. The Church and Its Public Ministry: Lessons from Jesus

2. **The Church and its Public Witness**
   A. Gospel-Centered Public Ministry
   B. Justice Toward the Poor

3. **Social Diakonia: The Public Ministry of the Church**
   A. Typology of Social Diakonia
   B. Global Social Diakonia – “The Whole Church Taking the Whole Gospel to the Whole World”
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


Chester, Timothy and Timmis, Steve. Total Church: A Radical Reshaping Around Gospel and Community Crossway Publisher, 2008


Krehbiel, Jeffrey K.  *Reflecting With Scripture on Community Organizing*.  Chicago, IL: ACTA Publications, 2010


Lupton, Robert D.  *Compassion, Justice and the Christian Life: Rethinking Ministry to the Poor*.  Regal, 2007


Stone, Bryan P. and Claire E. Wolfeich.  *Sabbath in the City: Sustaining Urban Pastoral Excellence*. 5

__________. *A Prayer for the City: Further Reflections on Urban Ministry*. Austin, TX: AETH, 2001


