

PT750 Urban Ministries

Overall Goal

The goal of this course is that students will gain competencies in the practice of urban ministry through in-class study, site visitation of urban settings, and reflective and research writing.

Reading Assignments

Students should expect to read 800 pages from the required texts listed below, and assigned supplemental readings, which will be considered a part of the required reading. Required readings are to be completed prior to class, and will be discussed and reflected upon in class.

Written Assignments

Students should expect to write at most 19 double-spaced pages. All papers are to be typed, double-spaced and appropriately referenced. Additionally, all written work is to be submitted on respective due dates, as this will affect grading. Writing assignments will be comprised of the following:

First Assignment (25% of final grade)

This will be a personal reflection paper, and is to be 5-7 pages (not to exceed 1750 words) in length. The paper should offer insights on the student's personal observations and experience with ministry in the urban context. Some issues that should be addressed include:

- What do you see as the nature of urban ministry in the 21st century?
- What do you view as the key theological issues facing urban churches and the city?
- Why is urban ministry important today?
- What do you see as some of the challenges facing churches in urban contexts?
- What do you see as the future of the urban church?

Second (Final) Assignment (45%) of final grade)

This will be an integrative theological reflection paper, and is to be 10-12 pages (not to exceed 3000 words) in length. Based upon the class readings and discussions, the student is to prepare a paper that offers theological reflection, analysis and critique of class material. The paper may be of a topical or general nature as it pertains to urban ministries. Outside references may be used at the student's discretion as a means of supporting and strengthening your work.

Other

The course will include visits to several ministry sites in Baltimore city. Site visits and class discussion will contribute 30% to the final grade.

Required Texts

- Gornik, Mark R. *To Live in Peace: Biblical Faith and the Changing Inner City*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2002. ISBN: 0-8028-4685-8
- Gunderson, Gary and Larry Pray. *Leading Causes of Life: Five Fundamentals to Change the Way You Live Your Life*. Nashville, TN: Abingdon Press, 2009. ISBN: 978-0-687-65533-5
- Peters, Ronald E. *Urban Ministries – An Introduction*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2007. ISBN 13: 978-0-687-64225-0
- Stone, Bryan and Claire Wolfeich. *Sabbath in the City: Sustaining Urban Pastoral Excellence*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2008. ISBN-13: 978-0-664-23349-5; ISBN-10: 0-664-23349-X