

**St. Mary's Ecumenical Institute
Summer 2016**

MT754/PT754 The Hungry, the Homeless, and the Church

Instructor Dr. Benjamin Davis

Class Schedule

Class meets Mondays and Thursdays, June 2 through June 30. All work due by July 22.

Prerequisites: TH601 or permission of instructor

Course Description:

This course will comprise a theological and practical examination of the individual's and the church's role in addressing the issues of hunger and homelessness both globally and locally.

Course Context

The focus of this course is application – we will learn so we can do. We will look for new ways to address the age-old issues of hunger and homelessness. We need to maintain our efforts through food banks and homeless shelters, but obviously this is not enough – there are many more hungry and many more homeless people alive today than there were in Jesus' time. We want to cure the disease, not simply palliate it.

Course Requirements:

- Students should expect to read approximately 800 pages of required materials.
- Following a class visit to a serving ministry, students will prepare a 5-8 page paper reflecting on their observations in light of their expectations, the scriptures, and the readings to that point in the course. Due Monday, June 20
- Students will identify a hunger or homelessness problem or situation of specific interest to them and propose a new, *unique* solution. Given what will have been learned from the readings, opening another food pantry or homeless shelter will not be the answer. Students will dig deep and suggest how the problem can be eradicated, not just palliated. Students will ultimately prepare a 10-15 page paper describing the new approach and the scriptural grounding for it. Preliminary thinking will be submitted in a written outline/proposal format and presented formally to the class orally. Additional guidance will be provided regarding the paper and the presentation. Preliminary summary and presentation due Thursday, June 30. Completed paper due July 22.

Required Texts:

Corbett, Steve and Fikkert, Brian. (2014). *When Helping Hurts: How to Alleviate Poverty Without Hurting the Poor . . . and Yourself*. Chicago: Moody Publishing. ISBN: 9780802409980

Nixon, David. (2013). *Stories from the Street: A Theology of Homelessness*. Burlington, VT: Ashgate Publishing Company. ISBN: 9781409437468

Thurow, Roger, and Kilman, Scott. (2010). *Enough: Why the World's Poorest Starve in an Age of Plenty*. Public Affairs. ISBN:9781586488185