

ST. MARY'S ECUMENICAL INSTITUTE
Spring 2018

Thursday

6:00-8:30 pm

PT629 The Church as Instrument of Change in the Metropolitan Community

Dr. Jeff Anderson

Course Description:

This course raises the question “*How can the church bring transformation in the city outside its doors?*” and focuses on ways in which the church can engage in leading its community to bring about positive changes. Students will explore Biblical and contemporary approaches to civic engagement, personal leadership styles, methods of leadership within the community, and effective ways to bring about change, as well as social, financial, and legal limitations of such work. Course assignments focus on practical skills development, such as determining which social issues (crime, violence, youth disenfranchisement, education, unemployment, mass incarceration, racial prejudice, income disparity, etc.) can best be addressed by the student's church, and how the church can strategically implement leadership within the community to address these issues. Guest speakers, including Msgr. Richard Bozzelli, Rev. Andrew Foster-Connors, and Rev. Dr. Al Hathaway, will provide insight into interdenominational, political, and business relations.

Course Requirements:

- **Reading:** Students should expect to read approximately 1000 pages of required reading.
- **Writing:** Students will write a brief (3-5 paragraph) response each week on the assigned readings along with reflection journal entries.
- **Other:** Students will engage in two mid-course projects to analyze particular aspects of and opportunities within the community plus one summative project. The summative project will involve creating a sample community engagement proposal for a church. Students will use data collected through the other course assignments to craft the proposal.
- **Grading:**

-Summative Project	25%
-Weekly Written Responses	20%
-Analysis Project 1 (Neighborhood)	15%
-Analysis Project 2 (501c3)	15%
-Class Participation	15%
-Reflective Journal	10%

Required Texts:

- Brian D. McLaren. *A Generous Orthodoxy: Why I am a Missional + Evangelical + Post/Protestant + Liberal/Conservative + Mystical/Poetic + Biblical + Charismatic/Contemplative + Fundamentalist/Calvinist + Anabaptist/Anglican + Methodist + Catholic + Green + Incarnational + Depressed-Yet-Hopeful + Emergent + Unfinished Christian* (Zondervan/Youth Specialties, 2004). 0310258030
- S. Alexander Haslam, Stephen D. Reicher, and Michael J. Platow. *The New Psychology of Leadership: Identity, Influence and Power* (Psychology Press, 2011). 978-1841696102
- Chris Lowney. *Heroic Leadership: Best Practices from a 450 Year Old Company that Changed the World* (Loyola Press, 2005). 0829421157
- John Maxwell. *The 21 Irrefutable Laws of Leadership: Follow Them and People Will Follow You (10th Anniversary Edition)* (Thomas Nelson, 2007). 9780785288374