



## Syllabus

### **URB570: "URBAN COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT"** **Nazarene Theological Seminary** **In collaboration with the Bresee Institute for Metro Ministries** **Fall Semester, 2008**

Fletcher L. Tink, Ph.D  
NTS office #113  
Tel: 816-268-5496  
E-mail address: Fletcht@aol.

#### **DESCRIPTION:**

A study of the development of urban communities and the social ecology and organization of metropolitan areas. A survey of methods of community analysis in theoretical perspective and practical application. A study of the development of Christian community and how it interfaces with the larger urban community. Special attention will be given to the movement of Christian Community Development Association and like organizations, including the Church and the Christian community as transformative agents within neighborhoods.

#### **FORMAT:**

The seminar will meet on Thursday afternoons from 1:30-4:30 at the Bresee Institute office at 712 E 31st St, in True Light Church of the Nazarene facility. The learning activities will be comprised of lecture (professor and guests), group discussion, student presentations, exposure experiences, site visits, and participatory exercises.

#### **SEMINAR OBJECTIVES:**

- To understand the human need for community
- To understand the dynamics of community
- To understand how cities are formed to meet this need
- To understand how the pathologies or the dysfunctionality of cities destroy community
- To understand how a sense of community can be repaired in the city
- To acknowledge and affirm experiences of community within the city
- To understand the role of the Church in creating/restoring community
- To observe where religious community is or is not occurring in the city
- To seek means by which religious community may interact and engage the city in community-affirming ways.
- To experience community within the seminar context
- To become knowledgeable about the Christian Community Development Association and its resource for transformational effects in cities

## REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS:

Five required texts are listed below that must be read and reported. However, reading reviews will be given only on three books of your choice. Book reviews should be about three pages long with one third, given to resume, one third to critique and one third to personal application in your building towards community.

### Texts:

Fuder, John: *A Heart for the City*

Lupton, Robert: *Renewing the City: Reflections on Community Development and Urban Renewal*

Perkins, John M: *With Justice for All: A Strategy for Community Development*

Sider, Ronald J and John Perkins, Wayne L. Gordon and F. Albert Tizon: *Linking Arms, Linking Lives: How Urban-Suburban Partnerships Can Transform Communities*

White, Randy: *Journey to the Center of the City*

### Optional Books and Supplementary Reading:

Anderson, Elijah.: *Streetwise: Race, Class and Change*

Fleisher, M.L.: *Dead End Kinds: Gang Girls and the Boys They Know*

Jacobsen, E.O.: *Sidewalks in the Kingdom*

Kretzmann, J and John McKnight: *Building Communities from the Inside Out*

Peck, M. Scott: *The Different Drum*

Perkins, John M: *Restoring At-Risk Communities: Doing It Together and Doing It Right*

Sofield, L. et al: *Building Community: Christian, Caring, Vital*

Yankoski, M: *Under the Overpass: A Journey of Faith on the Streets of America*

## ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS:

1. **Attendance and Participation:** in accordance with the policy of NTS. Each participant will be expected to engage in meaningful discussion and interactive exchanges. However, because of the rare privilege of having Dr John Perkins, the founder of the Christian Community Development Movement, on our campus on Tuesday, September 16, where he will be speaking in Chapel, over lunch, and in the evening, it will be obligatory to attend these sessions and write synopses of his presentations and your personal reflections. This will be due on Sept 18.

2. **Written Reviews:** of three of the texts selected from the list above by the dates given. Each will be due in written form for class on September 25, October 16; November 13. However an **oral presentation** will be given on the due dates randomly selected from the class members.. The written reports should be at least 3 pages, with one third dedicated to resume; one third to critique; and one third to personal application.

On December 4, a full accounting of all materials read is to be turned in, including titles of each book or article read, authors' names, publication source and date, and specific pages read

3. **Two Exposure Experiences.** These will be experiences that require that the student enter into new and unfamiliar urban "communities" and interview at least two persons who see that community from different roles and vantage points, asking them questions about the nature, purpose, and viability of their community. For each exposure experience, summarize the individual and combined perspectives of these community participants, and assess the health or functionality of the community in light of these interviews. The due dates will be October 9 and November 6.

4. **Two Articles from Sociological or Community Development Journals:** are to be read, reported and examined. These will be selected by the student from the NTS library holdings in the American Sociological Review, the American Journal of Sociology, the British Journal of Sociology, Human Organization or other related journals. Only one page per article is to be written and will address the topic of personal application for ministry. These articles are due in written and oral form on November 20.

5. **A Final Project:** This will be a research paper of 8-10 pages that presents a workable plan to leverage some Christian organization that the student is affiliated with, to create meaningful change in that organization's neighborhood based upon insights generated within the course. The project will be presented in class, not only to class colleagues but to at least two members of the participating organization, requiring their response and reflection on the project. They too will determine the grade for the project. These projects are to be presented on December 11.

6. **Option:** The Conference of the Christian Community Development Association will be meeting in Miami, FL during the week of October 22-27. Any student choosing to attend this conference, in lieu of assignments #3 and #4, will provide a journal of the activities, reflections and presentations given at this conference. Additional credit can be earned under independent course requirements if so petitioned successfully.

**GRADING SCALE**

1.	Attendance and Participation	10%
	Report on Perkins materials	10%
2.	Three Book Reviews	15%
	Reading Reports (of all read materials)	5%
3.	Two Exposure Experiences	20%
4.	Two Sociological Reviews	10%
5.	Final Project	30%
(6)	Optional Conference Participation	(30%)
	Or bonus credit of 10% beyond the full assignments above	
	Total Possible:	100%

Extra credit can be obtained by special means, i.e. extra assignments, special arrangements, etc.

Scale follows the norm of 90+% as an "A", 80+% as a "B" etc.

**WEEKLY SCHEDULE:**

The professor retains the right to adjust the schedule as situations and student needs dictate.

September 11: Class Orientation, Syllabus, Introductions:  
Initial lecture: "Why Community?"

September 16: Grimaud Lecture Series, Dr John Perkins (attendance obligatory throughout the day)

September 18: "A Biblical Understanding of Community"

- September 25: History and Development of Communities:  
"How Do Communities Emerge?"  
Guest Lecturer  
*Text #1 Review Due*
- October 2: "Types and Traits of Communities"
- October 9: "Why Does Community Dissolve??"  
*Exposure Experience Report #1 Due*
- October 16: "How Can Community be Restored?"  
*Text #2 Review Due*
- October 20-24: Reading and Research Week
- October 22-27: Christian Community Development Association Conference  
Miami, FL
- October 24: "How Can Community be Restored?"
- October 30: "Creating Christian Community in the Urban Setting"  
*Exposure Experience Report #2 Due*
- November 6: "How do Communities Interface with Each Other?"  
*Exposure Experience #2 Due*
- November 13: "Models of Religious Community in the City"  
*Text #3 Review Due*
- November 20: "Models of Christian Community Development in the City"  
*Two Journal Article Reviews Due*
- November 27: Thanksgiving Holiday
- December 4: "What Can Christian Community Teach the Urban World?"  
"What are Some Inherent Dangers in Developing Community?" "Where  
is 'Community' Going?"
- December 11: Final Written and Oral Projects Due