

SYLLABUS

MSS790A: "Urban Immersion: Seeing Latin America Through Urban Ministry Eyes" (NTS)

**EVG790A: Seminar in Evangelism, Latin America
July 11-18, 2009**

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

This travel seminar carries two (2) different titles given above, two for the students of Nazarene Theological Seminary and is being offered as an introductory course, researching and experiencing a great variety of ministry models and evangelistic initiatives, set within a particular Latin American context. The seminar offered is being held in San Jose, Costa Rica at the facility of Seminario Nazareno de la Americas (SENDAS) with the actual exploration portion of the seminar completed within the designated seven full days of involvement.

The seminar is being offering in conjunction with Bakke Graduate University of Seattle, Washington, where Dr Tink also serves as adjunct faculty. Randy White is the director of doctoral programs at this same school, and has served as national coordinator for urban projects for InterVarsity Christian Fellowship. He is the author of Journey to the Center of the City, and Encounter God in the City. It is expected that 20+ graduate and doctoral students from BGU will also be participating fully in the seminar. Major Latin American lecturers will be participation with formal presentations each day in seminar sessions.

Around four (4) contrasting ministries will be examined by methods including visitation, study of the literature, personal interview and, at times, video promo presentations. These ministries will include: diverse local churches, para-church service ministries, significant networks of Christian activities, compassionate ministry centers, special advocacy and social justice initiatives.

The initial convening of the seminar will take place for the NTS students at the Nazarene Seminary on two scheduled meeting dates prior to the trip to Costa Rica for introductions, organizational orientation, travel discussion and distribution of the syllabus. The first formal session will be held on Monday, July 13 at 9:00 am on the campus of SENDAS located on the main road in the eastern suburb of Guadalupe (mailing address: 3977-1000, San Jose, Costa Rica, Central America; phone: 011-506-285-0432.

Daily sessions will be held on weekday from 9-5 p.m. on campus (rooms to be designated later) over the period of five days (July 13-17). Site visits will take place during two afternoons. In additional cultural events and group meals will be shared. Students are encouraged to arrive on Saturday, July 11, to participate in Sunday worship services and community exploration. On Saturday, July 18, a non-credit, full day of cultural adventure and exploration is planned with options for visiting the northern states, volcanoes, coffee fields, jungle boat ride, etc. (at a surcharge of \$75), or a trip to the coastal beaches.

Private bus transportation will be made available and is considered part of the covered lab expense cost.

OBJECTIVES:

1. To experience urban ministry in Latin America in its many facets
2. To identify productive models of urban ministry
3. To examine parish, demographic and systemic forms of ministry
4. To engage in mutual dialogue about possibilities and forms of ministry yet to be seeded in Latin America
5. To learn about creative and effective forms of evangelism in Latin America
6. To critique and appropriate urban ministry paradigms
7. To develop a personal and practical theology of urban ministry
8. To enhance skills of investigation and research in urban mission
9. To communicate articulately a passion for urban mission
10. To broaden one's networking and resourcing for urban mission
11. To "exchange gifts" with other participating in the seminar

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

For those taking the Urban Immersion credit:

1. Attendance at all agreed-on sessions except for emergencies.
2. Reading of four required texts and the assigned "Reader;" two of these books are to be read in advance of the seminar
3. Active participation in all facets of the travel component of the seminar, including interviews with ministries introduced.
4. Book reviews of three of the texts, including 2-3 pages of review that include resume, critique and personal application.
5. Journaling. A running account of the events of each day's visits, on the left side of the page, with reflective commentary on the right side.
6. A synopsis paper of 12-15 pages that selects three of the visits most informative to your projected ministry. Discuss theological, sociological, and institutional values of these models, with a comparison and contrast with other known models of ministry out of one's past.

For those taking the Evangelism credit:

- 1-5. Similar to the assignments above.
6. A research project of 10-15 pages that involves a study of why the Protestant faith is growing rapidly in Latin America, and the role of personal evangelism and compassionate ministries as a trigger to that evangelism. It is suggested that the student pair up with another Latin student and interview that person concerning his or her own conversion process as a case study of how conversion comes about within the Latin American context. The paper would be further enhanced if the two students would venture into an evangelistic setting of sharing faith with persons in the San Jose community with a narrative to describe that experience.

REQUIRED TEXTS

Bakke, Ray. *The Urban Christian: Effective Ministry in Today's World.* Intersity Press: Downers Grove, IL), 1987. (to be read by January 4, 2005)

Greenway, Roger, ed. *Disciplining the City: A Comprehensive Approach to Urban Ministry.* (WIPF and Stock Publishers: Eugene, OR), 1997.

Grigg, Viv. *Companion to the Poor: Christ in the Urban Slums.* (Authentic Media: Waynesboro, GA), 2004

Linthicum, Robert. **Empowering the Poor: Community Organizing Among the City's 'rag, tag and bobtail'.** (MARC: Monrovia, CA), 2000.

Also:

The Urban Reader. Can be purchased in hard copy for \$10, 1st day of class or can be given as a CD for \$5.

One book on Latin America, as presented in separate bibliography

GRADING

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| 1. | Interactive participation | 20% |
| 2. | Readings and reading reviews | 20% |
| | a. The Bakke and Greenway books are to be read and reported by July 4 th | |
| | b. The Grigg and Linthicum books are to be read and reports by July 13 th | |
| | However the written reviews are to be turned in by August 1. | |
| | The Urban Reader will be used throughout the seminar as is to be considered an ongoing tool for resourcing the seminar. | |
| 3. | Journaling | 30% |
| | Due: Aug. 1st | |
| 4. | Synopsis Paper/Research Paper | 30% |
| | Due: Aug 15th | |

The course will use the conventional grading scale of 90+ as A or A-; 80+ as B+, B, or B-, etc

All assignments will be due in the hands of the professor by Aug 15th, except as indicated above.

Additional Information: There will be an administration fee of \$300 payable by July 1st. However, a non-returnable deposit of \$100 is payable by enrolled students by May 1st for all credit students, duly taking the class for academic credit.

For non-credit, an additional \$200 payment will be made to Bresee Institute due on July 1st. This payment covers housing at SENDAS from Sunday evening through Friday night and meals throughout that time span. It also covers local travel costs to site visits. Any costs for additional overnights will cost \$15 a day. The Saturday trip to the Volcano Poas involves a surcharge of \$60. The trip to the beach will be handled privately at no additional cost.

Bresee Institute is absorbing the \$400 BGU charge per student for their services.

A complete itinerary with detail lectures and lecturers and site visits will be made available by June 1st along with meeting dates both before and after the seminar in Costa Rica itself.

