



Nazarene Theological Seminary

1700 E Meyer Blvd • Kansas City, MO 64131 • 816/268-5400

URB510— Introduction to Urban Ministry Fall Semester, 2011

Essential Information

Please refer to the following resources for information essential for the successful completion of courses and degree programs at Nazarene Theological Seminary. Links to these resources are available in the Essential Information section at <http://support.nts.edu>.

- NTS Mission Statement & Purpose Degree Objectives
- Tips for online learning success
- NTS library services
- NTS textbook information
- Online technical requirements and Moodle support information
- NTS Student Handbook including statements on quality of work, plagiarism, and academic probation
- *Handbook for Inclusive Language*

Instructor Information

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Office Hours: 9-5 or by appointment

Catalog Description

A core course in the urban/compassionate ministry concentration that introduces the challenge of ministry in the city, defining and describing its unique characteristics, its theological and organizational challenges, its body of literature, resources and models, and its effects on those who minister in the urban context.

Course Narrative & Rationale

This course, offered on alternate years, introduces the formal field of urban ministry studies to students and practitioners intent on, or engaged in, ministry within the urban context, or those seeking to initiate a degree “emphasis” in urban and/or compassionate ministries.

Out of the experience of ministry in Minneapolis, Los Angeles, Cambridge, MA, Washington, DC, and in various international contexts, the professor will address the broad understanding of the “City”, the trend towards global urbanization, Kansas City as microcosm and laboratory for urban mission, theological perspectives on urban mission, religious and social diversity in the “City”, and wholistic discipleship as a vehicle for expressing the Good News.

The course will utilize a wide variety of didactic opportunities, including formal lecture, video presentations, case studies, student presentations, class discussions, and field visits.

Degree Objectives

This course can be applied to the various Master’s level courses offered at NTS, including the MDiv, MACE, MAICS and MA(TS) degree.

Course Outcomes

1. To understand the processes and effects of urbanization and its impact on theology and ecclesiology. See assignments 2, 6.
2. To understand the Biblical foundations for a theology of urban mission. See assignments 2, 6.
3. To be able to identify Biblical, historical and contemporary examples of urban mission. See assignments 2, 6.
4. To be able to identify a variety of urban ministry models in the Kansas City area. See assignments 3, 7.
5. To compile a “tool kit” of significant readings, books, web resources, for future reference, related to urban mission. See assignments 2, 6.
6. To integrate personal lifestyle issues into one’s own understanding and conduct of urban mission. See assignments 4, 6, 7.
7. To develop skills related to urban ministries: assess needs, develop procedures, articulate purposes, identify and manage resources, etc. See assignments 5, 8.
8. To adapt course materials and information into praxis through group and individual projects. See assignment 5.

Recommended Texts & Course Materials

Bakke, Ray and Jon Sharpe. *Street Signs: A New Direction in Urban Ministry.* (Birmingham, AL: New Hope Publishers), 2006. ISBN# 978-1-559-6690-042. \$4.30

Grigg, Viv. *Companion to the Poor: Christ in the Urban Slums* (Federal Way, WA: World Vision), 2004. ISBN# 978-1-932-805-5130. \$12.73

Lupton, Robert. *Theirs is the Kingdom: Celebrating the Gospel in Urban America.* (San Francisco, CA.: Harper and Row), 1989. ISBN# 978-006-065-3071

Kauffman, J Timothy. *Reconnecting the Church: Finding Our Place in Complex Culture.* (XLibris Corporation), 2010. ISBN# 978-1-455-8718-6. \$15.59

*Any other single book approved by the professor that addressed a particular interest may be substituted.

Course Outline

The seminar will be conducted on Mondays, from 1:30-4:30, beginning on September 12

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| Mon. | Sept 12 | Introductions. Presentation of Syllabus.
Bakke Film Presentation
Assignment: Read Bakke, Street Signs: 1-94 |
| Mon | Sept 19 | Guest Presenter: Exegeting the City: A walk through Northeast Kansas City |
| Mon | Sept 26 | Themes: <i>How to See the City "Basic Definitions"; "The History of the City," "The Urbanization of the World," Characteristics of the City"</i>
Bakke Film Presentation
Assignment: Read Bakke, Street Signs, pp. 95-214 |
| Mon | Oct 3 | Themes: <i>"The History of Ministry and Christian Attitudes in and towards the City" and "Myths about the City"</i>
<i>"The Seven Challenges of Urban Ministry" How does God see the City?" and "Developing a Theology of the City"</i>
Assignment Due: Finish and Turn in Bakke book report |
| Mon | Oct 10 | Themes: <i>"Developing a Theology for Ministry in the City" and "Looking at Theologies that Emerge in the City"</i>
Bakke Presentation:
Assignment: Read Kauffman, 1-53
Assignment Due: Present 1st written interview and oral presentation |

Mon	Oct 17	Reading and Research Week
Mon	Oct 24	Themes: <i>"The Nature of Evil in Three Dimensions"</i> Assignment Due: Read Kauffman, 54-136
Mon	Oct 31	Themes: <i>"Confronting the Cultures of the City"</i> Assignments due: Finish reading Kauffman and turn in book report Formal Presentation Topic decided and approved
Mon	Nov 7	Themes: <i>"Case Studies of Urban Ministry" and "Contextualizing the Message of the Gospel for Urbanites" "God's Flower Garden of Ministry in the City" "Why Ministry Grows and Dies in the City"</i> Assignment: Read Read Lupton, turn in book report Assignment Due: Personal Paper in written form
Mon	Nov 14	Themes: <i>"Creating Redemptive Community in the City"</i> Phillips Case Study: <i>"Street Kids, Why They Run"</i> Phillips Case Study: <i>"Faith-Based Community Organizing"</i> Assignment: Read Grigg 1-66 Assignment Due: 2st written interview and oral presentation
Mon	Nov. 21	Themes: <i>"Realistic Ministry Expectations" and "How the City Changes Me"</i> Assignment: Read Grigg, pp. 67-152
Mon	Nov 28	Theme: <i>"The Culture of Poverty"</i> Assignment: Finish and Report on Grigg
Mon.	Dec. 5	Themes: <i>Faith-based Community Organizing; "A Theology of Community Organizing" and "How to Grow an Urban Church"</i> <i>"Prayer, Praxis and Urban Liturgy"</i> Assignment Due: Formal Project Presentations
Mon	Dec. 12	Final Exam

If a single day (12 hours) can be designated for visiting various informative and representative urban contexts in lieu of four of these sessions, a decision will be made for schedule change during the first class session.

Course Assignments & Requirements

1. **Participation:** Attendance at all sessions unless otherwise excused by the professor in advance. Periodically, the professor will give online moodle assignments for feedback or for chat. See Outcomes 1-8.
2. **Reading Report and Review:** Reading of the four required texts, handouts, and supplementary materials. See Outcomes 2, 6, 7, 8.
3. **Interviews:** Two interview projects with persons engaged in urban or compassionate ministries. Each project will have three facets: the formal, written documentation of the ministry; a staff rendition of it; and a recipient version of it. A ten-minute oral report of this will be offered to the class. See Outcomes 3, 7.
4. **Urban Pilgrimage Paper:** A personal “pilgrimage” paper that describes paradigmatic shift or change with regards to one’s own development or understanding about urban ministry, personally relevant components, and prospective possibilities for future ministry. This paper should be typed, double-spaced, documented, and contained within 6-8 pages. See Outcome 6.
5. **Major Research Paper:** A formal presentation, written and oral, that takes on a major theme of urban ministry and examines it from both a theological and practical perspective. This should be from 10-15 pages, and may be done as either an individual or group project. The formal will followed the format as in #4. The oral presentation will be given to the class in any of the three final sessions, utilizing productively about 20-30 minutes of class time. It is preferable that the presentation by given in Power Point form, or with the best use of media. See Outcome 7.
6. **Textbook Journal:** Choose 8 chapters of Action/Reflection in Kauffman’s book and write out fully responses to them in a reflective journal. See Outcomes 1, 2, 3, 7.
7. **Field Visit Journaling:** If a day is used for visiting various urban ministry contexts, the journal should be prepared based on observations (one side of the page) and reflections (the opposite side of the page). See Outcomes 4-7.
8. **Final Exam:** Will be based on all materials used in the class, both in objective form and in subjective responses. See Outcomes 1-8.

Distribution of Student Learning Hours

	Hours
Face-to-face Class Sessions	42
Online Participation in forums, groups, etc.	4
Reading	30
Writing	30
Other Assignments and Learning Activities	28
Exam and study time	10
TOTAL	144

Method for Submitting Assignments

Papers may be submitted on the Moodle platform for this seminary. However, they may also be submitted as attachments to fletcht@aol.com, or handed in directly to the professor on the day stipulated.

Form and Style Expectations

All assignments should bear the author's name, the course number and the date of submission. Any formal format used elsewhere at the seminary, including Turabian and the APA, is acceptable, if the materials are neat, consistent, and well edited.

Inclusive Language

NTS is committed to the equality of women and men. Recognizing that people have often used the English language in ways that imply the exclusion or inferiority of women, NTS urges students, faculty, and staff to avoid sexist language in public discourse, in classroom discussions, and in their writings. All written work presented to meet course requirements must use gender inclusive language.

Policy Regarding Late Work & Missed Exams

Papers or assignments turned in late, may be deducted a letter grade for each week of delinquency. All papers are due on the day of the final exam, except those requested prior to that date.

Additional Costs

If a course day of field visits can be arranged, each student should come with \$25, to cover the expenses of two meals and transportation. These costs will be announced in class, only if the day can be arranged.

Course Grading

1.	Attendance and Participation	5%
2.	Readings and Reading Reports	10%
3.	Interview Projects	10%
4.	Personal Paper	10%
5.	Formal Paper Presentation	
	Written Edition	20%
	Class Oral Presentation	5%
6.	Textbook Journaling	10%
7.	Journaling of Field Visits, if available	10%
8.	Final Exam	20%
	Total	100%

In accordance with the provisions of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, NTS is committed to providing students with disabilities the opportunity to participate and benefit from its programs and activities. Accordingly, NTS will make reasonable modifications to its programs and activities to accommodate otherwise qualified students with disabilities, unless such modifications would impose an undue burden on the operation of the particular program or activity or would fundamentally alter the nature or purpose of the program or activity. Students needing accommodations should contact the Office of the Registrar. They also should contact the instructor no later than the end of the first class session to discuss learning needs and adaptive strategies that have been beneficial for the student in the past.

Class Attendance

It is expected that all students attend and participate in every class. If you must be absent because of extenuating circumstances, please contact the professor as soon as possible to discuss the situation. If a student is absent three times or more in the semester, the professor may automatically fail the student.

Daily attendance records must be reported for those obtaining V.A. and Department of Education benefits. Students must make the professor aware if their attendance must be recorded.

Course Calendar

Date	Week	Assignment
Sept 12	1	Read Bakke, 1-94
Sept 19	2	
Sept 26	3	Read Bakke 95-214
Oct 3	4	Turn in Bakke Book Review
Oct 10	5	Read Kauffman 1-53; Present 1 st written and oral interview presentation
Oct 17	6	Reading and Research Week
Oct 24	7	Read Kauffman 54-136
Oct 31	8	Finishing reading Kauffman book, turn in review; Project to be decided
Nov 7	9	Read Lupton and turn in review; Urban Pilgrimage Paper due
Nov 14	10	Read Grigg, 1-66; 2 nd written interview and oral presentation
Nov 21	11	Read Grigg, 67-152
Nov 28	12	Finish reading Grigg book and turn in review
Dec 5	13	Turn in Kauffman journaling
Dec 12	14	Turn in Major Project paper, Take final exam, Turn in reading report, Turn in Field Trip Journaling

Bibliography

An extensive bibliography will be made available on the course Moodle page.