



Nazarene Theological Seminary

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

MSS690: The City in Theological Perspective Spring, 2012

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

Professor of Instruction: Tammy Condon, PhD Email: Tammy.Condon@hotmail.com

Catalog Description

This course will examine the theological implications of urban ministry.

Course Narrative & Rationale

The task of urban ministry is becoming increasingly complex and challenging as the Church faces the unique problems of a world population becoming more and more urbanized. While urban ministry requires an adaptation of the Gospel mission to this growing setting, it is more than a new technique. It is increasingly necessarily that various forms of urban ministry flow out of competent Biblical and theological reflection upon the significance of ministry in the city.

The purpose of this seminar is to explore Biblical and historical Christianity for themes which motivate and direct the mission of the Church in the city. Special emphasis will be placed on an examination of John Wesley's mission to the urban centers of 18th century England and the

origins of the modern holiness movement in the cities of late 19th and early 20th-century United States, along with an examination of contemporary models of ministry that show theological integrity to their mission.

Normally the classes will be instructed by Dr Tammy Condon under the supervision of Dr Tink. Dr Condon is employed at the Global Ministry Center, Church of the Nazarene, where she manages the office of the International Board of Education. She is co-pastor with her husband of the Grace Church of the Nazarene, on Independence Blvd, Kansas City, and has served as the Assistant Director of the Bresee Institute.

Degree Objectives for the MDiv Degree

1. Mature knowledge of God and self, attained through practices of Christian formation and personal discipline, exhibited in the following outcomes; the student will:

- a. Engage in ongoing Christian formation through practices grounded in the corporate life of the Church as seen in the urban context
- b. Articulate self-knowledge of personality characteristics, strengths and weaknesses, especially as related to urban ministry
- c. Engage individual traits for growth in personal devotion, relationships of integrity, and ministry effectiveness within the context of the City
- d. Renew continually into the image of Christ and participate as a vital part of the Body of Christ especially in the City

2. Articulation of the knowledge of this God through prayerful, scholarly study and a deepening understanding of the Christian Scripture of the Old and New Testaments, exhibited in the following outcomes; the student will:

- a. Identify the basic storyline of Scripture and its relevance to urban ministry
- b. Identify key theological themes as applicable to the City as they arise from Scripture
- c. Identify and relate literary and theological emphases of Scripture for comprising a theology of, to, and out of, the City
- d. Understand the formative power of Scripture in shaping urban corporate and personal Christian life
- e. Appropriate Scripture to personal and corporate life both in and beyond the church with the urban context

3. Development of wisdom and discernment through engagement with the literature of the Christian faith, especially as it addresses the urban context, through critical, scholarly study of the history and theology of Christianity and the application of that heritage to personal and corporate Christian life, exhibited in the following outcomes; the student will:

- a. Use scholarly methods for understanding the history and theology of urban Christianity

- b. Identify how key figures and movements from the history of urban Christianity shape theological discourse
- c. Identify and relate theological literature to its urban setting and to theology today
- d. Appropriate the formative power of urban theological insights in shaping corporate and personal Christian life
- e. Apply theological convictions to personal and corporate life both in and beyond the urban church

4. Cultivation of gifts, practical skills, and vocational identity as a minister of the Gospel of Jesus Christ through engagement in and reflection on the pastoral arts most useful in the urban context, exhibited in the following outcomes; the student/graduate will:

- a. Facilitate the formation of urban communities of faith as the called and gathered, centered in Christ, and sent people of God
- b. Model and facilitate Christian witness and spiritual transformation within the urban context
- c. Communicate effectively in written, spoken, artistic, and other forms, exegeting the City authentically
- d. Engage the holistic nature of the church in redemptive ministries of restoration within the urban context and the City as a whole
- e. Lead in such a way as to develop those in urban leadership

5. Understanding of local and global diversity through the investigation of cultural contexts, especially the urban context, to enable the Church to proclaim effectively and to embody the mission of God, exhibited in the following outcomes; the student/graduate will:

- a. Articulate the missional nature of the church toward the City
- b. Exegete the urban congregation
- c. Exegete aspects of society including ethnicity, culture and social class including the culture of poverty
- d. Navigate the complexities of globalization expressed through pluralism, world religions, and other issues, as seen prominently in the urban context

Objectives of the MA(TS) Degree

The overall goal of the MA(TS) curriculum is the personal and educational development of students through participation in the worshipping and learning community of the seminary in such a way as to deepen their understanding of the God of Christian faith and the life and mission of the Church within the urban context, and further prepare them for Christian service in that context.

GENERAL ACADEMIC TRACK

1. Students will develop a comprehensive knowledge of the major theological disciplines and their interrelationships, especially needed for the urban context.
2. Students will demonstrate the ability to use the theological disciplines to reflect on and engage the urban world as informed, thinking, Christian persons.

RESEARCH TRACK

1. Students will gain specialized knowledge in urban theology as a basis for further graduate studies.
2. Students will develop skill in academic research and writing as a basis for further graduate studies.
- 3.

Objectives of the MACFD Degree

The MACFD Degree Program affords participating students opportunities to meet the following ministry objectives:

1. Appropriate and enhance the student's ecclesial understanding of the Word of God for the urban context, the heritage of the faith, the doctrines of the church, and the fellowship of believers, sufficient to enable him or her to deepen a personal commitment to God and His Church and to inform a passionate, vital, and redemptive ministry to the City.
2. Develop a practical urban theological tool kit of Christian ministry consistent with his or her theological heritage and vision of the transformed life.
3. Discern the various developmental and cultural forces that influence people's lives in the City in their growth along the life course, and design appropriate ministry strategies that forms persons into ongoing faithful urban disciples.
4. Learn the complexities and creative potential inherent within social contexts that influence leadership practice, particularly within staff ministries in the City.
5. Exhibit a capacity and desire for growth in the context of urban ministry through research and leadership; demonstrating a spirit of curiosity, integrity, openness, cooperation, and care in such ministries.

Objectives for the MAIS Degree

The intended learning outcomes of the program include the following:

1. Graduates will participate in God's mission in the City from a Wesleyan/Holiness missiological perspective.
2. Graduates will demonstrate the integration of theological convictions and cultural sensitivity in order to foster individual and social transformation within the urban context.
3. Graduates will demonstrate sensitivity to cultural and ethnic diversity for building relationships in multicultural contexts.
4. Graduates will articulate, communicate, and contextualize the essential affirmations of the Christian faith in a cross-cultural setting, including within the various urban cultures.

5. Graduates will demonstrate skills, knowledge and networks of relationships to pursue vocations that engage the mission of God globally.
6. Graduates will value the importance of spiritual formation, in both its personal and communal dimensions, within urban settings.

Course Outcomes

1. A knowledge of a working definition of the “City”. This will be acquired in the lectures and in the readings, assignment #3
2. A knowledge of the similarities and differences between Biblical cities and contemporary ones. This will be acquired in the lectures and in the readings, assignment #3
3. A knowledge of Biblical attitudes towards the City. This will be acquired in the lectures and in the readings, assignment #3
4. A knowledge of leading Biblical figures who minister to and within the “City”
This will be acquired in the lectures, guest lectures, readings and community investigations, assignments #3 and #4
5. A knowledge of a range of Biblical cities and God’s dealings with them. This will be acquired in the lectures, and readings, assignment #3
6. A knowledge of Biblical urban problems that parallel contemporary ones. This will be acquired in the lectures, the readings, community investigations and the field trip, assignments #3 and #4
7. An ability to formulate a theology of, in, and for the City in contemporary ministry
This will be exhibited through assignments #5, #6, and the final exam #7
8. An ability to define and describe “ministry” in the context of the City
This will be exhibited through assignments #5, #6, and the final exam #7
9. A knowledge of leading theologians who articulate a “theology of the city”
This will be acquired through lectures, readings and exhibited in the exam, assignments #3 and #7
10. A capacity to critique the various theologies that emerge out of the City. This will be exhibited in assignments #5 and #6
11. An articulated theological rationale for planting church ministries in the City, as local churches, compassionate ministry centers. This will be exhibited in assignment #4 and #7.
12. An articulated theology of “poverty” in the City. This will be acquired in the lectures and readings and exhibited in the final exam. Assignments #3 and #7
13. An firm understanding on the unique Wesleyan theological orientation to the City.
This will be acquired in the lectures and readings and exhibited in the exam. Assignments #3 and #7
14. An ability to critique theologically, ministries in the contemporary City. This will be exhibited in assignments #6 and final exam #7.

Required Texts & Course Materials

Bakke, Ray. A Theology as Big as the City. IVP Press. ISBN #978-830818907. 1997. \$11.32
Jacobson, Eric. Sidewalks of the Kingdom. Zondervan. ISBN #978-0310531418. 1991. \$24.99
Linthicum, Robert. City of God: City of Satan. Brazos Press. ISBN #978-158733572. 2003.
\$18.24

Numerous Handouts will accompany the themes of this course

Recommended Texts & Course Materials

An extensive bibliography will be presented during the class session

Course Outline

The schedule may be adjusted somewhat to accommodate guest speakers

Week of February 6	Introductions, Presentation of Syllabus, Key Definitions “The Phenomenon of the Urbanization of the World and the Theological Challenge It Presents”
Week of February 13	“Biblical Overview of Lessons from the City”
Week of February 20	“Towards a Theology of the City”
Week of February 27	“Key Theological Concepts About the City” <i>Bakke to be read and first review turned in</i>
Week of March 3-4	Participation in Urban Immersion Weekend
Week of March 5	“A Theology of Place”
Week of March 12	“Chaos Theory and the City”
Week of March 19	Reading and Research Week
Week of March 26	“Theological Case Studies” <i>Investigative Presentation Due</i>
Week of April 2	“A Theology of Poverty and Compassionate-Ministry” Van Engen, Tiersma to be read and second review turned
Week of April 9	“A Theology of Community Development and Empowerment”
Week of April 16	“Theologies of the Black Church” Guest Lecturer: Lemuel Thuston

Alternate perspectives paper and presentation due

Week of April 23

“Other Theologies that Emerge in the City”
Linthicum to be read; third review due

Week of April 30

“Alternative Theological Perspectives, i.e. Radical Orthodoxy
and Eastern Orthodoxy:
Father Paisius

Week of May 7

Final Exam and Presentations

Course Assignments & Requirements

This seminar will consist of lectures, readings, videotape presentations, student presentations, on-site visits, and guest speakers. The venue for meeting will begin at the Seminary but will take place in various locations.

Seven requirements are stipulated for this seminar.

- 1. Attendance:** All participants are expected to attend the seminar in accordance with the enrollment and grading policy of NTS.
- 2. Participation:** All seminar members are expected to engage in discussion and collective assignments in a way that reflect appropriate preparation.
- 3. Readings:** All three textbooks are to be read within the scheduled dates. Two of the textbooks of your choice are to be reviewed with the review including the aspects of summary, critique, and personal application. The review should be from 2-3 pages for each book. The final exam will ask whether all assignments, including additional shorter materials given out in class, have been read.

The assigned textbooks are as follows:

Ray Bakke's *A Theology as Big as the City*
Eric Jacobson's *Sidewalks of the Kingdom*
Robert Linthicum's *City of God; City of Satan*

At the end of a semester, a total of 1500 pages pertaining to the themes of urban ministry will be required, including those books mentioned above. A report of the readings with titles, authors, and number of pages will be presented.

These readings will fulfill the following outcomes noted above: #1-6, 9, 12-13

- 4. Community Investigative Presentation:** Each participant will visit two contrasting ministries (churches or non-profit) dissimilar to one's own history, interviewing leadership and

participating in a worship experience of a quality sufficient to draw some poignant theological observations.

The participant will then write a 4-6 page paper for distribution to the class comparing and contrasting the ministries from a theological perspective. An outline of questions will be given to each participant early in the semester as a guide in the information gathering stage.

The participant will then make a presentation of his/her findings for approximately 10 minutes during a prior arranged seminar time. At that time, an outline of the presentation and any useful ancillary or multimedia materials can be used to enliven the presentation.

This assignment will fulfill the following outcomes noted above: #4, 6, 11.

- 5. *Alternate Perspectives Paper:*** Each participant will be required to investigate an alternate theological perspective found in the city: “Black Theology”, “Liberation Theology”, “Feminist Theology,” “Pentecostalism”, “Fundamentalism”, Catholicism, Orthodoxy, Cults, or Ethnic congregations, etc. and interview at least one representative of that orientation and attend one activity that is informative to understanding how their implicit theological orientation deals with issues of the city. Again pertinent questions will be given by the professor early in the semester as a starting point to the investigation.

The participant will write a paper of 4-6 pages that highlights the orientation’s theological underpinnings and idiosyncrasies and offer a personal critique both positive and negative of its function in, and attitude towards, the city.

That presentation will also be given orally in class in a 15 minute, pre-arranged segment, with available outlines and varied media.

This assignment will fulfill the following outcomes noted above: #7, 8, 10

- 6. *Personal Theological Reflection Paper:*** Each participant will prepare a 12-15 page theological reflection paper that deals with themes of ministry in the city. This paper should evidence research and documentation with necessary footnoting and bibliography. It will respond to the question of “How is should my ‘anthropology’ (‘cosmology’, ‘Christology’, ‘ecclesiology’, etc.) be transformed by engagement with the City? Three of the classic systematic theology topics are to be addressed.

This assignment will fulfill the following outcomes noted above: #7, 8, 10, and 14

- 7. *Final Exam*** covering the topics dealt with in class and engaging personal theological reflection, will be given on the marked date at the end of the semester. It will consist of both objective (multiple choice, true/false) and subjective (essays) questions. A study guide will be distributed during the last regular seminar session.

This exam will fulfill the following outcomes noted above: #1-6, 9, 12-13

8. Bonus Credit will be given to those who choose to participate in one of the two full days of urban ministry encounter on March 3 and 4 and, or in lieu, of some other negotiated assignment.

Distribution of Student Learning Hours

	hours
In Class hours	42
Reading	32
Writing	24
Other Assignments, Field Trips, etc.	28
Exams & Quizzes, Study Time	10
TOTAL	136

Method for Submitting Assignments

All assignments will be submitted using the corresponding location within the Moodle course or may be delivered hard copy in class.

Form and Style Expectation

Assignments should be presented using the Moodle template, following consistent format that is easy to read, and conforms to any of the formal templates of acceptable written form. Footnotes or endnotes, appropriate bibliographic format, and title pages should be used. Accurate spelling and acceptable grammatical constructions are imperative. Author's name and course title should be included with every assignment.

Policy Regarding Late Work & Missed Exams

Any assignment that is not turned in on the due date will be discounted in accordance to the reasons and context of the assignment. No grade will be deducted by more than a letter grade within 24 hours of the due date. However, all work must be turned in by May 7 to receive any grade. Materials turned in after that time, will be given failure grades.

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.

Course Grading

Grading will be based on the following scale:

Attendance and Participation	10%
Reading Report	10%
Reading Reviews (2)	10%
Community Investigative Presentation (2)	20%
Alternative Perspectives Paper	10%
Personal Theological Reflection Paper	20%
Final Exam	20%
Total:	100%

Opportunity will be given for bonus credit and alternative assignments. The professor reserves the right to modify grades marginally depending on personal growth in perspectives in class, circumstances that advance or impede learning, commitment to, or active involvement in urban ministry issues.

Otherwise, the conventional scale of grading, i.e. 90's an "A", 80's a "B", etc. will apply.

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

Attendance at classes is essential for realizing the maximum benefit of your education. If you must be absent because of extenuating circumstances, contact the professor as soon as possible to discuss the situation. If a student is absent four or more weeks of 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
	1	
	2	
Feb 27	3	Bakke Book Review Due
Mar 3-4	4	Group Field Visits
	5	
Mar 19	6	Reading and Research Week
Mar 26	7	Investigation Presentation Due
	8	
	9	
April 16	10	Alternative Perspective Paper due
April 23	11	Linthicum Book Review Due
	12	Additional Book to be read and review submitted
May 7	13	Theological Perspective Paper Due, Final Exam, and Reading Reports Due