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CL 617 Urban Leadership

Richard Gray

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DESCRIPTION:
A course that focuses on the basic principles of Christian leadership in an urban context, the city is explored from a socio-cultural perspective while examining successful urban leadership/ministry models.

COURSE LEARNING OBJECTIVES:
Upon the successful completion of this course, the student will be able...

- To articulate a Wesleyan understanding of the basic principles for providing and/or maintaining Leadership in an Urban context.
- To identify the most effective means for the development of a biblical servant-hood leadership style while examining key strategies for developing other servant leaders,
- To articulate key theoretical concepts of how a city grows and functions in socio-cultural terms,
- To recognize selected organizational frames and change processes and how to resolve the inherent conflicts that accompany change,
- To lead individual Christians and Christian communities in responding to the needs, contexts, and insights of various cultural groups and marginalized communities in urban society and in the church.

RELEVANCE FOR MINISTRY
Scripture confirms that what began in a garden will one-day end in a grand and glorious city. The growth and development of the world’s cities suggests that we are all poised for an urban reality. Already our cities are complex interlocking systems that are inhabited by a wide variety of people groups. Our ability as Christians to lead and minister effectively within an urban context is directly related to how well we understand that context, those inhabitants and our responsibility as Christ’s ambassadors.

COURSE FORMAT:
This class will meet as scheduled over the course of a full semester. The instructor will utilize a lecture/discussion format as the primary means of instruction. Students are expected to attend all class sessions and should have completed all assigned preparatory reading prior to the beginning of class sessions.
COURSE READING: REQUIRED BOOKS


RECOMMENDED READING:


A word about Reading: For any 3-hour class a student is expected to read between 1200 and 1500 pages. As you review the course schedule, you will note that each section has suggested readings. You are required to read only those from the required reading section of the syllabus however, for some class sessions I have included reading from the recommended reading list. These are not required but will prove helpful to you.

ASSIGNMENTS:
In addition to mid-term and final exams, each student is required to produce a research paper, not to exceed 10 pages or Powerpoint presentation, as described in the written assignments section below. Each student will also produce a one-page interaction on Weem’s, Leadership in the Wesleyan Spirit.
I. WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS

Two papers are due during the semester.

1. Focusing on Weems’ book, class lectures and your personal experiences as a primary source of information, develop a 2 - 3 page paper which articulates your understanding of the role of the Wesleyan Christian leader in providing leadership in a present day urban context.

2. Focusing on Dr. Gray’s class lectures as the primary foundation upon which you build, please develop a profile of the model church for our present time and cultural circumstances. Second, using Web and Library resources, research one existing church that comes closest to the model you developed. Interview that church and be prepared to present your research to the class in the form of a Powerpoint presentation not to exceed 15 minutes. Share the historical development of the church. Why was it located where it sits? What was the reason for its founding? By whom? When? Were there any significant circumstances which caused major changes in the way that the church operated? What is projected for the churches future? (Students opting not to develop Powerpoint presentations can submit their finding as a paper not to exceed 10 pages.)

II. EXAMINATIONS

There will be a mid-term exam that will cover the material contained in the first half of the readings and lectures. The exam will count for 35% of your final grade. In addition there will be a final exam that will cover all class material. You can expect that these exams will follow a varied format.
STUDENT EVALUATION

We have found that the easiest way to be consistent with all students with regards to grading is to set up a scoring rubric. The rubric for this class is as follows:

5 = Exceptional work: surpassing, markedly outstanding achievement of course objectives

Exceptional work is constituted by such things as: substantive reflection that reveals engagement with the “big ideas” of scripture and/or the “big ideas” represented in the existing body of knowledge from the social sciences in a particular area of study and represented via assigned texts and presentations; thorough and penetrating personal insights gained from a sustained consideration of one’s experience through; and excellence in grammatical, stylistic and communicative aspects of writing.

4 = Good work: strong, significant achievement of course objectives

Good work is constituted by: solid reflection on the assigned readings and presentations in response to the given questions for a particular unit; the capacity to utilize classroom discussions and readings to understand and critically engage one’s own story; accurate ability to name specific ministry implications from one’s processing of information; and carefulness in grammatical, stylistic and communicative aspects of writing.

3 = Acceptable work: basic, essential achievement of course objectives

Acceptable work is constituted by: obvious acquaintance with the assigned readings and classroom discussions at a level that allows for reflection and thought in response to the questions posed for a particular unit, references to one’s own story at a level that makes application of truth and would interest another individual in the insights being expounded; capacity to communicate grammatically and stylistically without detracting from the presentation.

2 = Marginal work: minimal or inadequate achievement of course objectives

Cursory rendering of the assignment that fail to represent the instructor’s intent; a flat restatement of the instructor’s work void of any personal appropriation of the material; grammatical or stylistic errors that frustrate the reader and detract from the thought of the paper; or other failures to fulfill reasonable expectations flowing from a seminary course of this nature.

1 = Unacceptable work: failure to achieve course objectives

Unacceptable work is usually willful, unexplained, or inexcusable lack of fulfillment of class assignments
URBAN LEADERSHIP
Course Outline

Week One
February 3
Orientation and introductions.
Lecture: Wesleyan Leadership for an Urban future
Reading: Weems (*Leadership in the Wesleyan Spirit*)
Lecture: Cities--the first paradigm (How did they come to be?)
Reading: Elliston pp. 12-17; Shannon Chp 1

Week Two
February 10
Lecture: Cities--the second paradigm (Industrial Revolution and beyond)
Reading: Elliston pp. 12-17; Shannon Chp 1

Reflection paper due
Lecture: Types of Cities (Their structure and style)
Reading: Bakke pp. 37-41

Week Three
February 17
Lecture: Population & Urbanization (The call for new leadership)
Reading: Elliston pp. 68-71; Bakke Chp 2; Shannon Chp 2

Week Four
February 24
Lecture: Population & Urbanization, (New leadership, cont.)
Reading: Elliston pp. 68-71; Bakke Chp 2; Shannon Chp 2

Quiz
Week Five
March 3
Lecture: Coming to terms with Urban Systems & Structure
Reading: Elliston Chp 4; Shannon Chp 1-3

Week Six
March 10
Reading: Elliston Chp 4; Shannon Chp 1-3

Week Seven
March 17
Lecture: The Urban world of Jesus
Reading: Class Lecture

Mid-Term Exam

Week Eight
March 24
Lecture: A Theology of the City
Reading: Elliston pp. 50-53; Bakke Chp 4

Week Nine
March 31

| NO CLASSES | READING WEEK!!!! |
Week Ten
April 7
Lecture: Urban Problems
Reading: Shannon Chps 4-10

Week Eleven
April 14
Lecture: The Urban Church
Reading: Elliston Chp 4; Bakke Chp 7

Week Twelve
April 21
Lecture: Urban Evangelism
Reading: Bakke Chp 3

Quiz

Week Thirteen
April 28
Lecture: Christian Leadership for the City
Reading: Elliston Chps 5, 6

Week Fourteen
May 5
Lecture: Urban Program Models
Reading: Elliston Chp 2

Final Project due

Week Fifteen

Final Exam