**MATUL 501 Writings, Reign and Urban Realities**

**(3credits)**

**Purpose:**

This course relates the biblical motif of the kingdom of God to issues of leadership development in resource-poor urban communities. This is the program’s “lead” course, setting the stage for thinking Christianly about interventions within slum communities. It features extensive reading, community involvement, writing, and presentation – all oriented toward the acquisition of a theological “frame” for subsequent study.

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**Expected Learning Outcomes:**

At the end of the course students will be expected to:

***Cognitive***

1. Trace the theme of the Kingdom of God through Scripture (Genesis to Revelation) as it relates to social, economic, and environmental justice issues.

2. Relate significant passages of scripture to relevant themes, including poverty, oppression, social organization, urbanization, modernization, ethnicity, justice, development, transformation, worldview, globalization, debt, and gender relations.

3. Demonstrate a critical understanding of key theological issues raised by the authors of assigned texts.

***Affective***

4. Provide evidence of a deepening commitment to serving as agents of the kingdom among the urban poor.

***Skills***

5. Demonstrate the ability to foster “common cause” relationships with community partners working to constrain unjust urban systems and reshape spheres of social and ecological life in ways that are concordant with God’s purposes.

6. Demonstrate facility in using various media for public presentations.

**Course Content:**

The Creation Model: Recovering the relationship with God and Creation; The Exodus Model: Exploring Liberation and Justice; The Legal Model: Commandments and law as the foundation for society; The Equality Model: Shaping life in the promised land on principles of Justice; The Top Down Model: A dialogue with Judges and Kings; The Prophetic Model: prophesy and advocacy in challenging unjust structures and forming visions for a new society; The Reconstruction Model: Rebuilding Jerusalem with Nehemiah; The Incarnation Model: Living with the poor as the platform for development; The Kingdom Model: Interpreting the Parables of Jesus - the concept of “seed projects”; The Discipleship Model: Participatory learning and action; The Mission Model: Strategies for Replication, Multiplication and Sustainability; The Holistic Model: Marrying evangelism and social action; The Eschatological Model: Faith informing, envisioning and anticipating change

**Teaching Methodologies:**

A variety of methods including lectures, discussions, group work, videos, field visits will be applied. Active participation and presentations from all students will be expected.

**Instructional materials/equipment:**

White board markers, White board, LCD Projector, Lap top, Videos, Flip Charts, Posters, Newspaper cuttings

**Student Assessment:**

Through a written integrated project of 3,000 words. This project will be part of the continuous assessment and it will be marked out of 50 and the exam out of 50.

**Core Texts:**

1. Conn, H and Ortiz, M. 2001 *Urban Ministry.* Leicester: IVP.
2. Glasser, A., Charles van Engen, et al. (2003). *Announcing the Kingdom.* Grand Rapids, MI, Baker Academic.
3. Mugambi, JNK, 2003 *Christian Theology and Social Reconstruction.* Nairobi: Acton publishers
Snyder, H. (1997). *A Kingdom Manifesto.* Eugene, OR, Wipf and Stock Publishers (1985 edn. by IVP).

***Further Reading:***

Bakke, Ray. (1997). A Theology As Big As the City. Downers Grove, IL: IVP

Brueggeman, W. (1997). Theology of the Old Testament: Testimony, Dispute, Advocacy. Minneapolis, Fortress Press.

Dyrness, William A. *Let the Earth Rejoice: A Biblical Theology of Holistic Mission*.  Eugene, OR: Wipf and Stock.

Ellul, Jacques. (1997). The Meaning of the City. Greenwood, SC: Attic Press.
Ekins, P. (1992). A New World Order: Grassroots Movements for Global Change. London, Routledge.
Heschel, A. (2001). The Prophets. New York, HarperCollins.
Grigg, V. (2004). Companion to the Poor. Monrovia, CA, Authentic Media.
Glasser, A. F. (1989). Kingdom and Mission. Pasadena, Fuller Theological Seminary.
La Sor, William Sanford, David Allan Hubbard & Frederic William Bush (Eds.). (1987). Old Testament Survey:  The Message, Form and Background of the Old Testament. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans.
McAlpine, T. H. (2003). Facing the Powers: What Are the Options? , Wipf & Stock Publishers.

Kanyandago, P (2002) *Marginalized Africa: an International Perspective*. Nairobi: Paulines Press
Myers, B. (2003). Walking with the Poor. Monrovia, MARC.
Petersen, D. (1996). Not by Might Nor by Power: A Pentecostal Theology of Social Concern in Latin America. Oxford, Regnum Books.
Samuel, V. and C. Sugden, Eds. (1987). The Church in Response to Human Need. Grand Rapids, Eerdmans.
Samuel, V. and C. Sugden, Eds. (1999). Mission as Transformation: A Theology of the Whole Gospel. Oxford, Regnum Books.

Steffan, T. (2005). *Reconnecting God's Story to Ministry.* Waynesborough, GA, Authentic Media.