**MATUL 509 Urban Spirituality and Social Transformation.**

**(3credits)**

**Course Purpose**

This course acknowledges spirituality as a fundamental resource in the development and transformation of resource poor communities. Within the course students will gain an understanding of the concept of spiritual capital and its implications for ministry and social transformation in slums. The course inquires into the meaning of biblical spirituality and its relationship to faith and practice in the African urban context. A variety of pathways in the spiritual life will are presented with attention to showing how each of these can contribute to the process of spiritual growth.

**Expected Learning Outcomes:**

By the end of the course students will be able to:

***Cognitive***

1. Critically evaluate underlying assumptions of human development which ignore the dimension of spirituality
2. Articulate an understanding of spiritual capital in relation to a livelihoods framework
3. Differentiate different approaches or streams of Christian spirituality and how they have influenced individuals and urban faith communities
4. Articulate the relationship between development and spirituality in urban poor contexts

***Affective***

1. Recognize their own spiritual strengths and gifts in ways which can contribute to the wider ministry of the urban church
2. Recognize their own sources of spiritual nurture and appreciate traditions which may be new to them

***Skills***

1. Develop and use a spiritual journal
2. Recognize and nurture spiritual resources with an urban community

**Course content**

Theological foundations – defining Christian spirituality; Spirituality and the city – the impact of urban life on religious belief and spirituality, Spirituality and urban development – a critical engagement with development theories and the “faith based” agenda; Defining spiritual capital; Christian Spirituality and social transformation, Catholic, Evangelical and Pentecostal approaches; principalities and powers and the “spirituality” of urban systems and structures; spirituality in the context of economic poverty - biblical perspectives on common assumptions; Drinking from our own wells - developing and nurturing spiritual growth in resource poor urban communities.

**Teaching methodology:**

A variety of methods including discussions, exercises, community based activities; videos; case studies; media; role plays; lectures; will be applied. Active participation of all students is encouraged.

**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 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. Brueggemann 1978 *The Prophetic Imagination*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press
2. Berger, P & Redding G 2010 *The Hidden Form of Capital: Spiritual Influences on Societal Progress*. London: Anthem Press
3. Foster, R. (1998). *Celebration of discipline*. New York: HarperCollins.
4. Gutierrez, G. (1984). *We drink from our own wells: The Spiritual Journey of a People*. New York: Orbis Books; London: SCM Press.
5. Sugirtharajah, R 1995 *Voices from the Margins: Interpreting the Bible in the Third World*. London: SPCK

***Further Reading***

Berger, P 1999 *The desecularisation of the World: Resurgent religion and world Politics*. Grand Rapids:Eerdmans Publihing Co.

Cox, Harvey. 1995 *Fire from Heaven: The Rise of Pentecostal Spirituality and the Reshaping of Religion in the Twenty-First Century*. Reading, MA: Addison-Wesley.

Elliot, C 1985 *Praying the Kingdom: Towards a Political Spirituality*. London:DLT

Foster, R. (1997). *Freedom of simplicity*. New York: HarperCollins.

Gutierrez, G. (1984). *We drink from our own wells: The Spiritual Journey of a People*. New York: Orbis Books; London: SCM Press.

Hanks, T. (1983). *God so loved the third world: The Biblical vocabulary of oppression*.

Maryknoll: Orbis Books.

Herrick, V & Mann I 1998 Jesus Wept: Reflections on Vulnerability in Leadership. London: DLT

Peterson, E 1993 The Contemplative Pastor: Returning to the Art of Spiritual Direction. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans

Sugirtharajah, R 1995 *Voices from the Margins: Interpreting the Bible in the Third World*. London: SPCK

Tanner, K (ed) 2004 *Spirit in the Cities: Searching for the Soul of the Urban Landscape.* Minneapolis: Fortress press

Saunders, S & Campbell P 2000 *The Word on the Street: performing the scriptures in the urban context. Oregon*: Wipf and Stock

Smith, David 2007 *Moving Towards Emmaus: Hope in a Time of Uncertainty*. London: SPCK

Walker, A 2005 *Spirituality in the City*. London: SPCK

Wink, Walter 1992 *Engaging the Powers* Minneapolis: Fortress Press

Sugirtharajah, R 1995 *Voices from the Margins: Interpreting the Bible in the Third World*. London: SPCK