**Course Designer:** Hruda Ranjan Lohora **Credit Hours**: 3

**TUL 540 URBAN REALITY AND THEOLOGY**

This course is designed to make the learners aware of the urban reality undertaking in-depth studies and reflections on social, economic, and political context of Indian cities from anthropological perspectives. Moreover, it deals with the community development and cultural anthropology from historical perspectives with special reference to Nagpur city. The studies aim to bring an awareness and impact of urban reality into the lives of the learners and persuade them to develop a theological framework and strategies for transforming the lives of the urban community from the modernized urban cultures into the image of Jesus Christ.

This course has a variety of subject matters: from widely contextual and social - youth, women, and economics, to specifically church-focused – evangelism, worship, prayer. The distinctive lies in how the learners treat these in the light of our urban setting, especially in our link with action. This course is part of the move towards conscious recognition and recovery of the context in theological reflection. The School uses the social settings and environments to provoke, inspire and suggest themes for reflections with the help of biblical tools. These arise out of the life situation of urban community and urban ministers or practitioners, who are actively involved in the given context.

As far as the research work is concerned, the students are asked to rely on many ways of gathering information from the respondents, especially, through observation, in-depth interview, field notes, reflexive journals, books, and analysis of documents and materials, etc. As far as the interview is concerned, they are asked to stick to the formats of face-to-face and telephonic conversation. To gain first hand information about the urban reality, a survey questionnaire method and a participatory observation method are suggested. They are further advised to rely on Case Study of qualitative research with a historical approach, so as to discuss the past and present situation of the urban community and reflect and provide possible answers to the current issues.

**I. OUTCOMES PROFILE**

On the basis of the trainees’ competency, they

1. Gain an understanding of urban reality (socio-economic, cultural, educational, religious, and political) as how the life style of the people in a city differs from that of the people live in a rural setup.
2. Acquire knowledge of the cities in the Bible as how they emerged and developed to commercial, religious, and cultural centers, and influenced world of population.
3. Become aware of the origin and development of the city down through the history as how the informal settlements come to house urban poor population, and how urban systems and structures impact slum residents.
4. Realize the real condition of the urban community and the urgent need of transformation through the help of theological response to the issues reflecting from biblical and historical perspectives.
5. Feel an acute need of contextual analysis and implementation to be able to bring them out of the urban influence and lead them to the saving knowledge of Christ to live an exemplifying life like Christ.
6. Analyze urban reality with the help current concepts of industrialization, migrations, demography, modernization, inequality, anti-urbanism, social change, occupational networks, informal economy, subcultures, languages & arts, representation, marginalization, and deviance.
7. Evaluate the impact of the city systems on the welfare of the city with specific reference to the systems of global economy, banking, government, justice, welfare, transportation, infrastructure, education, planning, environment, communications, and media.
8. Demonstrate skills in informal interviews and conduct semi-structured interviews with community residents make field notes, and process data in relation to analytic concepts.

**II. LEARNING OBJECTIVES**

After the completion of the course, the trainees will

**Cognitive (Know)**

1. Become aware of the urban context (Socio-economic, cultural, religious, educational, and political) in details through the use of social analytical tools and biblical study tools to be able to live in city environment and incarnate into the urban community, especially slum dwellers without leaving his/her identity with an aim to penetrate the Gospel of Jesus Christ into the lives of the slum dwellers.
2. Acquire knowledge of the entire scenario of the cities in the Bible and explore biblical priorities for the development of a city into commercial center to be able to meet his/her financial need of the ministry and help the urban poor to come out of their poverty.
3. Become familiar with a city and its environments from its root and be able to update the information of a city from historical perspectives so as to know a city of its shift from small beginning into a climax, and how urban systems and structures impact slum dwellers, especially on migrant’s kinship, class, ethnicity, religious values, and identity using case studies from a city where they live.
4. Be able to evaluate the impact of city systems on the welfare of the city with specific reference to the systems of global economy, banking, government, justice, welfare, transportation, infrastructure, education, planning, environment, communications, and media.

**Affective (Be)**

1. Have the experience of the poverty stricken slum dwellers by living with them and be persuaded for a community transformational movement with the use of biblical and social tools for a theological reflection dealing with the existing socio-economic and political issues.
2. Have a burdensome to rescue slum dwellers from the experience of homelessness and economic exploitation by introducing them the homeless and suffering Christ, who understands their suffering and calls them for a peaceful life in Christ being born again by believing Him and walking in His footstep.
3. Have an interest on the host city to initiate personal contact with slum dwellers and become personally involved in their community being experienced with the life and circumstances of local residents.

**Psycho-Motor Skill (Do)**

1. Trace out the impact of the urbanization on the societal wellbeing of the inhabitants correlating with the systems of global economy, banking, government, justice, welfare, transportation, infrastructure, education, planning, environment, communications, and media, and guide them for holistic transformation to be able to live to a critical democratic life in the cities of Maharashtra.
2. Demonstrate skills in informal interviews and conduct semi-structured interviews with community residents taking into account the processes and natural environment in relation to analytic concepts in order to identify both verbal and non-verbal behavior of the community and discover the meaning for a theological reflection.
3. Demonstrate a reflective, inductive, and participatory approach of study to gain more in-depth understanding of the respondent’s beliefs, attitudes, or situation by using “how and why” questions and contextualize actions within situations and time.

**III. COURSE OUTLINE**

1. **Origin and Development of the City:** Cities in the Bible- How they are emerged and developed into religious centers, cultural centers, and commercial centers. Nature and processes of those cities in the Bible. Contemporary Cities- Concepts of industrialization, migrations, demography, modernization, inequality, anti-urbanism, social change, occupational networks, informal economy, subcultures, languages and arts, representation, marginalization, and deviance.
2. **The Context of a City:** Socio-Economic, Cultural, Educational, Religious, and Political. Urban Inhumanity - Prostitution, HIV AIDS, Domestic Violence, Abortion, Murder and Homosexual. Societal- Health & Education, Homelessness, Land Security, Labor Rights, Rural Poverty & Migration, Urban Poor Spirituality
3. **The Impact of City Systems on the Welfare of the Society:** Global Economy, Banking, Government, Justice, Welfare, Transportation, Infrastructure, Education, Planning, Environment, Communications, and Media. Its Impact on Migrants’ Kinship, Class, Ethnicity, Religious Values
4. **The Nature of God and Humanity of the Cities:** Understand Theology and Urban Sociology, Interpret the Nature of God with the help of Diversity, Social Change, demography, Modernization, Economics, Occupation, Social Networks, Subcultures, Languages & Arts, Representation, Marginalization, and Deviance.
5. **The City Systems:** Governance,centralized authority, financial markets, welfare and reforms, capital investment, urban transit, education, public health, the urban environment, urban planning
6. **Theological Issues and Reflections:** Impact of Urban Systems and Structures on Slum Residents. Creation and Redemption, Kingdom and Church, Relief and Reform, Persons and Places, Love and Truth, Lay and Professionals, Past-Present-Future, Actions and devotion, Trinity and Unity, and Power & Powerlessness.
7. **Changing the Spirituality of the City:** Process of Change in the Cities down through the History. Informal settlements to House Urban Poor Populations. Concepts to Interpret Kingdom signs in the City- Forces of cultural change, religious degeneration and renewal, reachable and responsive groups, church structures that urban dynamics produce, urban religious movements, and spiritual powers.

**IV. LEARNING ACTIVITIES**

1. **Class Lectures** : Minimum 30 hours of teaching in the classroom.
2. **Tutorials**  :Minimum 5 hours outside classroom
3. **Group Discussion and Interaction** : Minimum 10 hours in/outside classroom

*Proposed themes for Discussion:* Domestic Violence, Abortion, Homosexuality, Prostitution, Health, Education, Political Mobilization, Ethnicity in slums, Labor Rights, Rural Poverty, Jobs of Urban Poor in City, and etc.

1. **Modular/Seminar Papers:** Minimum 5 class hours for paper presentation with three seminar papers reports of 500 words each.

*Proposed Topic*: Centralized Authority, Financial Markets, Welfare & Reforms, Capital Investment, Urban Transit, Capital Investment, Urban Environment, Modernization, Marginalization, Demography, and etc.

1. **Interaction with the Mission Practitioners:** Invite/interview at least two Mission Practitioners working in the city among the Urban Community, especially in the slum areas. Find out the field reality of the city- what are the challenges they are facing? How are they overcoming the challenges? What are the strategies they are applying?
2. **Book Review:** Any two of the books prescribed in the mandatory reading books.
3. **Course Paper:** Each student should write one course paper of 2000 words on any one of the topics/questions given below:
4. Theology and Urban Sociology
5. Impact of Urbanism on Migrants in Various ways.
6. Urbanization versus Nature of Cities from Biblical Perspectives.
7. Interpret “Kingdom Signs” in the City with the help of various concepts.
8. Impact of Urban Systems and Structures on Slum Residents.
9. **Character and Spiritual Development:** Each Student will write a confessional statement of 500 words.

Each learner will interview at least two urban evangelists working among the slums and find out their failures/success in their ministerial journey. Write the lessons that you have learnt in this interaction for your spiritual and ministerial life and the change that it has produced in your commitment for doing mission in the context.

1. **Research Work or Practical Input Report:** Each student to write two reports of 1000 words each. Approach two different pastors and discuss with them on the following Socio-cultural issues as how they are affected by Urban Culture, and submit a report for evaluation:
2. Family Structure
3. Class
4. Ethnicity
5. Religious Values
6. Identity
7. **Feedback/Units Test:** The students are required to write two unit tests of 30 minutes duration for 25 marks each to be able to assess students’ learning updates.
8. **Library & Self Study:** MITS has a library opened for almost 8 hours during day and 2 hours at night. Students are required to use as much as they can in reading and writing part of their assignments to gain competence in the course.
9. **Final Examination:** At the end of the course, the final exam for 3 hours for 100 marks is conducted as a feedback of the course they are taught to assess their learning.
10. **Project Work/Mini Thesis:** This is a post-seminar assignment for students to carry out an investigation on any one of the following topics and submit a project report of 10000 words:
11. Develop Communication Skills and Human Resource Techniques for Planting Churches in the City.
12. Develop a Theological Response to the Urban Reality.
13. Investigate the Effect of Urbanism on the Migrants and Suggest a Suitable Step for Refining Urban Culture
14. Carry out a study on the Urban Community and Develop a Strategy to Uproot Urban Poverty.

**V. ASSESSMENT:** After the completion of the course, both the teachers and students are evaluated in terms of students’ learning outcome keeping in mind the objectives of both the course and the School seriously.

**VI. MANDATORY READINGS**

Bessenecker, Scott. 2005. *Quest for Hope in the Slum Community: A Global Urban Reader.*

Waynesbora, GA: World Vision.

Boa, Kenneth . Conformed to His Image: Biblical and Practical approaches to Spiritual

Formation.

Greenway, Roger S. 1997. *Discipling the City: A Comprehensive Approach to Urban Ministry.*

Eugene, OR: WS Publishers.

Grigg, Viv. 2009. *The Spirit of Christ and the Post-Modern City.* Lexington: Emeth Press.

Mumford, Lewis. 1961. *The City in History*. New York: H.B. Jovanvich.

McDowell, Stephen and Mark Beliles. 2008. *Liberating the Nations: Biblical principles of*

*Government, Education, Economics and Politics.* Bangalore: CFCC.

**VII. GRADING SYSTEM**

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| **Division** | **Class** | **Grade** | **GPA** | **Percentage** |
| First Class | DistinctionExcellentSuperior | A+AA- | 4.34.03.7 | 80% and above75-79 %70-74 % |
| Second Class | Very GoodGoodSatisfactory | B+BB- | 3.33.02.7 | 65-69 %60-64 %55-59 % |
| Third Class | ReasonableMeagerPoor | C+CC- | 2.32.01.7 | 50-54 %45-49 %40-44 % |
| Failure | Inadequate | F | 0.0 | 0-39 % |

**(30 % Class Lectures, 30 % Library works, and 40 % field works)**

**VIII. BIBLIOGRAPHY**

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*Tan*

Barrett, David B.1986. *World-Class Cities and World Evangelization.* AL: New Hope.

Bassan, David and Russel Mask. 2005. *Christian Microenterprise development: An Introduction.*

Waynesbora, GA: Regnum.

Bessenecker, Scott. 2005. *Quest for Hope in the Slum Community: A Global Urban Reader.*

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Formation.

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*Misadventures in the Tropics.* London: MIT Press.

Eims, Leroy. 1978. *The Lost of Art of Dsciple Making.* Grand Rapids: Zondervan.

Ellul, Jacques. 1970. *The Meaning of the City*. Grand Rapids: Michigan.

Ellision, Craig. Ed. 1974. *The Urban Mission.* Grand Rapids: Eerdmans.

Gordon, Wayne. 1984. *Who is My Neighbor?* California: Gospel Light.

Gordon, Wayne L. and Randall Frame. 1995. *Real Hope in Chicago: The Incredible Story of*

*How the Gospel is Transforming a Chicago Neighborhood.* Grand Rapids: Zondervan.

Greenway, Roger S. 1997. *Discipling the City: A Comprehensive Approach to Urban Ministry.*

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Hancke, Frans. 2007. *We are the Plan: The Church with a Difference Makes a Difference.*

Bangalore: CFCC.

Hanks, Thomas D. 2000. *God so Loved the Third World: The Biblical Vocabulary of*

*Oppression.*Oregon: Wipf and stock Publishers.

Jongeneel, Jan A.B. 2011. *Jesus in World History.* Bangalore: CFCC.

Kalliatha, Antony and Francis Gonsalves. 2009. *Church’s Engagement in Civil Society: A New*

*Way of being Christian in India Today.* Bangalore: Asian trading Co.

Mangalwadi, Vishal. 2011. *The Book that Made your World.* Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

McDowell, Stephen and Mark Beliles. 2008. *Liberating the Nations: Biblical principles of*

*Government, Education, Economics and Politics.* Bangalore: CFCC.

Mumford, Lewis. 1961. *The City in History*. New York: H.B. Jovanvich.

Neuwirth, Robert. 2005. *Shadow Cities: A Billion Squatters-A New Urban World.* New York:

Routledge.

Parappally, Jacob and Antony Kalliath. 2010. *Theology of Economics in the Globalized World:*

*Indian Approaches.* Bangalore: Asian Trading Co.

Rynner, Terrance J. 2008. *Gandhi and Jesus.* Bangalore: Asian Tradition Co.

Ro, Bong Rin. Ed. 1989. *Urban Ministry in Asia.* Taiwan: ATA.

Grenz, Stanley. 1996. *Created for Community*. Wheaton: Victor Books.

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