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Asian Theological Seminary

1st Sem SY 2011-2012

**Master of Arts in Transformational Urban Leadership**

**THEOLOGY AND THEORY OF URBAN REALITY**

Lorenzo C. Bautista and Fermin P. Manalo, Jr.

Mondays 4:00-7:00 pm **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Course Description**

This course structures a dialogue between two processes, urban theologising and social analysis (urban studies in economics, developmental studies, anthropology, sociology, history) in a mutually enriching interaction that generates perspectives and analytic methods for transformative urban mission (including urban research methods if not covered elsewhere).

**Expanded Course Description**

This course introduces the students to perspectives and tools being offered by social sciences in understanding urban poverty and theological reflection process. On the whole, the course seeks to put in motion a continuing dialogue between two processes- theology and social science, in a mutually enriching interaction.

The over-all goal is to prepare students for proposing a vision of societal/community transformation that is anchored on keen context analysis and theologically grounded.

One of the assumptions of the course is that the integration of disciplined social observation and the prophetic vision is at least as old as Amos and the 8th century Prophets. Theological wisdom does not usually come in a vacuum but in the fray. The prophetic sensibilities emerge from the tension generated by the encounter between a vision of the just God and the experience of failed justice around us.

**Course Methodology**

Specifically, the course methodology will consist of:

* Classroom discussions which include action reflection from primary and secondary sources, field exposure, own experience
* Case study of urban poverty that will demonstrate application of perspectives, tools of analysis and theology
* Dialogues with practitioners/knowledgeable persons (faith and non-faith based)

**Course Objectives**

At the end of the course, students would have:

* demonstrated sound application of certain social analytical tools/perspective and theological reflection methods for understanding urban poverty and its dimensions
* articulated a vision of urban social transformation that integrates social and biblical perspectives
* articulated the implications of the course experience to his/her spirituality and life commitments and understanding of ministry

**Course Learning Outcomes**

* Analyzed urban poor related issues in a manner that demonstrates application of basic research skills, perspectives, tools of analysis and biblical/theological reflection and provided general recommendations on how to address said issues in a more transformative manner.
* Articulated a vision of transformed urban community and how the work towards it implies on missions and spirituality

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| **SESSION** | **TOPIC/ THEME** |
| 1-3 | Orientation  Appreciating the value of perspective in understanding urban reality  The role of engaged social understanding in exercising prophetic role and articulating God’s will e.g. Amos and Leviticus |
| 4 | Historical Perspective on Urbanization  *Ref. Beal and Fox, ch. 2*  Urbanization Situation (Global perspective)  *Ref: Beal* |
| 5 | Reflection on the SONA |
| 5 | **Understanding concepts of Poverty**  *Ref: Thomas, Poverty and the End of Development*  *Chapter on Analyzing Poverty - Burkey*  Philippine General Poverty Situation  Ref:  -*IBON, 2011*  *-The Philippine Poverty Situation: Beyond Poverty Measures*  *-Molino, voices from the urban setting*  *-Notes on Poverty in the Philippines (2002)* |
|  | **Perspectives on Poverty** |
| 6-7 | Capitalism, Colonialism and Globalization and Philippine Poverty  History of capitalism and colonialism (political Economy)  *Ref. Bernstein; Hewitt*  Globalization    Ref:  *McGrew*  *Tonkiss, Ch,1*  *Cohn, Ch.12*  Impact (general global)  *UNDP Human Development Report 1999*  Impact (Philippines)  *Ref:* Impact on the Philippines  *Ofreneo*  *Bello;*  Case: Privatization of basic services; oil deregulation law; structural adjustment and foreign debt |
| 8  9  10  11  12  13  14 | Class Perspective \*  *ref. Wright, 1994; 1999*  Case: Labor/job security; politics of decision making affecting urban poor –land and housing;  Structural –Conflict Perspective \*  *Ref* : *Houtart* ; *hope and Timmmel*  Case: Public resources allocation for urban mass housing, health, education and elite influence in urban development  Gender Perspective \*  *Ref. Dionisio; to be updated*  Case: Feminization of Poverty; Domestic violence, reproductive health issue, gender based discrimination, exclusion;  Human Rights Perspective \*  Ref: Ilfe  Case:social exclusion, human rights violations  Urban political ecology Perspective \*  *Ref. Urban Ecosystem- United Nations University/Inst of Advanced Studies; Magnaghi, pp 1- 21; Sachs*  *Cases:*  Ondoy and Public Policy Decision (find Palafox’s article); Climate change and urban poverty ; urban policies, environment and urban poverty  Culture and knowledge building as sites of domination and struggle\*  *Ref. Constantino*  Case: media portrayal of urban poor/poverty; marginalization of the poor  Structural and cultural violence and deriving concepts : power relations, inequality, exploitation, exclusion/discrimination  *Ref: Galtung*  Cases: exclusion and stigmatization of urban poor (EDSA 3 uprising)  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  **\*Two students will select a topic and corresponding case to be presented. References may be sought by the students themselves and in consultation with the instructors. Topic and outline must be approved before being further developed. No approval, no presentation.** |
|  | Field Visit (preferably Saturday whole day) |
| 15 | SYNTHESIS :   * Reflection on the application of perspectives * Issues – church traditions that hinder social engagements (eschatology, ecclesiology, etc) and how to help transform them –*Ref Sabanal* * Generating social and theological insights on urban reality and spirituality * Drawing up a vision of a transformed future * Towards a theory and theology of urban reality and mission   *Ref Lausanne Documents* |
| 16 | Final Examination/Integration Paper due |

**Learning and Grading Basis**

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| Class Participation and Attendance (max of 3 absences only) | 20 |
| Reflections/other assignments | 20 |
| Study of major issue with case demonstrating it (To be orally presented, demonstrating application of tools of analysis and biblical insights and submitted in a final paper form incorporating the comments. Pls see note at the end of the section on Perspectives on on Poverty) | 30 |
| Final integration paper/Exam | 30 |

**Class Project:**

The class will sponsor or co-sponsor public forum on a choice topic such as : *urban planning and urban poverty; climate change;*

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For other sources of data/insights on Philippine poverty-related issues –may refer to IBON publications, Phil Daily Inquirer column of Randy David etc.