

Revised July 25, 2011
Asian Theological Seminary
1st Sem SY 2011-2012

THEOLOGY AND THEORY OF URBAN REALITY

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Mondays 4:00-7:00 pm

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 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

SESSION	TOPIC/ THEME
1-3	<p>Orientation</p> <p>Appreciating the value of perspective in understanding urban reality</p> <p>The role of engaged social understanding in exercising prophetic role and articulating God's will e.g. Amos and Leviticus</p>
4	<p>Historical Perspective on Urbanization Ref. Beal and Fox, ch. 2</p> <p>Urbanization Situation (Global perspective) Ref: Beal</p>
5	Reflection on the SONA
5-6	<p>Understanding concepts of Poverty (perspective)</p> <p>Ref: Thomas, Poverty and the End of Development <i>Chapter on Analyzing Poverty - Burkey</i></p> <p>Philippine General Poverty Situation Ref: -IBON, 2011 -<i>The Philippine Poverty Situation: Beyond Poverty Measures</i> -<i>Molino, voices from the urban setting</i> -<i>Notes on Poverty in the Philippines (2002)</i></p>
7-11	<p>Perspectives on Poverty</p> <p>a. <u>Capitalism , colonialism and Globalization and Philippine Poverty</u></p> <p>History of capitalism and colonialism (political Economy) <i>Ref. Bernstein</i></p> <p>Impact on the Philippines <i>Ofreneo</i></p> <p>Globalization</p> <p>-<i>UNDP Human Development Report 1999</i> -<i>Chapter on Allen and Thomas</i> -<i>Cohn, Ch.12</i></p> <p>Philippines <i>Ref: Bello;</i></p> <p>b. <u>Class Perspective*</u></p>

	<p>ref. Wright, 1994; 1999 Case: Labor/job security; politics of decision making affecting urban poor –land and housing;</p> <p>c. <u>Structural –Conflict Perspective*</u> -Houtart ; hope and timmmel Case: Public resources allocation for urban mass housing, health, education and elite influence in urban development</p> <p>d. <u>Gender Perspective *</u> Ref. Dionisio; PhilDHRRA Case: Domestic violence, reproductive health issue, gender based discrimination, exclusion</p> <p>e. <u>Urban political ecology Perspective *</u> Ref. Urban Ecosystem- United Nations University/Inst of Advanced Studies; Magnaghi, pp 1- 21; Sachs Cases: Ondoy and Public Policy Decision (Palafox) Climate change and urban poverty ; urban policies, environment and urban poverty</p> <p>f. <u>Culture and knowledge building as sites of domination and struggle *</u> Ref. Constantino Case: media portrayal of urban poor/poverty;</p> <p>g. <u>Structural and cultural violence and deriving concepts : power relations, inequality, exploitation, exclusion/discrimination</u> Cases: exclusion and stigmatization of urban poor (EDSA 3 uprising)</p>
	Field Visit 1 (preferably Saturday whole day urban poor communities and their organization) Field visit 2 (Martial Law museum/Bantayog ng mga Bayani)
12	Reflections on the field visits
13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Generating social and theological insights on urban reality and spirituality • Drawing up a vision of a transformed future • Issues – evangelical church traditions that hinder social engagements (eschatology, ecclesiology, etc) and how to help transform them –Ref Sabanal <p>Ref Lausanne Documents</p>
14	Integration-towards a theory and theology of urban reality and mission
15	Final Examination

Learning and Grading Basis

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,	30

demonstrating application of tools of analysis and biblical insights and submitted in a final paper form)	
Final integration paper/Exam	30

NOTES:

*To be researched and presented by the students. Will include concepts, case and theological reflection. Consultation with Instructor at least a week before presentation required. The output should be presented, then revised according to the feedback from classmates and instructors and final paper to be submitted in hard copy and soft copy (to be posted in the class e-group/facebook page)

**An -egroup and facebook account will be created for the class and each is required to enlist.

***Optional 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.