**MATUL 504 Urban Reality and Theology**

**(3 credits)**

**Course Purpose**

This course organizes an interdisciplinary dialogue between urban theologizing and urban analysis in order that students understand the dynamics of the urban context and can reflect on it theologically. It aims to generate perspectives and tools for transformative urban mission.

***Expected Learning Outcomes***

By the end of this course students will be expected to

1.Articulate an understanding of the process of urbanization, with particular reference to the African context.

2.Use a variety of concepts to describe and analyze urban realities.

3Critically analyze urbanism (the culture of the city) and its impact on migrants, kinship, class, ethnicity, religious values, and identity using case studies from East Africa

4 Articulate a vision of urban transformative development that integrates social and biblical perspectives.

5 Demonstrate an understanding of key models of contextual theology and an ability to apply these models in theological reflection in the African urban context.

6. Demonstrate a reflective, inductive, and participatory approach to learning.

7. Demonstrate the ability to apply certain social analytical tools and biblical study tools to understanding and interpreting urban reality.

**Course content:**

Biblical view of cities; historical development of cities; urbanization in Africa; applying tools of data gathering and analysis to themes related to marginal urban groups or urban poverty; models of contextual theology; forms and causes of urban migration; features of urban life; social and structural integration and exclusion in the city; generating sociological and theological insights on urban reality and spirituality; understanding urban power structures – social, political, economic; the impact of city systems on the welfare of the city; urban ministry strategies.

**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:**

Continuous assessment, accounting for 40%, which may include class tests, book reviews, essays, class presentations. An unseen written exam accounting for 60%

**Core Texts:**

1. Myers, G 2011 *African Cities: Alternative visions of urban theory and practice.* New York: Zed Books
2. Freund, B 2007 *The African City: A history*. Cambridge: CUP
3. Murray and Myers 2006 *Cities in Contemporary Africa* New York: Palgrave Macmillan
4. Smith, D 2011 *Seeking a city with foundations: Theology for an urban world*. Nottingham: IVP

## *Further Reading:*

1. Bevans, S (2003) *Models of Contextual Theology* (New York: Orbis)
2. Chambers, (1997) *Whose reality counts? Putting the last first*. ITDG Publishing
3. Charton-Bigot & Rodrigues-Torres *(eds)*  2010 *Nairobi Today: The paradox of a fragmented city.* Mkuki na Nyota Publishers
4. Conn. H, & Ortiz, M. (2001). *Urban Ministry.* InterVarsity. Downers Grove.
5. Davis, M. (2006). *Planet of the slums*. London and NY: Verso.
6. Davis, Mike (2002) *Dead Cities*. New York: The New Press
7. Ela, Jean-Marc (2001) *My Faith as an African*. Nairobi: Acton Publishers
8. Ellul, Jacques. (1997). *The meaning of the city*. Greenwood, SC: Attic Press.
9. T Falola & S Salm (eds) 2004 *Globalization and urbanization in Africa.* Asmara:Africa World Press Inc
10. Graham E & Lowe S (2009) *What makes a Good City? Public Theology and the Urban Church.* London: Darton, Longman and Todd
11. Gorringe, T (2002) A theology of the Built Environment: Justice, Empowerment and Redemption. Cambridge: CUP
12. Kramer, M. (2005). *Dispossessed: life in our world's slums*. New York: Orbis.
13. Neuwirth, R 2006 *Shadow cities: a billion squatters a new urban world.* New York: Routledge, Taylor and Francis.
14. O’Connor A, (1986) *The African City* Hutchinson University Library for Africa
15. Obudho R.A. & Mhlanga C. (1998) *Slum and Squatter settlements in Sub Saharan Africa.* New York
16. Oxfam (2009) *Urban Poverty in Nairobi: Analysis and Appraisal*. Oxford: Oxfam
17. Peters, Ronald (2007) *Urban Ministry: An Introduction*. Nashville: Abingdon Press
18. Seabrook, J 2007 Cities London: Pluto Press
19. Shorter, A (1991) The Church in the Africa City. New York: Orbis

Simone, A (2004) *For the City Yet to Come: Changing African Life in Four Cities*. Durham NC: Duke University Press.

Simone, A & Abdouhani, A (2005) *Urban Africa: changing contours of survival in the city*. Dakar: CODESRIA Books.

1. UNCHS (Habitat). (2001). *The state of the world's cities*. Nairobi: United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat).
2. UN-HABITAT. (2003). *The challenge of slums: Global Report on Human Settlements 2003*. Nairobi: Earthscan.
3. UN-HABITAT (2010) *The State of African Cities: Governance, Inequality and Urban Land Markets* United Nations: Nairobi.
4. Ysenburg, N & Bonn, G (2011) Nairobi: an exploration of a city by photographers and writers. Nairobi: Kwani Trust

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| **WEEK DATE TOPIC TO BE TAUGHT** | | | |
| **Week 1** | | **Lesson 1**  **14/1/13** | **I**ntroduction to the course  Historical development of cities |
| **Week 2** | | **Lesson 2**  **21/1/13** | The African City. |
| **Week 3** | | **Lesson 3**  **28/1/13** | The reality of slums |
| **Week 4** | | **Lesson 4**  **4/2/13mn** | Basic Tools for data gathering and analysis |
| **Week 5** | | **Lesson 5**  **11/2/13** | Models of contextual theology |
| **Week 6** | | **Lesson 6**  18/2/13 | The Bible and the City: OT Perspectives |
| **Week 7** | | **Lesson 7**  **25/2/13** | The Bible and the City: NT Perspectives |
| **Public Holiday for Election** | | **4/3/13** | **NO CLASS** |
| **Week 8** | | **Lesson 8**  **11/3/13** | Urban Life: Migration |
| **Week 9** | **Lesson 9 18/3/13** | | Cities and social change |
| **Week 10** | **Lesson 10 25/3/13** | | Urban Life: Integration and exclusion - the post-colonial city |
| **Week 11** | **Lesson 11 1/4/13** | | Urban Life: integration, exclusion and eviction |
| **Week 12** | **Lesson 12 8/4/11** | | Religion in the city |
| **Week 13** | **Lesson 13**  **15/4/13** | | Theology for an Urban world |
| **Week 14** | **Lesson 14**  **22/4/13** | | Strategies for urban mission |
| **Week 15** | **29/4/2013** | | **EXAM WEEK** |

# Articles and readings distributed in MATUL 504

Week 1 **Understanding the City (introduction)**

Week2 **The African City**

* Lonsdale J 2010 Town life in Colonial Kenya, in *Nairobi Today: The paradox of a fragmented city. Charton-Bigot and Rodrigues Torres (eds)*

Week 3 **The reality of Slums**

* 7 Myths about slums 2010 <http://www.stwr.org/health-education-shelter/the-seven-myths-of-slums.html>

Week 4 **Researching the City**

* **How to enter a Community** [**http://www.uic.edu/cuppa/gci/whatwedo/researchclusters/hcc/materials/Resources/How%20to%20enter%20a%20community%20as%20an%20organizer.pdf**](http://www.uic.edu/cuppa/gci/whatwedo/researchclusters/hcc/materials/Resources/How%20to%20enter%20a%20community%20as%20an%20organizer.pdf)

Week 5 **Models of contextual Theology**

* Zanotelli, A A grace freely given in *Slums, the challenge of Evangelisation*
* Smith C 2011 *Urban Pessimism and a Gospel of Hope.* Journal of Urban Mission
* Bevans S Models of Contextual theology

Week 6 **The Bible and the City: Old Testament Perspectives**

* Conn H and Ortiz M 2001 *Urban Ministry: the Kingdom, the City and the People of God*. Ch 4& 5
* Ellul, J 1970 *The meaning of the City*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans Ch1 p 1 - 23.

Week 7 **The Bible and the City: New Testament Perspectives**

* Brown and Carroll 2003 Biblical Images of the city. in *Interpretation* 2000: 54 Union Presbyterian Seminary
* Conn H and Ortiz M 2001 *Urban Ministry: the Kingdom, the City and the People of God*. Ch 6 & 7
* Meekes, Wayne 1983 *The first Urban Christians. London SCM* Ch 1

Week 8 **Migration and the African City**

* Macharia K 2003. *Migration in Kenya and its impact on the labour market.* American University
* Mutunga S 1994 Nairobi and Naomi: Imigration into the city*.* In *God so loves the City: seeking a theology for urban mission.* Van Engenand Tiersma (eds) California: MARC

**Week 9 Urbanisation and social change**

* Mutua, Henry 2009 Complexity of Migrant African urbanites and its Missiological Implications for the Church, in *African Missiology: Contribution of Contemporary Thought.* Nairobi: Uzima Press
* Putman R 1995 Bowling Alone: America’s Declining Social Capital in *The City Reader* 4th Edition Eds LeGates and Stout New York: Routledge 2007
* The mapping of places and people in contemporary Kenyan popular song texts in *Cities in Contemporary Africa* Murray and Myers eds 2006

**Week 10 Integration and exclusion: The Post - colonial city and the global city.**

* Walls, Andrew 2002 The Cross-Cultural Process in Christian History. New York: Orbis ch 4 The Ephesian Moment
* Dussel, E 1998 Globalization and the victims of exclusion: from a liberation ethics perspective. *The Modern Schoolman,*75, January: 119 – 155.

**Week 11 urban Life: Integration exclusion and eviction**

* Akiba Mashinani Trust 2012 *Demolished to the Brink*

**Week 13 Religion in the city**

* Selected chapter form Gifford P 2009 Christianity, politics and public life in Kenya

**Week 14 Theology for an urban world**

* Smith, David 2011 Seeking a city with foundations Ch 8

**Week 15 Strategies for mission**

* Moschetti D 1996 *Urbanization in Africa: quest for a missionary interpretation, presence and activity*