Institute/University/Seminary

School or Department Name

*Master of Arts in Transformational Urban Leadership (MATUL) Program*

**TUL 540 *Urban Reality and Theology (3 units)***

Instructor name; title; institutional affiliation and address;

Email address; phone #; fax #

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**I. Course Description**

The course seeks to put in motion a continuing dialogue between two processes, urban theologising and urban analysis (urban studies in economics, developmental studies, anthropology, sociology, history), in a mutually enriching interaction that generates tools and perspectives for transformative urban missions.

**II. Expanded Course Description /Course Rationale**

This course introduces the students to processes of better understanding of urban reality and its relation to their faith. It will focus on generating social and theological insights from field experience guided by tools for social analysis, cultural analysis, and resources of bible and theology.

The processes of urban theologising will be developed. Theological wisdom does not usually come in a vacuum but in the fray. Urban experiences lead to reflection. 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. The integration of disciplined social observation and the prophetic vision is at least as old as Amos and the 8th century Prophets.

The course will seek to generate social and theological insight through an inductive approach. The outputs of the inductive process will be strengthened by synthesizing, inputs and readings.

* Classroom discussions which include action reflection from field work and secondary researches and deepening through inputs and literature on the field
* Guided field work which includes journaling and documentation
* A case study that will demonstrate the micro level of the urban poor realities being discussed
* Dialogues with practitioners/knowledgeable persons (faith and non-faith based)

**III. Student Learning Outcomes**

1.**Urban History and Envisioning:** Students will understand urban development in the history of mankind (theories of urbanization, nature of cities, and the processes of change in cities), and reflect on these using the themes of city of God, city of man in Biblical history.

**2. Urban Theological Method:** Students will understand the hermeneutic process of interfacing the city conversations with the biblical and theological conversations, and deriving a transformational conversation.

**3. The Nature of God in the Humanity of Cities**: Students will interpret the Biblical themes of the nature of God in: humanity as the cause of cities in relation to diversity, anti-urbanism, social change, demography, modernization, economics, occupation social networks, subcultures, languages and arts, representation, marginalization, and deviance.

**4. The Collective Image of God in Urban Culture:** Students will critically evaluate urbanism (the culture of the city) and its impact on migrants: kinship, class, ethnicity, religious values, and identity using case studies from a city in the region/nation where they live.

**5. Strategies for Changing the Spirituality of the City:** Students will be knowledgeable as to sources of literature on Kingdom signs in the city, forces for change, religious degeneration and renewal, reachable and responsive groups, church structures that urban dynamics produce, urban religious movements and social transformation and spiritual powers in the city.

**6. City Systems:** Students will become familiar with the impact of city systems on the welfare of the city by critically analyzing the criteria institutions use in decision-making processes in a city. This analysis may include the economic system, banking system, governmental systems, justice system, welfare system, transport system, physical infrastructures, educational systems, urban planning and environment, communications and media systems. The analysis will include an evaluation of processes such as centralization, bureaucracy, power, fiscal decisions, welfare and reforms, investment, re-distribution, transport, environmental issues, and urban planning.

**IV. Course Materials**

**CORE TEXTS:**

**Theology of City**

Conn. H, Ortiz. M. (2001). The Kingdom , the City & the People of God. In *Urban Ministry: The Kingdom , the City & the People of God.* Inter Varsity. Downers Grove.

Ellul, Jacques. (1997). *The Meaning of the City*. Greenwood, SC: Attic Press.

Grigg, Viv. (1999). Transformational Conversations: Hermeneutic for the Postmodern City. *pcbc journal*. (on CD for Citywide Leadership)

**Sociology, Economics and Anthropology of Cities & City Slums**

de Soto, Hernando. (1989). *The Other Path* (June Abbott, Trans.). New York: Harper & Row.

Davis, Mike. (2006). *Planet of the Slums.* London and NY: Verso.

Kramer, Mark. (2005). *Dispossessed: Life in Our World's Slums*. Maryknoll: Orbis.

Lewis, Oscar. (1966). "The Culture of Poverty." *Scientific American, 215* (4), 3-9.

Manokaran, J.N. *Christ and Cities,* Chennai: Mission Educational Books, 2005

UNCHS(Habitat). (2001). *The State of the World's Cities*. Nairobi: United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat).

UN-HABITAT. (2003). *The Challenge of Slums: Global Report on Human Settlements 2003*. Nairobi: Earthscan.

**V. Course Calendar**

| **1-2 hr Sess-ions** | **Phase I Classroom Phase** | **Related Readings / Assignment** | **Related Phase II Field Activity/Assignment**  **(3 hours each activity)** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 1 | Introductions  Biblical view of cities | Read Ellul, *The Meaning of the City,* 147-196  Or Conn. (1992). Genesis as Urban Prologue. In Roger Greenway (Ed.), *Discipling the City*.  ---. (1992). The Kingdom of God and the City of Man: A History of the City/ Church Dialogue. In Roger Greenway (Ed.), *Discipling the City*.    Manokaran, ch 1-3 | **Assessment 1a:** Work with a group of people in a slum to draw or make a model of their ideal community. Reflect with them on Rev 21. Write a 1 page summary of what you learned |
| 2 | Historical Development of Cities | Browse Max Weber, *The City*  Or Gulick, John. Evolution. In the *Humanity of Cities*, 67-114. | **Assessment 1b:** Visit historical places of your city and construct the history of your city (macro)or Case study of the origin and growth of a particular urban poor community systems (micro) Wrtie a one page summary |
| 3 | Contextual Theology | Read <http://encarnacao.org/MA/Proposal/UrbanContextualTheology.ppt> |  |
| 4 | Transformational Conversations as a Method of Urban Theology | Read <http://encarnacao.org/PhD/2Transformational%20Conversations.htm>  Van Engen, Charles. (1996). *Mission on the Way: Issues in Mission Theology*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Book House. | **Assessment 2**: Describe in 3 pages, how the activity in assignment 1 followed principles of doing urban theology based on a transformational conversation approach. Use and explain diagrams where possible |
| 5 | Migration  Kinds of migration   * Voluntary/Involuntary * Individual/ Corporate * Push factors * Pull Factors   Theology of migration   * Sovereign God/ reign * Examples from Bible * God loves migrants * Paul – Jewish migrants | Read *City of Joy* and try to understand poor rural migrants’ life style in a city  Manokaran, ch 17  Read Cry of the Urban Poor chs ch 3 | **Assessment 4a:** Interview a couple who are in the city for two years after their migration. Identify two “pull factors” that attracts young people to cities and two “push factors”  Interview a young migrant who became Christian after coming into your city and identify what migration factors influenced his decision. (Present at integration)  Write this up in one page and in a second page reflect on the strategy used by Paul to reach Jewish migrants in Asian cities |
| 6 | **Elements and Causes of Urban Poverty**  Case study of a particular  community (micro)  Understanding structural factors that cause/perpetuate urban poverty   * political economy * class * cultural of poverty analysis   Theological perspectives on Poverty   * Old Testament * Jesus in New Testament * Paul | Read Lewis, Oscar. (1966). "The Culture of Poverty." *Scientific American, 215* (4), 3-9.  Browse UNCHS(Habitat). (2001). *The State of the World's Cities*.  Browse UN-HABITAT. (2003). *The Challenge of Slums: Global Report on Human Settlements 2003*..  Read Grigg, *Companion*, chap 3; *Cry* chs 4,5  Read Tamez, Elsa. (1982). *Bible of the Oppressed*. |  |
| 7 | Applying tools of analysis to themes related to marginal groups or urban poverty.(Possible themes to select from):   * hope and healing (e.g. Quiapo peddlers)) * health and education * land security * labor rights * rural poverty and migration * Macro factors (national and global) * Women and urban poverty | Read Kramer, Mark. Mexico City, No Title, No Land, No Home. In *Dispossessed.* Pp 83-116  Read Andrea Menefee Singh, Women and The Family: Coping with Poverty in the Bastis of Delhi. In Afred de Souza, ed. *The Indian City: Poverty, Ecology and Urban Development* |  |
| 8 | Urbanism – the humanity of Cities   * Connectivity * Anonymity * Anomie * Identity * Sense of belonging | Read and briefly present key ideas from Worth, Louis,Urbanism as a Way of Life in Gmelch and Zenner, *Urban Life:Readings in Urban Anthropology* pp14-34.  or Gulick, John. Connections in *Humanity of Cities*, ch 6.  or Berger, Peter L., Berger, Brigitte & Kellner, Hansfried. (1973). *The Homeless Mind: Modernization and Consciousness*. New York: Random House. |  |
| 9 | Global Growth of City Size & Quality   * Social Integration and Structural Integration in the City: * The City Development Index * Contribution of urban poor to city in terms of hygiene, menial jobs, dangerous jobs, dirty jobs | *The State of the World’s Cities*, 6-11, 116-120 | **Assessment 5:** List five specific contributions a particular slum in your city provides for the city. |
| 10 | Understanding ethnic diversity in the slums. |  | **Assessment 3a:** Find out the affinity factor that keeps the slum dwellers together or find out the cause of groupism in the slums or rivalry between two slums Write up in one page summary |
| 11 | Politics in slums   * Vote banks * Political mobilization |  | **Assessment 3b:** Observe the political process in the slum you work and write a one page reflection paper. |
| 12 | Generating sociological and theological insights on urban reality and spirituality   * Religion in slums – unity and uniformity | **Assessment 5a**: Read *Cry of the Urban Poor* chs 15 and identify 7 reasons why urban poor churches are largely Pentecostal | **Assessment 5b:** Find out and document in one page how rural migrants transplant their religious life from village to a city slum- worship, festivals, etc. |
| 13 | Understanding needs:  Individuals – Physical, emotional, spiritual, social  Family  Community – water, electricity, approach roads, sanitation, health | Browse *Slums as a Way of Life*  Or read *Child of the Dark* or *City of Joy* | **Assessment 4b:** Describe in one page the family life of one slum dwelling family. |
| 14 | Urban Economics | Browse readings in  de Soto, Hernando. (1989). The Costs and Importance of Law. *The Other Path* pp 131-187  or Jacobs, Jane. (1984). *Cities and the Wealth of Nations.* *The Atlantic Monthly* (Mar/Apr 1984).  Or Martin, David. (1990). Protestantism and Economic Culture. In *Tongue of Fire*, pp205-232  Or Santos, Milton. (1979). *The Shared Space*. | **Assessment 6a:** Talk with a shopkeeper or poor business person about the steps they have to take to become a legal business and the length of time. Compare that with the process in Lima, Peru |
| 15 | **Understanding power structures** – social, political, economical  Theories on the nature of dispersion of power through the multiplication of small organizations be theory economic, religious or poltical and revitalization theories, lay a foundation for envisioning the church among the poor as a primary vehicle for salvation of the city. | Browse Linthicum, *City of God, City of Satan* chap 2 or 3and be prepared to come to class to explain one Biblical or social aspect of the nature of or abuse of power in the city.  Dietrich, Gabriele & Wielenga, Bas. (2003). Organisation of Collective Life: Socio-Political Structures. In *Towards Understanding Indian Society*. pp142-165. |  |
| 16 | **Cities as Systems**  The impact of city systems on the welfare of the city  The criteria institutions use in decision-making processes in a city.  The economic system, banking system, governmental systems, justice system, welfare system, transport system, physical infrastructures, educational systems, urban planning and environment, communications and media systems.  processes of centralization, bureaucracy, power, fiscal decisions, welfare and reforms, investment, re-distribution, transport, environmental issues, and urban planning. | Read de Soto, Informal Trade. In *The Other Path*, pp 59-92  Or select for discussion a chapter from Landry, Charles. (2006). *The Art of City Making*. London: Earthscan. | **Assessment 6b:** Work in teams of 3 to analyse one city system and how it affects the slums. Talk with leaders in this system in order to understand its dynamics (3-5 pages) The assignment involves “Understand the impact of city systems on the welfare of the city by critically analyzing the criteria institutions use in decision-making processes in a city. This analysis may include the economic system, banking system, governmental systems, justice system, welfare system, transport system, physical infrastructures, educational systems, urban planning and environment, communications and media systems. processes of centralization, bureaucracy, power, fiscal decisions, welfare and reforms, investment, re-distribution, transport, environmental issues, and urban planning.” Present this on the final day of integrtion |
| 17-18 | Intro to Church growth literature on Kingdom signs in the city, forces for change, religious degeneration and renewal, reachable and responsive groups, church structures that urban dynamics produce, urban religious movements and social transformation and spiritual powers in the city. | Read Hiebert, P. G. Hiebert Meneses, *E. Incarnational Ministry – Planting Churches in Band, Tribal, Peasant and Urban Societies.* Chapters 8,9 on urban church, pp257-362 |  |
| 19 | Urban Ministry Strategy  Seven Mind Moulders   1. Arts 2. Business 3. Church 4. Dissemination of information – media 5. Education 6. Family 7. Government | Read Grigg, Viv. Networks. In *Transforming Cities*, pp 69-84.  Browse Manokaran, chs. 18,19. |  |
| 20 | Research, Interpretation of information and prayer | Browse Waymire, Bob & Carl Townsend *Discovering Your City* |  |
| Phase 3: Integration Day: Synthesis | |  |  |
|  | * Presentation of research * Push/pull factors * Some other assignments * Concluding insights on transformative approach to urban ministry within the context of national transformation * Envisioning a socio-economic political order that promotes or approximates productivity, equity, sustainability, peace and reconciliation, security * Time of prayer and commitment |  |  |

**VI. Learning & Assessment Activities**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Outcome** | **Assessment Activity** | **Due Date** | **Mark** | **Weighting** |
| 1. | **Urban History and Envisioning:** Relate theories of urbanization to the nature of cities throughout Biblical history, and the processes of change in those selected cities. | **Assessment 1:** Write up in three pages and add  *Evaluative criteria:* on time; completeness, organization, interfacing with literature, logical flow, title, footnotes and reference in APA style |  | 10 | 10% |
| 2. | **Urban Theological Method**: Students will understand the hermeneutic process of interfacing the city conversations with the biblical and theological conversations, and deriving a transformational conversation. | **Assessment 2:**  *Evaluative criteria:* on time; use and explanation of diagrams, interfacing with literature, interface of scripture and social theory, logical flow, title, footnotes and reference in APA style |  | 10 | 10% |
| 3. | **The Nature of God in the Humanity of Cities:** Interpret the Biblical themes of the nature of God in: humanity as the cause of cities in relation to diversity, social change, demography, modernization, economics, occupation, social networks, subcultures, languages and arts, representation, marginalization, and deviance. | **Assessment 3:**  Assessment 3a  Assessment 3b  *Evaluative criteria:* on time; use and explanation of diagrams, interfacing of scripture with literature, logical flow, title, footnotes and reference in APA style |  | 5  5 | 10% |
| 4. | **The Collective Image of God in Urban Culture:**  Students will critically evaluate urbanism (the culture of the city) and its impact on migrants: kinship, class, ethnicity, religious values, and identity using case studies from a city in the region/nation where they live.  This evaluation should include publicly available statistical information and quote specific data to explain the impact of these concepts. | **Assessment 4:**  Assessment 4a  Assessment 4b  *Evaluative criteria:* on time; use of literature, logical flow, title, footnotes and reference in APA style, quality of documentation of interviews, conclusions from interviews. |  | 10  5  5 | 20% |
| 5 | **Strategies for Changing the Spirituality of the City:**  Students will keep a reading log on church growth literature on Kingdom signs in the city, forces for change, religious degeneration and renewal, reachable and responsive groups, church structures that urban dynamics produce, urban religious movements and social transformation and spiritual powers in the city. | **Assessment 5:** Keep a reading log Do a one sentence summary of each chapter, and a paragraph reflection on its implications for the urban church Assessment 5a Assessment 5b  *Evaluative criteria:* Extent of readings (up to1000 pages) summary, quality of reflection (not more than one paragraph, reference in APA style |  | 10  5  5 | 20% |
| 6. | **City Systems:**  Students will become familiar with the impact of city systems on the welfare of the city by critically analyzing the criteria institutions use in decision-making processes in a city. This analysis may include the economic system, banking system, governmental systems, justice system, welfare system, transport system, physical infrastructures, educational systems, urban planning and environment, communications and media systems. The analysis will include an evaluation of processes such as centralization, bureaucracy, power, fiscal decisions, welfare and reforms, investment, re-distribution, transport, environmental issues, and urban planning. | Assessment 6: In 10,000 words, students will evaluate the impact of city systems on the welfare of the city by critically analyzing the criteria institutions use in decision-making processes in a city. This analysis may include the economic system, banking system, governmental systems, justice system, welfare system, transport system, physical infrastructures, educational systems, urban planning and environment, communications and media systems. The analysis will include an evaluation of processes such as centralization, bureaucracy, power, fiscal decisions, welfare and reforms, investment, re-distribution, transport, environmental issues, and urban planning.  Comment where applicable, on how these systems marginalize certain classes of people who do not fit into their criteria for participation in these systems. Identify which classes are affected by these marginalization processes and how this marginalization has impacted their lives and what rights, benefits or practices have they been denied.  *Evaluative criteria:* quality of reflection (not more than one paragraph) on interview, presentation, teamwork, written reflections, quality of written paper, sources, bibliography, formatting. |  | 20 | 20% |

**VII. Course Bibliography**

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Van Engen, Charles. (1996). *Mission on the Way: Issues in Mission Theology*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Book House.

**Urban Planning**

Landry, Charles. (2006). *The Art of City Making*. London: Earthscan.

**Urban Economic Theories**

de Soto, Hernando. (1989). *The Other Path* (June Abbott, Trans.). New York: Harper & Row.

Jacobs, Jane. (1984). *Cities and the Wealth of Nations.* *The Atlantic Monthly* (Mar/Apr 1984).

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**Urban Ministry Strategies**

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Booth, William. (1890). *In Darkest England and the Way Out*. London: Salvation Army.

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**Urban Poor Realities**

Beal, Jo. 2000. Life in the Cities. In Tim Allen and Alan Thomas (eds). *Poverty and Development into the 21st Century*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

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de Jesus, Carolina Maria. (2003). *Child of the Dark*. New York, London, Auckland: Penguin.

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LaPierre, Dominique. (1985). *Calcutta, City of Joy*: Doubleday.

Lee, Jung Young. (1995). *Marginality: The Key to Multicultural Theory*. Minneapolis: Augsburg Fortress.

Neuwirth, Robert. (2005). *Shadow Cities: A Billion Squatters, A New Urban World*. New York and Oxon, UK: Routledge.

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**Indian Realities**

Major author and contributor – Amartya Sen,

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