



Introduction to Urban Missions MISS6342
Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary
Pastoral Ministries Division
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Mission Statement

The mission of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary is to equip leaders to fulfill the Great Commission and the Great Commandments through the local church and its ministries.

Core Value Focus

The seminary has five core values: Doctrinal Integrity, Spiritual Vitality, Mission Focus, Characteristic Excellence, and Servant Leadership. The core value focus for this academic year is Servant Leadership, which states in part: “We follow the model of Jesus and exert leadership and influence through the nurture and encouragement of those around us.”

Curriculum Competencies

All graduates of NOBTS are expected to have at least a minimum level of competency in each of the following areas: Biblical Exposition, Christian Theological Heritage, Disciple Making, Interpersonal Skills, Servant Leadership, Spiritual and Character Formation, and Worship Leadership. The curriculum competencies addressed in this course are: Biblical Exposition, Disciple Making, and Servant Leadership.

Course Description

In this course students are introduced to the biblical and theological foundations for missions in the city. The historical foundations of urban missions are briefly examined. Trends in urbanization are explored along with the implication of those trends for mission and ministry in the urban environment. Contemporary strategies for reaching the city, both national and international, are studied.

Student Learning Outcomes

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

1. Understand the place of the city in the Bible and in God’s plan for evangelizing the world.
2. Become aware of the history of urban missions.
3. Understand the urban context of ministry in today’s world.
4. Become aware of methods of urban mission and ministry.
5. Develop skills in strategizing, ministry, and missions in an urban environment.

Textbook

Conn, Harvie M. And Manuel Ortiz. *Urban Ministry: The Kingdom, the City and the People of God*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2010.

Course Requirements

1. **Book Review.** From a list of books provided by the instructor choose one to read and review. The book review should be four to six pages in length. Students will present a brief presentation of their chosen book in class. Due on October 10.
2. **City Research.** Choose a city to research. Clear the choice with the instructor. Compile an annotated bibliography of 25 resources that could be used to research the city you have chosen. Describe each resource with a brief annotation (2 or 3 sentences). Due on November 7.
3. **Urban Issue Annotated Bibliography.** Choose an urban issue that you would like to research. Clear the choice with the instructor. Compile an annotated bibliography of 25 resources that could be used to research the issue you have chosen. Describe each resource with a brief annotation (2 or 3 sentences). Submit the annotation to the appropriate Blackboard assignment section by Nov. 14.
4. **Volunteer service.** Spend 5 hours in volunteer mission work in an urban context. Report on the experience in the Blackboard Discussion Board. Clear the volunteer experience with the professor before you commit to the volunteer placement. The volunteer work must be completed by November 30 and a four to six paragraph discussion entered in Blackboard by December 2.
5. **Prayer Walk.** Determine a location to do a prayer walk. Take at least one other person with you on the prayer walk. Give the person or persons accompanying you some basic directions. Spend at least one hour in prayer walking. Enter a four to six paragraph discussion of your prayer walk in the appropriate discussion forum by Dec. 5. Discuss, among other items, 1) Why you chose the location; 2) Whether you were prepared; 3) How those accompanying you reacted to the experience; 4) Interesting experiences you had during the prayer walk; 5) Reactions from those you met during the prayer walk; and 6) How effective you think prayer walking can be in the city.
6. **Urban Ministry Research Group Project.** Visit and research two urban ministries (one can be a church, but at least one must be a parachurch ministry. Also, get approval from the instructor of the ministries to be studied. Ministries are assigned on a first come, first serve basis). Interview a significant leader in each of the ministries. Find out major components of the ministry of each. What are the challenges? What people are targeted for ministry? How does the neighborhood and the city impact each ministry? Analyze each ministry as to effectiveness in meeting needs and growing the Kingdom. What sections of our textbook seem applicable to a discussion of each ministry? The paper on these two ministries should be at least 10 pages double-spaced and is due

NOTE:. Assignments turned in late will receive an automatic 15 point deduction for the first day, and a 10 point deduction for each additional weekday late.

ALL ASSIGNMENTS MUST BE COMPLETED IN ORDER TO PASS THE COURSE.

Course Evaluation

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| Final Exam | 10% |
| Quizzes | 20% |
| City Research Annotated Bibliography | 15% |
| Urban Issue Annotated Bibliography | 15% |
| Volunteer Hours | 5% |
| Prayer Walk | 5% |
| Urban Ministry Research | 20% |
| Book Review and Presentation | 10% |

Course Schedule

(Note: Below you will find the names of the Learning Units that you will find on the class Blackboard site and textbook readings for each unit. In addition each unit will contain additional online readings and assignments. A completion due date is given for each unit. In each unit you will find the assigned textbook readings, online readings, and other assignments. It is extremely important that you not get behind. If you get behind you will miss quizzes and have points deducted for late work.

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| Unit 1: Getting Started | Aug. 22 |
| Unit 2: Introduction to the Urban Context, pt. 1- Introduction, Chap. 1-3 | Aug. 29 |
| Unit 3: Biblical Background for Urban Missions, pt. 1- Chaps. 4, 5 | Sept. 5 |
| Unit 4: Urban Ministry Research | Sept. 12 |
| Unit 5: Biblical Background for Urban Missions, pt. 2- Chaps. 6, 7 | Sept. 19 |
| Unit 6: Understanding the City, pt. 1- Chaps. 8, 9, 10 | Sept. 26 |
| Unit 7: Urban Ministry Research | Oct. 3 |
| Unit 8: Book Presentations | Oct. 10 |
| Unit 9: Understanding the City, pt. 2- Chaps. 11, 12, 13 | Oct. 24 |
| Unit 10: Researching the City, Chaps. 14, 15,16 | Oct. 31 |
| Unit 11: Reaching Special Groups in the City- Chap. 17 | Nov. 7 |
| Unit 12: Christian Community Development- Chap. 18 | Nov. 14 |
| Unit 13: Spiritual Warfare in the Urban Context- Chap. 19 | Nov. 28 |
| Unit 14: Developing Leaders for Urban Ministry, Chaps. 20-24 and Urban Ministry Research Group Projects | Dec. 5 |
| Final Exam | Must be completed by Dec. 12 at 4 PM |

Technical Assistance

Need technical assistance? Contact the ITC today!

Selfserve@nobts.edu - Email for technical questions/support requests with the Selfserve.nobts.edu site (Access to online registration, financial account, online transcript, etc.)

BlackboardHelpDesk@nobts.edu - Email for technical questions/support requests with the NOBTS Blackboard Learning Management System NOBTS.Blackboard.com.

ITCSupport@nobts.edu - Email for general technical questions/support requests.

504.816.8180 - Call for any technical questions/support requests.

www.NOBTS.edu/itc/ - General NOBTS technical help information is provided on this website.

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