



ANSWERING GOD'S CALL

Urban Missions Practicum MISS5245
New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary
Division of Pastoral Missions
Spring Semester 2020
Internet Class

Dr. Ken Taylor
Professor of Urban Missions
Mailing Address 3939 Gentilly Blvd., New Orleans, LA 70126
Office: Dodd 100
Ph. Office 504-816-8015 ex. 8015
email: ktaylor@nobts.edu

Mission Statement

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary and Leavell College prepare servants to walk with Christ, proclaim His truth, and fulfill His mission.

Course Purpose, Core Value Focus, and Curriculum Competencies Addressed

The purpose of this course is to carry out the mission of NOBTS as is reflected through the core values and the core competencies in the following ways:

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 Spiritual Vitality, which states in part: “We are a worshiping community emphasizing both personal spirituality and gathering together as a Seminary family for the praise and adoration of God and instruction in His Word. Spiritual Vitality is addressed by reminding students that a dynamic relationship with God is vital for effective ministry.”

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 class will address four of the seven competencies.

1. Disciple Making- Students will consider ways to increase disciple making in the urban context.
2. Interpersonal Skills- Students will seek to enhance their interpersonal skills for effective ministry in the urban context.
3. Servant Leadership- Students will examine leadership styles effective in the urban context.
4. Spiritual and Character Formation-Students will be exposed, through reading and contact, with those who model Christian character and devotion in urban settings.

Course Description

This practicum is designed to provide students guided study and on-site experience in urban mission settings. Students will serve in urban ministry settings and will reflect on that experience as it relates to the student’s calling.

Student Learning Outcomes

1. That students examine their call to ministry in light of the urban setting.
2. That students understand the urban context of ministry in today's world.
3. That students develop skills to do ministry and missions in an urban environment.
4. That the student will discover areas of strengths and weaknesses through the supervision process
5. That students grow in their commitment to ministry.
6. That students, through supervision, develop in all areas of their ministry.

Textbook

White, Randy. *Encounter God in the City: On Ramps to Personal and Community Transformation*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2006.

Course Teaching Methodology

This course is a practicum and the student's ministry experience, supervision, and reflection will provide the foundation for this course. The student will do reading and will interact with the professor on a regular basis. The student will spend significant time in urban ministry experiential activities.

Course Requirements

1. Once each student has completed the registration procedures, he or she will be automatically enrolled in the Blackboard portion of the course. The first thing each student should do is go through "Week 1: Getting Started" in the course Blackboard. This will explain course procedures. Week 1 must be completed by midnight on the Saturday after the class begins. All weekly units should be completed by Sat. midnight of each week. There will be a quiz for some weekly units. The quiz must be completed by the completion date of each weekly unit. The quizzes for the week will be available through midnight of each Saturday. Quizzes missed cannot be made up.
2. Students should proceed through the weekly modules in numerical order beginning with "Week 1: Getting Started." New weekly units will be released a few at a time so students should not expect to work ahead too far. All weekly units must be completed along with required readings. At the end of each section of a unit students will indicate completion of that section of the weekly unit by clicking on the "Reviewed" button. In summary, orderly completion of the weekly units (and the assignments in each unit) along with attention to the specific assignments given in this syllabus will keep the student on track for successful completion of the course.
3. Reading. There will be readings found in each most weekly units. The readings will be from some combination of readings from the textbook and other readings that will be available online. These readings will be essential to successful completion of the class.
4. Urban Ministry Selection. Students will select an urban ministry in which to do supervised ministry for ten to twelve weeks for at least four hours per week for a total of at least 65 hours. If the student works for 10 weeks then the weeks worked must average at least 6.5 hours. A week with less than 4 hours worked will not count in the number of required weeks worked. The student should get approval from the instructor about the proposed urban ministry site BEFORE completing the project approval form. The instructor will give approval or suggest selecting an alternative ministry site. The student must have a qualified supervisor in order to work at a site.

5. Project Approval Form. Students will work with the supervisor in completing the project approval form (found at the end of this syllabus). This form should be turned in to the instructor by mail or digitally by Feb. 1. The student is to meet with the supervisor on a weekly basis.

6. Supervisor's Evaluation Form. After the required weeks of ministry have been completed the student should submit the evaluation form (found at the end of this syllabus) to the supervisor. When the form is completed the supervisor should return it to the student. The student, after reviewing the form, should turn the form in to the instructor by mail or digitally by Tues., May 12.

7. Weekly Ministry Discussion Assignment. Starting in Week 3 engage in this discussion to share insights, experiences, and reflections with your classmates and the instructor. Students are encouraged to engage in back and forth discussions with classmates in this forum. Record hours worked as well.

8. Reflection Paper-Do a reflection paper (5-7 pages) on the ministry experience of the semester. Reflect on the challenges you faced as well as the fulfillment you gained by being involved in your selected ministry. Include a section on what you learned about yourself during this experience. Upload the reflection paper to the proper assignment section in Week 13 or 14, no later than Tues., Dec. 12.

9. Volunteer Experience- For students NOT SERVING AS A VOLUNTEER IN THEIR URBAN MINISTRY: Spend at least 4 hours serving in an urban environment in volunteer service. Report on experience in the appropriate discussion forum in Week 12.

10. Evangelism Discussions- In your supervised ministry setting select two evangelistic encounters in which you share a gospel presentation (the encounters must have taken place during this semester). Prepare four to six paragraph discussion of each encounters and place the discussions in the appropriate discussion forums. The first discussion is due in Week 7 and the second is due in Week 13.

Course Outline and Textbook Assignments (See Blackboard Weekly Modules for Other Assignments)

Week 1, Jan. 25: Introduction

Week 2, Feb. 1: Finding Your Ministry Site

Week 3, Feb. 8: Learning about Your Ministry Site, White: Introduction, chap. 1

Week 4, Feb.15: Work at Your Site, White, chaps. 2 and 3

Week 5, Feb.22: Work at Your Site, White, chaps. 4 and 5

Week 6, Feb.29: Work at Your Site, White, chaps. 6 and 7

Week 7, Mar. 7: Work at Your Site, White, chaps. 8 and 9

Week 8, Mar.14: Work at Your Site, White, chaps. 10 and 11

March 16-21 Spring Break

- Week 9, Mar. 28: Work at Your Site, White, chap. 12
Week 10, Apr. 4: Work at Your Site, White, chap. 13
Week 11, Apr. 11: Work at Your Site, White, chaps. 14 and 15
Week 12, Apr. 18: Work at Your Site, White, chap. 16
Week 13, Apr. 25: Work at Your Site, White, chap. 17
Week 14, May 2: Work at Your Site, White, chaps. 18 through Epilogue
Week 15, May 9: Complete Work at Your Site, Finalize Evaluation and Reflection

Evaluation

Participation in Discussion Forums	30%
Reflection Paper	20%
Ministry Experience	30%
Evangelism Reports	20%

Assignments turned in late will receive an automatic 15 point deduction. There will be a 10 point deduction for each additional weekday the assignment is late. No work will be accepted that is more than three weeks past the due date for the assignment.

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

Technical Assistance

If you need technical assistance? Contact the ITC as follows:

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.

Help for Writing Papers at “The Write Stuff”

NOBTS maintains a Writing Center designed to improve English writing at the graduate level. Students can receive writing guides, tips, and valuable information to help in becoming a better writer.

Plagiarism on Written Assignments

NOBTS has a no tolerance policy for plagiarism. Plagiarism in certain cases may result in expulsion from the seminary. See the NOBTS Student Handbook for definition, penalties, and policies associated with plagiarism.

Writing Style Guide

Writing assignments should follow the **NOBTS/Leavell College Manual of Form and Style** (*revised August 2019*). To access this manual on the seminary website, please use the following link: <https://www.nobts.edu/resources/pdf/writing/StyleGuide.pdf>

Selected Bibliography on Urban Missions

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Bakke, Ray and Jon Sharpe. *Street Signs: A New Direction in Urban Ministry*. Birmingham, AL: New Hope Publishers, 2006.

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Carle, Robert D. and Louis A. Decaro, Jr. *Signs of Hope in the City: Ministries of Community Renewal*. Valley Forge, PA: Judson Press, 1997.

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- Duncan, Michael. *Costly Mission: Following Christ into the Slums*. Monrovia: CA: MARC, 1996.
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Rogers, Donald B., ed. *Urban Church Education*. Birmingham, AL: Religious Education Press, 1989.

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Sullivan, Barbara. *God's Ground Force: What Happened When One Church Dared to Leave the Comfort Zone*. Minneapolis: Bethany House, 2006.

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_____. *Journey to the Center of the City : Making a Difference in an Urban Neighborhood*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 1996.

Yamamori, Tetsunao et al. *Serving With the Urban Poor*. Monrovia, CA: MARC, 1998.

Urban Missions Practicum MISS5345
NEW ORLEANS BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
SUPERVISOR'S EVALUATION OF STUDENT'S PERFORMANCE

NAME OF STUDENT: _____ **DATE:** _____

PLACE OF ASSIGNMENT:

Please evaluate:

1. Student's attitude toward your ministry:

2. Student's co-operation:

Did this student make significant contributions or did he/she impose limitations upon the program?

Please list any problems encountered with this student:

Overall evaluation of student's performance: **GOOD** _____ **FAIR** _____ **POOR**

Number of hours completed at your ministry site [**65 hours minimum**]

Supervisor's Signature _____

Student's Signature _____

Note: This evaluation will be used if needed in counseling the student regarding his/her ministry and will not effect his/her grade. Use back of sheet for additional comments if necessary. Please go over your evaluation with the student and let the student return this form to our office.

PROJECT APPROVAL FORM
NOBTS - Urban Missions Practicum MISS5245

Name of Field Supervisor

Name of Student

Name of Ministry

Address

Address

City

City, State, and Zip

Phone (include Area Code)

Phone (include Area Code)

Student's Ministry Position

I have established a learning agreement with the above-named student in the **Urban Missions Practicum class** of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary for a minimum of 10 weeks and up to 12 weeks of supervised experience. There must be at least 4 hours worked during a week for that week to count and the total hours worked must be at least 65. The ministry in which I serve has an urban component.

I. It is my understanding that my responsibilities include:

1. Supervise the involvement of the student in the various aspects of this ministry.
2. Meet with the student each week to discuss his experience in this ministry.
3. Help the student discover his/her strengths as well as lesser strengths.
4. Make a final evaluation report to the Supervised Ministry office.

II. The student's responsibilities will include:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

4. Others.... (use back if necessary)

Field Supervisor

Date

Please retain a copy of this form for your records