



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

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

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 worshipping 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 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 double-spaced pages in length. Students will present a brief presentation of their chosen book in class. Due on March 10.
2. **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 Apr. 14.
3. **Volunteer service.** Spend 4 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 April 18 and a four to six paragraph discussion entered in Blackboard by April 21.
4. **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 April 28. 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.
5. **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 for 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 on May 5.

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

Final Exam	10%
Quizzes	20%
Urban Issue Annotated Bibliography	10%
Volunteer Hours	5%
Prayer Walk	5%
Urban Ministry Research Group Project	25%
Book Review and Presentation	10%
Class Participation	15%

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. Readings are due on the Tuesday of each week and quizzes will be on Tuesdays unless other notice is given)

Unit 1: Getting Started	Jan. 21
Unit 2: Introduction to the Urban Context, pt. 1- Introduction, Chap. 1-3	Jan. 28
Unit 3: Biblical Background for Urban Missions, pt. 1- Chap. 4	Feb. 4
Unit 4: Biblical Background for Urban Missions, pt. 2- Chap. 5	Feb. 11
Unit 5: Biblical Background for Urban Missions, pt. 3- Chaps. 6, 7	Feb. 18
Unit 6: Understanding the City, pt. 1- Chaps. 8, 9, 10	Feb. 27
Unit 7: Urban Ministry Research	Mar. 3
Unit 8: Book Presentations	Mar.10
Spring Break March 16-20	
Unit 9: Understanding the City, pt. 2- Chaps. 11, 12, 13	Mar.24
Unit 10: Researching the City, Chaps. 14, 15,16	Mar.31
Unit 11: Reaching Special Groups in the City- Chap. 17	Apr. 7
Unit 12: Christian Community Development- Chap. 18	Apr. 14
Unit 13: Spiritual Warfare in the Urban Context- Chap. 19	Apr. 21
Unit 14: Developing Leaders for Urban Ministry, Chaps. 20-24	Apr. 28
Unit 15: Urban Ministry Research Group Projects	May 5
Final Exam	Must be completed by Tues., May 12 at 2 PM

Class Attendance

You are only allowed to miss the amount of class time specified in the NOBTS attendance policy as stated in the graduate catalog. (See page 184 in the graduate catalog: https://www.nobts.edu/_resources/pdf/academics/GraduateCatalog.pdf). NOLA2U Flex students see the statement about attendance on the next page.

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.

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

If you are taking this course as a NOLA2U Flex student, please note the following attendance policies:

1. You are required to be in class either through viewing the lectures live or viewing the recorded lectures on Blackboard. When you view the recorded lecture, you will be considered present for that class. Regardless of if you watch the class live or recorded, you are only allowed to miss the amount of class time specified in the NOBTS attendance policy as stated in the graduate catalog. (See page 184 in the graduate catalog: https://www.nobts.edu/_resources/pdf/academics/GraduateCatalog.pdf).
2. You will be asked to certify that you have been present for the live session or have viewed the recorded session. This certification will be done through a discussion assignment in the discussion board after having watched the class live or viewing the recorded session.
3. All video lectures are available for 7 days after the video is posted. If you are unable to view the video within that time frame, you will be considered absent for that class session.
4. Technical issues will not be considered a valid reason for missing a lecture.

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