

**Mission Year
Eastern University
Undergraduate Program**

INST 395 & INST 495
Urban Field Experience I & II

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Course Prerequisites:

The student must have completed at least one year of college study and be currently participating in Mission Year.

Course Descriptions:

Urban Field Experience I (3 credit hours) – Field experience in an urban agency or organization. 40 hours per credit hour awarded. Graded on Pass/Fail basis. Students will be expected to “do” Mission Year well. Weekly participants will write reflections on their different aspects of life in Mission Year.

Urban Field Experience II (3 credit hours) – Field experience in an urban agency or organization requiring the student to relate theory and practice. 40 hours per credit hour awarded. Letter grade awarded. Students will be expected to write a reflection paper summing up their yearlong experience.

Teaching Methods:

This course revolves around the notions of experiential learning and independent study during the student’s participation in Mission Year. The professor will provide objectives and guidelines for the required assignments. Students may submit assignments via email or snail mail (they must have the assignment to the professor by the due date). The professor will monitor the student’s progress and will assist the student in processing the Field Experience through e-mails, and telephone calls.

Course Objectives:

Through the student’s experience with an urban agency and in conjunction with his/her research for Urban Issues I & II, the student will:

1. Learn how one’s inner-city community developed and is sustained within the cultural and political context of his/her city.
2. Gain an understanding of the micro and macro realities of an urban setting, including the systemic nature of injustice, poverty, and racism.
3. Articulate the theological implications of one’s urban environment.
4. Design community development, education and ministry strategies that respond to the needs in one’s community.
5. Relate this urban experience to one’s major course of study.
6. Articulate a personal and practical response to the realities and issues faced in an urban setting.

Grading and Testing Procedures:

1. Students will keep a daily journal, which will consist of a combination of reporting and processing events and experiences involved in working with an urban agency (community service site) and living in an urban neighborhood.
2. During the student's year, they will be expected to write a "Weekly Reflection" due to their city director every week. Once a month students will need to send copies of their "Weekly Reflections" to the professor for observation. Students have the option of substituting a weekly reflection (one) for their support letter each month. Each of your papers will also substitute for a weekly reflection for that week.
3. The due dates for your weekly reflections are as follows...
(actual dates subject to change each year)
 - a) October 24 (Four weekly reflections due)
 - b) November 28 (Four weekly reflections due)
 - c) December 12 (Two weekly reflections due)
 - d) January 30 (Four weekly reflections due)
 - e) February 27 (Four weekly reflections due)
 - f) March 27 (Three weekly reflections due)
 - g) May 1 (Three weekly reflections due)
 - h) May 29 (Three weekly reflections due)
4. Students will write a reflection paper that will be due May 18. Students need to write a 5-7 page paper answering the questions...
 - a) For what am I most grateful for this year?
 - b) For what am I least grateful for this year?
 - c) In what ways have I changed as a result of my Mission Year experience?
 - d) How has theology impacted my experience this year? Or how has my experience this year impacted my theology?
 - e) How does your experience this year relate to your major course of study and how do you foresee this experience shaping the direction your life is headed?

Required Texts:

*** All texts will be read according to the Mission Year Curriculum Calendar, handed out at the beginning of your Mission Year. All readings are subject to change. Each student will be expected to participate fully in the curriculum discussions dealing with these texts.

First Trimester:

- Richard Foster, *Celebration of Discipline*
- John Perkins, *Beyond Charity*
- Henri Nouwen, *Out of Solitude*
- Beverly Tatum, *Why are all the black kids sitting together in the cafeteria?*

- Brennan Manning, *The Ragamuffin Gospel*
- David Simon and Edward Burns, *The Corner*
- ** Paulo Freire, *The Pedagogy of the Oppressed*
- (not a part of the MY curriculum; for students only)

Second Trimester

- Howard Thurman, *Jesus and the Disinherited*
- Shane Claiborne, *The Irresistible Revolution*
- Barbara Enrenreich, *Nickel and Dimed*
- Douglas J. Brouwer, *What am I supposed to do with my life?* (article)
- Jean Vanier, Chapter one from *Community and Growth* (article)
- Scott Peck, Selection from *A Different Drum* (article)
- John Alexander, Selections from John Alexander (article)
- Dieter Zander, *Word in Life; Abandoning an Incomplete Gospel* (article)
- Jim Henderson, *Ordinary Attempts* (article)

Third Trimester

- Richard Foster, *Freedom of Simplicity*
- Nikki Toyama and Tracey Gee, *More Than Serving Tea*
- Peter Kreeft, *Christian Discernment* (article)
- *The Gospel of John* (Bible)

Attendance Policy:

Since this is a distance-learning course, the student assumes responsibility to complete readings and papers according to the deadlines indicated in this syllabus.

Student Disability Policy:

If you have any documented special educational needs, you are encouraged to work with the Cushing Center for Counseling and Academic Support to prepare a written request for the accommodations you need in this course. In order to receive accommodations in this course, the professor must receive a written request from CCAS at the beginning of this course, or as soon as the disability is diagnosed.

College Policies:

Please note that all university policies pertaining to academic dishonesty, drop/add procedures, and grade appeal should be followed by students enrolled in this class. Consult the undergraduate university catalog or ask me if you have questions about any of these university policies.