

**Mission Year
Eastern University
Undergraduate Program**

INST 330
Urban Issues 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 Description:

A study of the major issues confronting the modern American city from sociological, economic, and theological perspectives. Issues to be addressed include those of race, religion, education, poverty, welfare, and community development.

Course Objectives:

Through this course of study the student will:

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

Grading and Testing Procedures:

1. Your final grade will be determined on a cumulative point basis. The grading scale is as follows:

100- 92%	A	78-72%	C
91- 90	A-	71-70%	C-
89%	B+	69%	D+
88-82%	B	68-62%	D
81-80%	B-	61-60%	D-
79%	C+	59% and below	F

2. Students will complete four papers (assignments) addressing the course objectives. Papers should include a presentation of recent quantitative research findings, qualitative findings (from interviews), and the student's experiential response to the particular objective addressed.

Papers will be due as follows (addressing the objectives in the order they are listed): (Specific dates subject to change each year)

- #1 November 10 "A Look at Your Neighborhood" (5-7 pages)
- #2 December 15 "Pedagogy of the Oppressed definition sheet" (2-3 pages)
- #3 March 9 "The Effects of Racism in Your Neighborhood" (5-7 pages)
- #4 June 15 "The Justice Project" (10-12 pages)

Papers are to be typed, double-spaced, 1- inch margins, 12 Font, in a scholarly form (APA, MLA), and should have appropriate endnotes and other relevant notations. Suggestions for the writing format will be posted on the google group.

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)

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 papers. Using the above texts, interviews with residents of the student's neighborhood, and additional research conducted at a local library and via the internet, the student will submit all papers to the professor via email. Interaction, processing and evaluation of submitted work will take place between the professor and student via email, and telephone.

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 course. Consult the undergraduate university catalog if you have questions about any of these university policies.

Schedule of Assignments for both Urban Field Experience and Urban Issues:

All papers should be e-mailed to: chris@missionyear.org

Or mailed to:

Chris Lahr
4649 Oakland St
Philadelphia, PA 19124

These dates are for 2008- 2009:
(Dates are subject to change year to year)

First Tri-mester

Friday, October 24
Monday, November 10
Friday, November 26
Monday, December 15

Weekly Reflections from October
Urban Issues Paper #1 (Story of Neighborhood)
Weekly Reflections from November
Urban Issues Paper #2 (Freire)

Second Tri-mester

Friday, January 30
Friday, February 27
Monday, March 9
Friday, March 27

Weekly Reflections from January
Weekly Reflections from February
Urban Issues Paper #3 (Racism)
Weekly Reflections from March

Third Tri-mester

Friday, May 1
Monday, May 18
Friday, May 29
Monday, June 15

Weekly Reflections from April
Urban Issues Paper #4 (Reflection)
Weekly Reflections from May
Final Project (Justice Project)