

Mennonite Brethren Biblical Seminary
IM-653 Christian Community Development (3 units)
Fall 2007 Semester
October 8-12 Fall Module Week

Instructor: Sean S. O'Neal, D.Min.
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Course Syllabus

Course Description:

Christian Community Development (3): In the past two decades Christian Community Development has emerged as an important factor in relation to the church. Christian Community Development has become a powerful tool by which the church can penetrate deep into its community and bring about transformation through the gospel of Christ. This course will look at the historical roots of community development that grew out of Chicago School of Sociology and then contrast this with a variety of models currently being developed in Christian contexts. We will examine five major models and the individuals who have been the driving force behind them. Students will evaluate each model from a biblical, theological, and philosophical framework.

Course Objectives:

1. The student will be equipped with tools to help churches create a community development process through examination and understanding of biblical concepts for Christian Community Development and community organizing.
2. The student will review a variety of secular community development models and Christian community development models examining structures of each model in order to integrate contextually transferable principles into a holistic Christ centered approach to community development and community organizing.
3. The student will be able to construct a model of Christian Community Development through local church congregations and/or among communities in need.
4. The student will gain knowledge that is foundational in the formation of a personal and corporate theological and philosophical basis for developing effective Christian Community Development organizations, ministries, missions, or entities.
5. The student will gain understanding of the historical development of Christian Community Development in the North American context, the emergence of community development in areas of need throughout the world, exploring the issues of poverty, famine, institutionalism, racism, re-gentrification, ethnocentrism, genocide, and ethnocide, and compare the “*needs based approach*” to the “*asset based*” approach to community development.
6. The student will develop or strengthen his or her understanding of anthropological research including participant observation, and interviewing.
7. The student will construct a model of Christian Community Development that can grow out of a present church context or contextualized to another community somewhere in the world. The project will include a vision strategy (mission, vision, values, plan of implementation, timeline, and vision re-vision process), theological foundation, demographic data, grant possibilities and procedures.

Class Format: The class will be designed as an intensive 1 week delivery and includes pre-in-class requirements, as well as, post in-class assignments to be completed prior to the conclusion of the semester and submitted via email / or post mail to the course instructor.

Required Reading / Textbooks:

Bakke, Ray and Jon Sharpe. *Street Signs: A New Direction in Urban Ministry*. Birmingham, AL.: New Hope Publishing, 2006. ISBN-1-59669-004-6

Grigg, Viv. *Cry of the Urban Poor: Reaching the Slums of Today's Megacities*. Waynesboro, GA.: Authentic Media, 2004. ISBN-1932805125

Linthicum, Robert. *Transforming Power: Biblical Strategies for Making a Difference in Your Community*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2003. ISBN- 0830832289

Lupton, Bob. *Renewing the City: Reflections On Community Development and Urban Renewal*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2005. ISBN-0830833269

Olson, Ronald, Ronald Sider, and Heidi Unruh. *Churches That Make A Difference: Reaching Your Community with Good News and Good Works, 2002*. Grand Rapids: Baker Books. ISBN-0801091330

Recommended Reading:

See bibliography

Learning Activities/Assignments:

3 Book Reviews – Three critical book reviews 3-4 pages (content excluding cover page, bibliography, table of contents, etc.). The three book review experiences will provide focused opportunities for the student to interact with the text being reviewed in a thorough, manner allowing the student to integrate concepts, philosophies and practical experiential data into her or his comprehensive learning experience. The student will engage with the text of the assigned books including the following elements in each paper:

1. Describe the book including the thesis, main points – answering the question “What is/are the author(s) trying to communicate?” giving a summary of the major themes/concepts/ideas (please refrain from only copying the chapter headings or table of contents)
2. Interact with the text describing how the chapters present the position of the author, the strengths of the book and any limitations that you perceive.
3. Describe what this book means to you in regard to your perspective of Christian Community Development, and compassion ministry giving an analysis of how you can apply the text into everyday life, as well as, your ministry presently and in the future.

Book Review 1 - DUE OCTOBER 8, 2007 - Grigg, Viv. *Cry of the Urban Poor: Reaching the Slums of Today's Megacities*. Waynesboro, GA.: Authentic Media, 2004.

Book Review 2 - DUE OCTOBER 22, 2007 - Bakke, Ray and Jon Sharpe. *Street Signs: A New Direction in Urban Ministry*. Birmingham, AL.: New Hope Publishing, 2006.

Book Review 3 - DUE NOVEMBER 5, 2007 - Linthicum, Robert. *Transforming Power: Biblical Strategies for Making a Difference in Your Community*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2003.

Interviews (2) - DUE NOVEMBER 16, 2007: a list of Christian Community leaders in Fresno will be provided. Students are to interview two persons on the list and write up a summary of what you discovered about Community Development. Each student may team up with another person to do the interview. However, each person must write their own summary of the meeting. The interview exercise will facilitate learning through observation and dialogue. Information gathered through the interviewing process will contribute to the overall effectiveness and fulfillment of course objectives and provide data that may contribute to the student's ministry project.

Ministry Paper/Project – DUE DECEMBER 10, 2007

A 10-12 page project (content excluding cover page, bibliography, table of contents, etc.) integrating the reading, lecture, guest presentations, discussions, interviews and site visits accomplished through this course into a strategic plan for designing and implementing a Christian Community Development ministry/organization in a community that will accomplish redemption and lift in a wholistic manner (physically, spiritually, socially, and cognitively) in the lives of people living in the community. This project will include a vision strategy (mission, vision, values, and plan of implementation), a demographic summary of a community, funding plan, and timeline for the planning and launch of the Christian Community Development Organization.

**Projects that are worthy of the highest grade(s) will include reasonable community research, culture/ethnic group research, socio-economic community research, pictures, maps, diagrams, charts, etc. These items should be considered additional to the 10-12 pages of writing that is required in this assignment. Make sure that any creative tools utilized make sense to the overall presentation of your ministry project).

Format of Assignments – The preferred format for papers and projects submitted for this course is the Author-Date method (Chicago manual of Style). Assignments may be submitted via email attachment (MS Word document) or mailed. **Please note that the official manual of style for the Seminary is *Form and Style: Research Papers, Reports and Theses*, by Carole Slade, published by Houghton Mifflin, 2000.

An online version of the *SBL Handbook* is available at http://www.sbl-site.org/Publications/Publications_PublishingWithSBL.aspx (click on *Student Supplement for SBL Handbook of Style* under the “Resources” section).

Submission of Assignments:

Email – assignments may be submitted via email attachment to the instructor (sean@bridges2people.com). Upon receipt of the assignment you will receive an email confirmation. If you do not receive a confirmation email within 24 hours please call the instructor to verify receipt of your assignment.

Post Mail - Mailing Class Assignments – assignments may be submitted via U.S. mail (postmarked up to one day prior to the due date). Mail assignments to:

Sean O’Neal
2864 East Magill Avenue
Fresno, CA. 93710

Assignments submitted via U.S. Mail may be returned once graded. Students desiring to have graded assignments returned should enclose with the submission of an assignment a pre-addressed envelope of sufficient size to mail submitted work. Graded assignments which are mailed to the student will be kept confidential and mailed addressed to the student at the address provided.

Grading of late Assignments -- if you intend to decrease the grade for late assignments, you should indicate that in the syllabus. Grading criteria should be clear. I have attached a copy of a grading template. Feel free to create your own categories and state them clearly.

Class Participation: Class Participation is one of the most significant parts of the shared learning experience at MBBS. Any student who misses more than 25% of the class time in a course may have their grade reduced by a full letter grade and may be at risk for failing the course. Exceptions to this policy may be considered because of medical or family emergencies; but all exceptions must be approved by the faculty member and the Academic Dean.

Course Grading Summary:

Class Participation	10%
Interviews (paper)	15%
Critical Book Review/Reports (3 - 15% ea)	45%
Ministry Project	<u>30%</u>
	100%

Academic Policies: MBBS academic policies (as well as other school policies) are described at <http://www.mbseminary.edu/fresno/policies/>. These policies provide guidance on academic integrity and plagiarism, accommodations for disability, incomplete course work, extensions, dates for changing registration, non-discriminatory and inclusive language, appeals, grading templates, etc. Students are expected to be familiar with these policies and will be held responsible for adhering to them. If you have questions about how these policies relate to you or to a situation that you face in your studies, please speak to your professor or consult the Registrar.

****Please note:** Course evaluations are to be completed online and are due one week after the completion of the course. Official grades will not be posted until the student’s evaluation of the course is completed.

**Mennonite Brethren Biblical Seminary
Grading System**

Letter Grade	Numerical Score
A	94-100
A-	90-93
B+	87-89
B	83-86
B-	80-82
C+	77-79
C	73-76
C-	70-72
F	0-69

*Further information regarding the seminary grading system is available at <http://www.mbseminary.edu/fresno/policies/grading>.

Course Outline:

Pre in-class requirements:

Students are required to read the textbooks *Cry of the Urban Poor* by Viv Grigg and *Street Signs* by Ray Bakke and John Sharpe prior to the class sessions beginning October 8.

Fall Module Week: October 8-12

Monday October 8

8:00AM	Introductions – prayer – course overview – group interaction
9:00AM	Pre-test
9:30AM	Theology of the Poor
10:30AM	break
10:45AM	Group Activity: discussion of book- <i>Cry of the Urban Poor</i>
11:30AM	Theology of Place pt. 1
12:00PM	Lunch
1:00PM	Theology of Place pt. 2
2:30PM	Break
2:45PM	Group Activity
3:15PM	Conversation
3:45PM	Break
4:00PM	Case Study Assignment
5:00PM	Day ends

Tuesday October 9

8:00AM prayer – course review – conversation
9:00AM Model #1
9:30AM CCDA Eight Foundational Points
10:30AM break
10:45AM Model #2
11:30AM Model #3
12:00PM Lunch
1:00PM Model #4
1:30PM Guest presentation including
2:30PM Break
2:45PM Conversation / group discussion
3:45PM Break
4:00PM Final Project Instructions & Discussion
5:00PM Day ends

Wednesday October 10

8:00AM prayer – course review – conversation
9:00AM Model #5
10:00AM Theology of Person pt. 1
10:30AM break
10:45AM Theology of Person pt. 2
11:00AM Theology of People
12:00PM Lunch
1:00PM Terms – Steps and Strategic Planning
2:45PM Break
3:00PM Holistic Ministry Matrix
4:00PM Conversation / Group Discussion
5:00PM Day ends

Thursday October 11

8:00AM Ministry, Community Development, and Fresno city/area tour / site visits
5:00PM Day ends

Friday October 12

8:00AM prayer – debrief/conversation (Thursday)
9:30AM Incarnation
10:30AM break
10:45AM Guest
12:00PM Lunch
1:00PM Guest
2:30PM Break
2:45PM Conversation / group discussion
3:45PM Break
4:00PM Final Instructions & Questions & final thoughts
5:00PM Week ends

Post in-class assignments:

Book Review 2 - DUE OCTOBER 22, 2007 - Bakke, Ray and Jon Sharpe. *Street Signs: A New Direction in Urban Ministry*. Birmingham, AL.: New Hope Publishing, 2006.

Book Review 3 - DUE NOVEMBER 5, 2007 - Linthicum, Robert. *Transforming Power: Biblical Strategies for Making a Difference in Your Community*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2003.

Interviews - DUE NOVEMBER 16, 2007

Ministry Paper/Project – DUE DECEMBER 10, 2007

Bibliography

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