

PRELIMINARY SYLLABUS
MNST 6280
MOBILIZING FOR JUSTICE: METHODS AND PRACTICES OF JUSTICE
NORTH PARK THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
SOONG-CHAN RAH: NYVALL 39A / SRAH@NORHTPARK.EDU / x5237
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SPRING 2012 (3 Credit Course)
Tuesday and Thursday: 4:00 – 5:15pm

DESCRIPTION: The course will explore a variety of approaches and methodologies to Justice Ministry. We will explore the relationship of ethics and theology to community building and transformation. In part, we want to critically interrogate the relationship between the struggle for justice through the ministry of the church, and the place of hope in such a struggle. We will emphasize practical ministry skills with particular attention to “social analysis” as a tool of understanding the nature and context of ministry, and faith based community development and community organizing as approaches to social transformation towards justice. We will study how leading and teaching on justice ministry can be part of the pastoral office. The course will be committed to concrete projects of justice (visiting a number of places where work of this nature is being carried out). We will also utilize a variety of media forms to convey practical approaches to justice ministry.

OBJECTIVES:

At the end of class the student should be able to:

- Identify and discuss a variety of methods and approaches to Justice Ministries
- Articulate the theory and practice of Community Development and Organizing
- Have familiarity with methods and practices of social analysis in conjunction with theological reflection
- Articulate a Biblical/Theological Framework for Justice Ministries
- Have an ethical framework for making assessments about the role of the church in issues in the public sphere

SEMINARY LEARNING GOALS:

In addition, we will be working towards the seminary learning goals of:

- Developing a mature theological and ethical perspective to reflect and act
- Understanding of cultures in order to live and present the Gospel effectively
- Developing a clear pastoral identity
- The ability to identify, recruit, and equip laity for the ministries of the church

METHODS

- Readings and Class discussions
- Assigned papers
- Media
- Lectures

REQUIRED TEXTS:

Hays, Richard. *The Moral Vision of the New Testament* (HarperOne, 1996).

Linthicum, Robert. *Building a People of Power* (World Vision Press, 2005).

Rah, Soong-Chan. *The Next Evangelicalism* (IVP Books, 2009).

Additional readings assigned in class (available on Moodle)

REQUIREMENTS:

1. Attendance and participation in all class sessions
2. Personal integration and reflection of the reading, lecture, discussion material
3. Reading log of required readings
4. Critical analysis and reflection papers (500 words) on two (student's choice) of the required texts
5. Write two blog entries of 500-750 words
6. Final Paper/Project: Write a fully researched and documented 2,500 word paper

NOTES

The instructors reserve the right to modify the course syllabus to best accommodate the particular needs of the class.

Updated October 11, 2012