

MNST6400 Mobilizing for Justice: Methods and Practices of Justice
SUMMER 2017 (3 Credit Course) Hybrid Course (Fall Semester)
North Park Theological Seminary
Instructors: Soong-Chan Rah: srah@norhtpark.edu / 312-810-3995
Cross Purpose Staff Team and Guests

DESCRIPTION:

The course will explore a variety of approaches and methodologies to Justice Ministry situated in the urban context. We will explore the relationship of ethics and theology to community building and transformation. 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.

OBJECTIVES:

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

- Identify and discuss various methods to holistic Justice and Urban Ministries
- Understand the theory and practice of Community Development and Organizing
- Develop familiarity with social analysis in conjunction with theological reflection
- Articulate a Biblical/Theological Framework for Justice and Urban Ministries

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

REQUIRED TEXTS:

Cannon, Mae Elise. *Social Justice Handbook* (IVP Books, 2009).

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

----- . *Prophetic Lament* (IVP Books, 2015).

Additional readings assigned in class (available on Moodle)

RECOMMENDED TEXTS:

Alinsky, Saul. *Rules for Radicals* (Random House, 1971).

Alexander, Michelle. *The New Jim Crow* (The New Press, 2010).

Berger, Peter and Tom Luckmann. *The Social Construction of Reality* (Anchor, 1967)

Boff, Leonardo. *Holy Trinity, Perfect Community* (Orbis Books, 1989).

Boggs, Grace Lee. *Living for Change* (University of Minnesota Press, 1998).

Bretherton, Luke. *Christianity and Contemporary Politics* (Wiley-Blackwell, 2009).

Brueggemann, Walter. *Peace* (Chalice Press, 2001).

Cannon, Mae; Lisa Sharon Harper; Troy Jackson; and Soong-Chan Rah. *Forgive Us* (Zondervan, 2014).

Carroll R., M. Daniel. *Christians at the Border* (Baker, 2008)

Carter, J. Kameron. *Race: A Theological Account* (Oxford, 2008).

Chow, Rey. *The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism* (Columbia, 2002).

Corbett, Steve and Fikkert, Brian. *When Helping Hurts* (Moody, 2009).

Freire, Paulo. *Pedagogy of the Oppressed* (Continuum, 1999).

Gornik, Mark. *To Live in Peace* (Eerdmans, 2002).

Green, Gary and Anna Haines. *Asset Building & Community Development* (Sage, 2002).

Hauerwas, Stanley and William H. Willimon. *Resident Aliens* (Abingdon Press, 1989).

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

Heltzel, Peter Goodwin. *Jesus & Justice* (Yale University Press, 2009).

Holland, Joe and Peter Henriot. *Social Analysis* (Orbis, 1983).

Hwang, Jenny and Matt Soerens. *Welcoming the Stranger* (IVP Books, 2009).

INCITE!, *The Revolution Will Not Be Funded* (South End Press, 2007).

Jennings, Willie. *The Christian Imagination* (Yale University Press, 2010).

Linthicum, Robert. *City of God, City of Satan* (Zondervan Publishing House, 1991).

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

Marsh, Charles. *The Beloved Community* (Basic Books, 2005).

Marsh, Charles and John Perkins. *Welcoming Justice* (IVP Books, 2009).

Meeks, Wayne. *The First Urban Christians* (Yale University Press, 1983).

Miller, Vincent. *Consuming Religion* (Continuum, 2009).

Moyo, Dambisa. *Dead Aid* (Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2009).

Myers, Bryant. *Walking with the Poor* (Orbis, 1999).

Mott, Stephen. *Biblical Ethics and Social Change* (Oxford Univ Press, 1982).

Owens, Marcia and Samuel Wells. *Living Without Enemies* (IVP Books, 2011).

Rah, Soong-Chan. *Many Colors* (Moody, 2010).

----- . *Return to Justice* (Brazos, 2015).

Sherman, Amy. *Restorers of Hope* (Wipf & Stock, 2004).

Smock, Kristina. *Democracy in Action* (Columbia University Press, 2004).

Thurman, Howard. *Jesus and the Disinherited* (Beacon Press, 1976).

Villafane, Eldin. *Seek the Peace of the City* (Eerdmans, 1995).

Wallis, Jim. *God's Politics* (Harper Collins, 2005).

Wells, Samuel. *God's Companions* (Blackwell Publishing, 2006).

West, Cornel. *Race Matters* (Vintage, 1993).

Winter, Bruce. *Seek the Welfare of the City* (Eerdmans, 1994).

Wright, Christopher. *Old Testament Ethics for the People of God* (IVP Academic, 2011).

Yoder, John. *The Politics of Jesus* (Eerdmans, 1972).

Yong, Amos. *Hospitality and the Other* (Orbis, 2008).

Course Outline

AUG 24 (R)	Introduction Social Analysis of Systems Sinful Social Structures	Review Syllabus Holland & Henriot (on Canvas) REC: Berger & Luckmann
AUG 24 (R)	Historical Context of Christianity Changing Context of Christianity Cultural Captivity of Christianity	Rah, <i>Return to Justice</i> (on Canvas) Rah, <i>The Next Evangelicalism</i>
AUG 25 (F)	Racialized Context of Ministry Theology of the Kingdom The Body of Christ	REC: Jennings, <i>Christian Imagination</i> REC: Linthicum, <i>City of God</i>
AUG 25 (F)	The Liberating Spirit Theology of Lament Methods of Confrontation	Rah, <i>Prophetic Lament</i> Rah, <i>Growing Healthy...</i> (Canvas) INCITE (on Canvas)
AUG 26 (S)	Leadership in a Changing World	Cannon, <i>Social Justice Handbook</i>
AUG 30 (W)	OT Theological Frameworks for Contemporary Urban Ministry <i>Taught by Pattie Pell, MA</i> Sources: Wright, Christopher J.H. <i>Old Testament Ethics for the People of God</i> . Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 2004. Brueggemann, Walter. <i>Journey to a Common Good</i> . Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press. 2010. Assignments: Exodus 19-24 / Leviticus 19 and 25 / Deut. 24: 10-22 / Amos 5 Chapter 5 in Wright, Christopher J.H. <i>Old Testament Ethics for the People of God</i> . Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 2004. Chapter 1 in Brueggemann, Walter. <i>Journey to a Common Good</i> . Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press. 2010.	
SEP 6 (W)	Case Study: Refugees <i>Taught by Marcus Doe, MDiv</i> Sources: Doe, Marcus: <i>Catching Ricebirds</i> Assignment: Read <i>Catching Ricebirds</i>	

SEP 13 (W) Case Study: Closing the Achievement Gap
Taught by Veronica Varela & Juan Peña, MDiv

Sources:
The Art of Critical Pedagogy by Jeffrey M.R. Duncan-Andrade,
 Ernest Morrell
Pedagogy of the Oppressed by Paulo Freire
Education for Critical Consciousness by Paulo Freire
For White Folks Who Teach in the Hood by Christopher Emdin
The Teacher Wars: A History of America's Most Embattled
Profession by Dana Goldstein
 "Our Failing Schools" (TED Talk) by Geoffrey Canada
 "The Danger of Silence" (Ted Talk) by Clint Smith
 "The Problem We All Live With Part I-II" (This American Life
 Podcast)
 "Three Miles" (This American Life Podcast)
 Unfinished Business: Closing the Racial Achievement Gap in Our
 Schools by Pedro A. Noguera

Assignment: Listen to ["The Problem We All Live With Part I-II"](#)

SEP 20 (W) Case Study: Mass Incarceration
Taught by Marcus Doe, MDiv

Sources:
 Stevenson: *Just Mercy*
 Alexander: *The New Jim Crow*
 Bibas: *The Machinery of Criminal Justice*

Case Study: Christians and Immigration
Taught by Michelle Warren

Sources:
 Soerens & Hwang Yang: *Welcoming the Stranger*
 Carroll: *Christians at the Border*

SEP 27 (W) Case Study: Race and Injustice
Taught by Dr. Alvin Sanders

Source:
 Sanders: *Bridging the Diversity Gap: Leading Towards God's Multi-ethnic Kingdom*

COURSE EXPECTATIONS AND ASSIGNMENTS

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 (**DUE: Oct 13**)
4. Reflection papers on two of the required texts (**DUE: SEP 8 and SEP 22**)
5. Write two blog entries of 500-750 words (**DUE: SEP 15 and SEP 29**)
6. Final Paper: Write a fully researched and documented final paper (**DUE: Oct 13**)

A FINAL GRADE for this course will be computed according to your successful completion of the following assignments:

ASSIGNMENT I: Attendance and Participation 10 maximum points

Perfect attendance and complete class participation are expected. You will also be expected to pay attention to media reports of justice issues that we will discuss from time to time. A reading log reporting the percentage of reading completed will be turned in with your final paper.

ASSIGNMENT II: Reading Reflections 20 maximum points

Reading reflections (approximately 500 words)

- 1) Note the Author, Title, Publisher, and Date of the book. (1 pt)
- 2) List the percentage of the book completed by the due date. (1 pt)
- 3) Submit your understanding of the central thesis of the book. (2 pts)
- 4) Select a single idea/concept from the reading and respond.
 - Identify concept/idea (2 pts)
 - Give a critique/reflection/analysis on the concept (2 pts)
 - Practically apply this concept in a local church setting (2 pts)

DUE: September 8th and September 22nd

ASSIGNMENT III: Blog Entries 20 maximum points

Two blog entries (approximately 500-750 words)

1. Reflect on a current event in the news related to justice
2. Attend and reflect on a justice-oriented event in your city
 - Describe the event or incident
 - provide analysis of your experience and discuss insights gained from your participation and observation
 - offer up a summary of a key concept presented
 - offer one suggestion to apply the concept to the church

DUE: September 15th / September 29th

ASSIGNMENT IV: FINAL PAPER 50 maximum points

Write a 2,500 word (approx. 10-pages double-spaced) final research paper

- The focus of the paper will be to develop a justice ministry program for an urban church setting. The paper should integrate various learnings from the course and show:
 - o Relevant social/historical analysis of your urban context (15 pts)
 - o Theology of justice ministry appropriate for your context (15 pts)
 - o A plan of implementation for the development of ministry (15 pts)
 - o Integrates class lectures, discussions, and readings (3 pts)
 - o Shows original thought and creativity (1 point)
 - o Paper is well-written and structured (1 point)

DUE: October 13th

Grading:

At the completion of this course, you will receive a letter grade reflecting your performance in this course. Letter grades (from A – F) will be awarded according to the existing policies of North Park Theological Seminary. The final course grade will be computed according to the total number of points earned for all assignments as shown below (cf. catalog):

<u>Total Points Earned:</u>	<u>Final Grade:</u>
95-100	A
93-94	A-
91-92	B+
88-90	B
86-87	B-
84-85	C+
80-83	C
78-79	C-
76-77	D+
72-75	D
70-71	D-
69 and below	F

Disabilities Accommodations:

Students with disabilities who believe that they may need accommodations in this class are encouraged to contact the program's office (773-244-5619). Please do so as soon as possible to better ensure that such accommodations are implemented in a timely manner. For further information please review the following website:

<http://www.northpark.edu/ada>

Academic Honesty:

In keeping with our Christian heritage and commitment, North Park is committed to the highest possible ethical and moral standards. Just as we will constantly strive to live up to these high standards, we expect our students to do the same. To that end, cheating of any sort will not be tolerated. Students who are discovered cheating are subject to discipline up to and including failure of a course and expulsion. Our definition of cheating includes but is not limited to:

1. Plagiarism – the use of another's work as one's own without giving credit to the individual. This includes using materials from the internet.
2. Copying another's answers on an examination.
3. Deliberately allowing another to copy one's answers or work.
4. Signing an attendance roster for another who is not present.

For further information on this subject you may refer to the Academic Dishonesty section of the University's online catalog.

NOTES

1. The instructors reserve the right to modify the course syllabus to best accommodate the particular needs of the class.
2. Please be informed that the instructors may not check email after 9:00 pm Monday through Thursday or after 5:00 pm on Friday until Monday morning. One of the instructors (Rah) has posted offices hours during which students are welcome to come and discuss specific questions that cannot be answered in class.
3. If the student is familiar with all the texts listed in the recommended reading list, the student may suggest another that is new to the student and of personal interest with prior approval from the instructors.
4. Consider how you can best integrate the "Statement of Inclusive Language" from the North Park Theological Seminary Catalog into all your communication presentations during the course.
5. If a student has a diagnosed learning disability, please inform the instructor as soon as possible so that appropriate accommodations can be made to benefit instruction.

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Updated July 15, 2017