

MNST6400 Mobilizing for Justice: Methods and Practices of Justice
SPRING 2018 (3 Credit Course)
North Park Theological Seminary (Stateville Course)
Instructor: Soong-Chan Rah

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).
Holland, Joe and Peter Henriot. *Social Analysis* (Orbis, 1983).
Rah, Soong-Chan. *The Next Evangelicalism* (IVP Books, 2009).
----- . *Prophetic Lament* (IVP Books, 2015).

ADDITIONAL RECOMMENDED READING EXCERPTS (COPIES TO BE PROVIDED):

Berger, Peter and Thomas Luckmann. *The Social Construction of Reality* (Anchor Books, 1967).
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).
Marsh, Charles. *The Beloved Community* (Basic Books, 2005).
Moyo, Dambisa. *Dead Aid* (Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2009).

Owens, Marcia and Samuel Wells. *Living Without Enemies* (IVP Books, 2011).
Rah, Soong-Chan. *Return to Justice* (Brazos, 2015).
Sherman, Amy. *Restorers of Hope* (Wipf & Stock, 2004).
Smock, Kristina. *Democracy in Action* (Columbia University Press, 2004).
Villafane, Eldin. *The Liberating Spirit* (Eerdmans, 1993).

COURSE EXPECTATIONS AND ASSIGNMENTS

1. Attendance and participation in all class sessions
2. Personal integration and reflection of the reading, lecture, discussion material
3. Write a preliminary case study of 750 words (**DUE: Feb 5**); present in class (**TBD**)
4. Reflection papers on two of the required texts (**DUE: Mar 5 and Apr 16**)
5. Reading log of required readings (**DUE: May 7**)
6. Final Paper: Write a fully researched and documented final paper (**DUE: May 7**)

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

ASSIGNMENT I: Attendance and Participation 20 maximum points

Presence and participation are crucial to course outcomes. Come to class having done the reading and prepared to discuss material. Plan to take notes with paper/pencil or pen – no electronics at Stateville. Participation is based on the following: how you speak, how you listen, how you show up, how you read, and how you grow in the course in your listening and discussion skills. Demonstrate intellectual curiosity! We will periodically ask you to evaluate your participation and how much of the reading you have done.

ASSIGNMENT II: Case Study 20 maximum points

Approximately 750 words

1. Present a **Clarification** of the context or scenario of ministry
2. Offer key theological concepts (**Conceptualization**) applicable to the case
3. Consider potential methods of **Confrontation**

Further instruction, examples, and clarification will be provided in class.

DUE: February 5th

ASSIGNMENT III: Reading Reflections 20 max points (10 pts each)

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: March 5th and April 16th

ASSIGNMENT IV: FINAL PAPER 40 maximum points

Write a 2000-2500 word final research paper

- The focus of the paper will be to develop a justice ministry program for a specific context and scenario. The paper should integrate various learnings from the course and show:
 - o Relevant social/historical analysis of the context
 - o Theology of justice ministry appropriate to the context
 - o A plan of implementation for the development of justice ministry
 - o Integrates class lectures, discussions, and readings
 - o Shows original thought and creativity
 - o Paper is well-written and structured

DUE: May 7th

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

Course Outline (Subject to Change)

JAN 22	Introduction	Review Syllabus
JAN 29	Our Task of Justice	
FEB 5	Social Analysis of Systems Sinful Social Structures	Holland & Henriot Berger & Luckmann (excerpt)
FEB 12	Federal Holiday - NO CLASS	
FEB 19	Federal Holiday – NO CLASS	
FEB 26	Mediating Narratives Cultural Captivity of Christianity	Jennings (excerpt) Rah, <i>The Next Evangelicalism</i>
MAR 5	Historical Context of Christianity Changing Context of Christianity	Rah, <i>Return to Justice</i> (excerpt)
MAR 12	SPRING BREAK – NO CLASS	Cannon, <i>Social Justice Handbook</i>
MAR 19	Theology of the Kingdom	Linthicum (excerpt)
MAR 26	The Body of Christ	Marsh (excerpt)
APR 2	The Liberating Spirit	Villafane (excerpt)
APR 9	Theology of Lament	Rah, <i>Prophetic Lament</i>
APR 16	Methods of Confrontation	Rah, <i>Growing Healthy</i> (excerpt) Moyo (excerpt)
APR 23	Community Development	Sherman (excerpt)
APR 30	Advocacy	<i>INCITE!</i> (excerpt)
MAY 7	Community Organizing	Owens and Wells (excerpt) Smock (excerpt)

NOTES

1. The instructors reserve the right to modify the course syllabus as needed.
2. If the student is familiar with the texts listed on the reading list, the student may suggest another with prior approval from the instructor.
3. Consider how you can best integrate the "Statement of Inclusive Language" into all your communication presentations during the course.
4. If a student has a diagnosed learning disability, please inform the instructor as soon as possible so that appropriate accommodations can be made.

Harassment Policy and Title IX

Students who believe they have been harassed, discriminated against, or involved in sexual violence should contact the Dean of Students (773-244-6222) or Director of Human Resources (773-244-5601) for information about campus resources and support services, including confidential counseling services. As members of the North Park faculty, we are concerned about the well-being and development of our students, and are available to discuss any concerns. Faculty are legally obligated to share information with the University's Title IX coordinator in certain situations to help ensure that the student's safety and welfare is being addressed, consistent with the requirements of the law. These disclosures include but are not limited to reports of sexual assault, relational/domestic violence, and stalking. Please refer to North Park's Safe Community site (<http://www.northpark.edu/Campus-Life-and-Services/Safe-Community>) for contact information and further details.

Academic Accommodation

North Park Theological Seminary provides services for students with documented disabilities to ensure equal access to programs, services, facilities, and activities. Students with a disability who believe that they may need accommodations in this class are encouraged to contact Seminary Academic Services as soon as possible. If desired or necessary, discussion pertaining to documentation and accommodation can take place at another suitable location or by telephone. Further information about the American Disabilities Act Services is found at <https://www.northpark.edu/campus-life-and-services/student-success-and-wellness/disability-resources/>.

Academic Integrity

The community at North Park Theological Seminary promotes a commitment to integrity in all areas of life. In the case of breaches of academic honesty such as plagiarism or cheating on examinations, the matter will be reported to the Dean of Faculty. Students should be advised that normally in cases of academic dishonesty or plagiarism the penalty can range from receiving a failing grade for the assignment to expulsion from the Seminary. For the full policy, please see the seminary academic catalog.