**Draft:**

Asian Theological Seminary

1st Sem SY 2011-2012

THEOLOGY AND THEORY OF URBAN REALITY

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Mondays 2:00-5:00 PM

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**Course Description**

This course introduces the students to tools being offered by social sciences (e.g. class,structural, gender, political economy) and theological reflection process that will equip them to systematically understand urban reality and its relation to their faith. On the whole, the course seeks to put in motion a continuing dialogue between two processes- theology and social science, in a mutually enriching interaction.

The over-all goal is to prepare students for proposing community transformation processes in future courses and in their own ministry context.

One of the assumptions of the course is that the integration of disciplined social observation and the prophetic vision is at least as old as Amos and the 8th century Prophets. Theological wisdom does not usually come in a vacuum but in the fray. The prophetic sensibilities emerge from the tension generated by the encounter between a vision of the just God and the experience of failed justice around us.

**Course Methodology**

Specifically, the course methodology will consist of:

* Classroom discussions which include action reflection from primary and secondary sources, field exposure, own experience
* Case study of urban poverty that will demonstrate application of perspectives, tools of analysis and theology
* Dialogues with practitioners/knowledgeable persons (faith and non-faith based)

**Course Objectives**

At the end of the course, students would have:

* demonstrated sound application of certain social analytical tools and theological reflection methods for understanding urban reality
* articulated a vision of urban transformative development that integrates social and biblical perspectives
* articulated the implications of the course experience to his/her spirituality and life commitments

**Course Learning Outcomes**

* Analyzed urban poor related issues in a manner that demonstrates application of basic research skills, perspectives, tools of analysis and biblical/theological reflection and provided general recommendations on how to address said issues in a more transformative manner.
* Articulated a vision of transformed urban community and how the work towards it implies on missions and spirituality
* Articulated a vision of transformed social reality that embodies the Kingdom values/ principles and the proposed strategies with which to attain it. Such includes the role of the Christian community in building said social reality

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| **Classroom Session** | **TOPIC/ THEME** |
| 1st -2nd | Orientation  Appreciating the value of perspective in understanding urban reality  The role of engaged social understanding in exercising prophetic role and articulating God’s will e.g. Amos and Leviticus |
| 3rd -5th | Urbanization  Ref: Beal  Global Situation (urbanization)  Ref: UNDP Human Development Report 1999 (globalization with a human face)  Philippine Situation  Ref:  Africa, including link: Summary: Arroyo Presidency’s Economic Performance  -The Philippine Poverty Situation: Beyond Poverty Measures  -Molino, voices from the urban setting  -Notes on Poverty in the Philippines (2002)  Peace and Conflict and its Social Cost  Ref: – Human Development network  Tools for analyzing causes and elements of Urban Poverty   * historical analysis * class analysis * structural analysis * gender analysis * urban political ecology * human rights standard   Theological reflections on the use of these tools  Ref:  Tools of Analysis – Ferrer  Historical Analysis (Political Economy)– Bernstein  Gender – Dionisio; PhilDHRRA  Class –Wright, 1994; 1999  Urban Ecosystem- United Nations University/Inst of Advanced Studies; Magnaghi, pp 1- 21; Sachs |
| “ 6th -11th | Philippine Urban Poverty Related Issues -Applying some basic research skills and tools of analysis to urban poverty related issues.  Special Topics  Cultura/Ideological (Identity construction)- Karaos; Jocano  Church and Religion in Philippine Society  Policy making processes that impact on urban poor communities  For reporting  Globalization and Urban Poverty  Foreign Debt and Urban Poverty  Rural Poverty and Urban Poverty (and the role of lack of agrarian reform)  Social exclusion and social stigma against urban poor and exclusion within urban poor communities  Gender issues  Social services – health, education, legal,  Housing and Land security  Income and Livelihood security  Food and water security |
|  | Field Visit (preferably Saturday whole day) |
| 12th | Generating social and theological insights on urban reality and spirituality  Drawing up a vision of a transformed future  Issues – church traditions that hinder social engagements (eschatology, ecclesiology, etc) and how to help transform them -Sabanal |
| 13th | Integration and towards a theology of transformation  Ref: Padilla, Myers |
| 14th | Final Examination |

**Learning and Grading Basis**

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| Class Participation and Attendance (max of 3 absences only) |  |
| Study of major issue with case demonstrating it  To be orally presented, demonstrating  application of tools of analysis and biblical insights and submitted in a final paper form |  |
| Final integration paper/Exam |  |

**Class Project:**

The class will sponsor or co-sponsor public forum on a choice topic

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For other sources of data on Philippine poverty-related issues –may refer to IBON publications