**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  | OrientationAppreciating the value of perspective in understanding urban realityThe role of engaged social understanding in exercising prophetic role and articulating God’s will e.g. Amos and Leviticus  |
| 3rd -5th | Urbanization Ref: BealGlobal Situation (urbanization)Ref: UNDP Human Development Report 1999 (globalization with a human face)Philippine SituationRef: 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 networkTools 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 – FerrerHistorical Analysis (Political Economy)– BernsteinGender – Dionisio; PhilDHRRAClass –Wright, 1994; 1999Urban 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 TopicsCultura/Ideological (Identity construction)- Karaos; JocanoChurch and Religion in Philippine SocietyPolicy making processes that impact on urban poor communitiesFor reportingGlobalization and Urban PovertyForeign Debt and Urban PovertyRural 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 communitiesGender issuesSocial services – health, education, legal, Housing and Land securityIncome and Livelihood securityFood and water security  |
|  | Field Visit (preferably Saturday whole day)  |
| 12th  | Generating social and theological insights on urban reality and spiritualityDrawing up a vision of a transformed futureIssues – 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