**Course Designer:** Hruda Ranjan Lohora **Credit Hours**: 3

**TUL 520 URBAN SPIRITUALITY**

This course is designed to make the learners know the significance of urban spirituality and develop a personal spiritual formation to be able to reflect spirituality among the urban migrants, elites and poor through their incarnation into the community. It deals with urban poor spirituality, spirituality from the Holy Spirit, classical spirituality, self-awareness & dealing with pain, spirituality and marriage. It includes a personal account of character, calling, and giftedness and addresses human development and family life in the inner city context with an aim to strengthen personal responsibility and interpersonal respect among the urban community. A comparative study on biblical spirituality and urban spirituality is carried out so as to emphasize biblical priority for spiritual formation.

This course reflects on building an intimate relationship with God in the context of the migrant poverty, the city and indigenous culture, knowing the appropriate use and application of spiritual disciplines. Special emphasis is given in this course to teach spiritual formation as how they further cultivate the spirituality in the lives of the people in the city, especially in slums. It is expected that the trainees will understand the value of stopping old habits and embracing Christ-like nature and becoming an example of Christ in the Church and urban society.

As far as the research work is concerned, the students are asked to rely on many ways of gathering information from the respondents, especially, through observation, in-depth interview, field notes, reflexive journals, books, and analysis of documents and materials, etc. As far as the interview is concerned, they are asked to stick to the formats of face-to-face and telephonic conversation. To gain first hand information about the urban spirituality, a survey questionnaire method and a participatory observation method are suggested. They are further advised to rely on Case Study of qualitative research with a historical approach, so as to discuss the past and present situation of the urban spirituality and reflect and provide possible answers to the current issues.

**I. OUTCOMES PROFILE**

On the basis of the trainees’ competency, they

1. Acquire an understanding of differentiations between biblical spirituality and urban spirituality to be able to embrace the biblical foundation for a personal spiritual reformation.
2. Know the importance of building an intimate relationship with God in the urban context of spirituality so as to be solid in their faith in Jesus Christ, the son of God.
3. Become aware of the importance for personal spiritual formation to be a role model in the urban community in which they live and influence the community with their transformed life as a transformational leader.
4. Become aware of the need of building interpersonal respect among the community through the incarnational approach.
5. Reflect Christ-like character to the people of other faith in the urban community to be able to turn them towards Jesus Christ for their salvation.
6. Promote importance of living a life like Christ through their incarnational approach in the urban community so as to witness a societal transformation.

**II. LEARNING OBJECTIVES**

After the completion of the course, the trainees will

**Cognitive (Know)**

1. Understand the Biblical framework of the work of the Holy Spirit and various styles of spirituality from a holistic and contextual perspective with special knowledge on the spirituality in the slum community.
2. Know the importance of meditating God’s Word daily with prayer and fasting to be able to encounter and respond to spiritual conflict being emerged in the urban community owing to various reasons in matters of urbanism, religion, and culture.
3. Appreciate the role of the Holy Spirit in the spiritual formation of an individual or community, and thus, recognize the gifts of the Holy Spirit as vital for spiritual development and ministerial growth.

**Affective (Be)**

1. Hear and discern the voice of God through constant communion with God and experience His presence in their lives and ministerial filed witnessing the supernatural work of the Holy Spirit wrought in their own lives and ministries.
2. Move in the power of the Holy Spirit acquiring and exercising their spiritual gifts for the well-being of the Church and her ministries among urban community, and thereby, community transformation and Church growth.
3. Continue building an intimate relationship with God to be able to grow with spiritual vitality and be reflective to the people of other faith dwelling in the city.

**Psycho-Motor Skills**

1. Develop a Christ centered lifestyle and ideals to be progressive in the community, and determine for spiritual potentiality and growth exercising spiritual disciplines in an ongoing relationship with God and a human spiritual mentor.
2. Witness the healing and miracles being wrought by God in the community after being exercised the ministerial gifts as an evidence of God’s presence in the urban poor community to have their faith in the Lord steadfast.
3. Become skilful in handling conflicts and issues in areas of family, psychological, emotional and spiritual and demonstrate spiritual maturity and potential ability as a biblical counselor in the urban Church and community.
4. Integrate academic and professional foundations around a center of spiritual maturity in Christ and practice the appropriate spiritual vitalities in a community setup encouraging a contemplative approach to life.
5. Examine traditional Christian practices in the light of a commitment to social justice identifying core idols and life patterns needing repentance, spiritual healing, and transformation to nurture a “rule of life” that can sustain one’s witness within slum environments.

**III. COURSE OUTLINE**

1. **Understanding Spirituality from Biblical Perspective:** God’s demand of holiness, spirituality and moral living in the Old Testament and in the New Testament. Men and women of God in the Bible set forth an example of spirituality and moral living. The Apostles of Jesus Christ witnessed the supernatural act of God through the movement of the Holy Spirit.
2. **Understanding Spirituality from Historical Perspective:** Life of men and women of God down through the centuries. The life and ministries of the Church down from the beginning until today.
3. **Understanding Spirituality from Religious Perspective:** Spirituality in Hinduism, Spirituality in Buddhism, Spirituality in Sikhism, Spirituality in Christianity, Spirituality in Jainism, Spirituality in Judaism, and Spirituality in Islam.
4. **Multifaceted Spirituality:** Spirituality & Kingdom of God, Spirituality & Christian Ethics, Spirituality & Marriage, Urban Poor Spirituality & Classical Spirituality, Spirituality & Pentecostalism, Spirituality & Family, Spirituality & Psychology, Spirituality & Sociology, Spirituality & Christian Character, Spirituality & Human Cultures, Spirituality & Holiness, and Spirituality & Christian Faith & Practice.
5. **Appropriation of Spirituality in a Community Setting:** Spirituality and its relationship to faith & Practice in the urban context of India, Spirituality and its relationship with Character & Integrity, Spirituality & Urban Lifestyle, Spirituality and its relationship with power encounter & Healing, Spirituality & its relationship with Incarnational Ministry.

**IV. LEARNING ACTIVITIES**

1. **Class Lectures** : Minimum 30 hours of teaching in the classroom.
2. **Tutorials**  :Minimum 5 hours outside classroom
3. **Group Discussion and Interaction** : Minimum 10 hours in/outside classroom

*Proposed themes for Discussion:* Spirituality and its relationship with Character & Integrity, Spirituality & Urban Lifestyle, Spirituality and its relationship with power encounter & Healing, Spirituality & its relationship with Incarnational Ministry, and etc.

1. **Modular/Seminar Papers:** Minimum 5 class hours for paper presentation with three seminar papers reports of 500 words each.

***Proposed Topic*:** Spirituality in Hinduism, Spirituality in Buddhism, Spirituality in Sikhism, Spirituality in Christianity, Spirituality in Jainism, Spirituality in Judaism, and Spirituality in Islam and etc.

1. **Interaction with the Mission Practitioners:** Invite/interview at least two Mission Practitioners working in the city among the Urban Community, especially in the slum areas. Find out the field reality of the city- what are the challenges they are facing? How are they overcoming the challenges? What are the strategies they are applying?
2. **Book Review:** Any two of the books prescribed in the mandatory reading books.
3. **Course Paper:** Each student should write one course paper of 2000 words on any one of the topics/questions given below:
4. A Comparative study on Spirituality and Kingdom of God.
5. A Comparative study on Spirituality and Christian Ethics.
6. A Comparative study on Spirituality and Marriage.
7. A Comparative study on Spirituality & Pentecostalism.
8. **Character and Spiritual Development:** Each Student will write a confessional statement of 500 words.

Each learner will interview at least two urban evangelists working among the slums and find out their failures/success in their ministerial journey. Write the lessons that you have learnt in this interaction for your spiritual and ministerial life and the change that it has produced in your commitment for doing mission in the context.

1. **Research Work or Practical Input Report:** Each student to write two reports of 1000 words each. Approach two different pastors and discuss with them on the following Socio-cultural issues as how they are affected by Urban Culture, and submit a report for evaluation:
2. Spirituality in the Family
3. Spirituality in Psychology
4. Spirituality in Sociology
5. Spirituality in Christian Character
6. Spirituality in Holiness
7. **Feedback/Units Test:** The students are required to write two unit tests of 30 minutes duration for 25 marks each to be able to assess students’ learning updates.
8. **Library & Self Study:** MITS has a library opened for almost 8 hours during day and 2 hours at night. Students are required to use as much as they can in reading and writing part of their assignments to gain competence in the course.
9. **Final Examination:** At the end of the course, the final exam for 3 hours for 100 marks is conducted as a feedback of the course they are taught to assess their learning.
10. **Project Work/Mini Thesis:** This is a post-seminar assignment for students to carry out an investigation on any one of the following topics and submit a project report of 10000 words:
11. The Impact of modern spirituality on Human Cultures with special reference to Urbanism.
12. The Importance of biblical spirituality for urban community with special reference to Christian Faith & Practice
13. Evaluate realistically classical spirituality from biblical Perspective and Its implications to urban poor community.

**V. ASSESSMENT:** After the completion of the course, both the teachers and students are evaluated in terms of students’ learning outcome keeping in mind the objectives of both the course and the School seriously.

**VI. MANDATORY READINGS**

Bessenecker, Scott. 2005. *Quest for Hope in the Slum Community: A Global Urban Reader.*

Waynesbora, GA: World Vision.

Boa, Kenneth . Conformed to His Image: Biblical and Practical approaches to Spiritual

Formation.

Greenway, Roger S. 1997. *Discipling the City: A Comprehensive Approach to Urban Ministry.*

Eugene, OR: WS Publishers.

Grigg, Viv. 2009. *The Spirit of Christ and the Post-Modern City.* Lexington: Emeth Press.

Mumford, Lewis. 1961. *The City in History*. New York: H.B. Jovanvich.

McDowell, Stephen and Mark Beliles. 2008. *Liberating the Nations: Biblical principles of*

*Government, Education, Economics and Politics.* Bangalore: CFCC.

**VII. GRADING SYSTEM**

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| **Division** | **Class** | **Grade** | **GPA** | **Percentage** |
| First Class | DistinctionExcellentSuperior | A+AA- | 4.34.03.7 | 80% and above75-79 %70-74 % |
| Second Class | Very GoodGoodSatisfactory | B+BB- | 3.33.02.7 | 65-69 %60-64 %55-59 % |
| Third Class | ReasonableMeagerPoor | C+CC- | 2.32.01.7 | 50-54 %45-49 %40-44 % |
| Failure | Inadequate | F | 0.0 | 0-39 % |

**(30 % Class Lectures, 30 % Library works, and 40 % field works)**

**VIII. BIBLIOGRAPHY**

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*Tan*

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Bassan, David and Russel Mask. 2005. *Christian Microenterprise development: An Introduction.*

Waynesbora, GA: Regnum.

Berger, Peter L. et al. 1973. *The Homeless Mind: Modernization and Consciousness*. New York: Random House.

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Formation.

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Easternly, William. 2002. *The Elusive Quest for Growth: Economists’ Adventures and*

*Misadventures in the Topics.* London: MIT Press.

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Gordon, Wayne. 1984. *Who is My Neighbor?* California: Gospel Light.

Gordon, Wayne L. and Randall Frame. 1995. *Real Hope in Chicago: The Incredible Story of*

*How the Gospel is Transforming a Chicago Neighborhood.* Grand Rapids: Zondervan.

Greenway, Roger S. 1997. *Discipling the City: A Comprehensive Approach to Urban Ministry.*

Eugene, OR: WS Publishers.

Grigg, Viv. 2009. *The Spirit of Christ and the Post-Modern City.* Lexington: Emeth Press.

Hancke, Frans. 2007. *We are the Plan: The Church with a Difference Makes a Difference.*

Bangalore: CFCC.

Hanks, Thomas D. 2000. *God so Loved the Third World: The Biblical Vocabulary of*

*Oppression.*Oregon: Wipf and stock Publishers.

Jongeneel, Jan A.B. 2011. *Jesus in World History.* Bangalore: CFCC.

Kalliatha, Antony and Francis Gonsalves. 2009. *Church’s Engagement in Civil Society: A New*

*Way of being Christian in India Today.* Bangalore: Asian trading Co.

Mangalwadi, Vishal. 2011. *The Book that Made your World.* Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

Manokaran, J.N.2005. *Christ and cities.* Chennai: Mission Educational Books.

McDowell, Stephen and Mark Beliles. 2008. *Liberating the Nations: Biblical principles of*

*Government, Education, Economics and Politics.* Bangalore: CFCC.

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Neuwirth, Robert. 2005. *Shadow Cities: A Billion Squatters-A New Urban World.* New York:

Routledge.

Parappally, Jacob and Antony Kalliath. 2010. *Theology of Economics in the Globalized World:*

*Indian Approaches.* Bangalore: Asian Trading Co.

Rynner, Terrance J. 2008. *Gandhi and Jesus.* Bangalore: Asian Tradition Co.

Ro, Bong Rin. Ed. 1989. *Urban Ministry in Asia.* Taiwan: ATA.

Grenz, Stanley. 1996. *Created for Community*. Wheaton: Victor Books.

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Veeraraj, Anand. 2006. *Green History of Religion.* Bangalore: CFCC.