Rich,

Your work, as always, is brilliantly done in a detailed manner to accomplish the goal. There are a few details noted on the syllabus, very minor.

Then, I have kept asking for dialogue during the process of the course development, because of a niggle that this might get defined too narrowly. Perhaps from below there are some modifications you can make.

The definition in the common understandings that we need to work towards (even though this is not yet the APU definition) is:

*Students apply analytic frameworks and practical skills to an investigation of a specific issue on behalf of a church movement or community organization that involves local residents in specific transformation efforts. Research methods are taught and used to gather and organize pertinent information, culminating in the writing and oral presentation of a Professional Report* (This may be replaced with a thesis if required be some accrediting bodies) (This needs updating)

Maybe this could be included in your expanded outline – or not.

The following would at least be expected by our partners to have any credibility. A Masters thesis round the world generally requires:

1. One semester’s work of training in Urban Research Methods

* (Much of this we are covering course by course) List the research methods covered in each of the prior courses
  + TUL500 Literature review
  + TUL560 annotated bibliography
  + TUL560 participant observer processes ?? not well developed
  + TUL630 interviewing processes – not well developed, perhaps in your other internships??
  + TUL630 ABCD analysis
  + TUL ???? action-reflection research processes
  + TUL620 use of story-telling consultations,
  + TUL520 harvest field/harvest force analyses,
  + Presentations
    - TUL620 publishing processes
    - TUL500 funding proposal
    - TUL630 Presentation to community leaders
  + etc
* Review these and extend the theoretical basis where necessary. E.g. interviewing techniques have not been well defined/developed.
* Identify which other significant urban methods have not been covered and include training in them

2. Thesis Proposal

After the 2nd semester on the field, students need to define a thesis topic that will integrate course work from a number of courses. There needs to be some material that assists them with this process – (partners have worked on this in depth, so they should have materials). (With this cohort we are behind the ape-ball, so this has not been done and needs to be done within the 2 semesters allotted for the thesis – the other schools require this in the first semester but it is too early.)

3. As we are building on action-reflection oriented research, (I spent some years perfecting techniques in several cycles of this with my doctorate and the expression of what you have developed doesn’t feel like it leads to a cyclical set of outcomes). It requires within the six months

* some baseline data
* some action activities
* these result in a new set of variables.
* These new variables become the basis for prediction of a two year plan of action beyond the degree - for the individual , organization or wider movement.

4. Demonstrated integration: It should integrate some of the following from the courses in the degree (needs to be in the goals??):

* A significant underlying theological and theoretical development framework from *TUL500 Writings Reign and Reality, TUL540 Urban Reality, and TUL630 Community Transformation*. (If it is a thesis, it will have heavier focus on this theoretical side).
* An analysis of present and predicted spiritually sustainable processes from *TUL520 Urban Spirituality*,
* a linkage to multiplying church growth from *TUL530 Building Faith Communities*
* Specific research in one area of a socio-economic engagement likely linked to an NGO from one of the five NGO internships *TUL550, 555, 560, 650, 655*, (This is what you have designed).
* Demonstration of how this feeds into the expansion of a wider movement based on principles in *TUL620 Movement Leadership*
* A business plan and funding plan (future) or analysis (present) based on *TUL640 Entrepreneurial and Organizational Leadership*. This is ideally a set of analysis and of forward projections, either for the organization, the movement, or the individual students future or some aspect of these. (If it is a project it will result in an attached 1-2 page Project Proposal for a funder, backed by these analyses, with the expectation that it will be funded. This aspect should be reviewed by a businessman prior to final presentations, or ideally be supervised by a businessman – TUL640 may be running concurrently with the thesis, so this aspect may just come together simply).

These may not jive exactly with your thinking, but I hope reflection on them will lead to some refinement .