

ASSEMBLIES OF GOD THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

<http://www.agts.edu>

in cooperation with the

URBAN TRAINING INSTITUTE OF THE SOUTHWEST

<http://www.utisouthwest.org>

**PTHE 640 TRANSFORMATIONAL MINISTRY IN EMERGING CULTURE
(3 Credit Hours)**

July 19-22, 2005

Dallas, Texas

Earl G. Creps, Ph.D., D.Min.

<http://www.agts.edu/faculty/creps.html>

1-800-467-AGTS

ecreps@agts.edu

COURSE SYLLABUS

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This conference-based course explores the potential of Christian ministry as an agency of transformation in rapidly morphing urban communities. The focus is on learning to discern God-given transformational opportunities in local contexts and to develop strategies for cooperating with God's activity in these settings.

CONFERENCE INFORMATION

The *Transforming Communities* conference is hosted by the Urban Training Institute of the Southwest. Specific information on conference registration, housing, and schedule can be accessed online at: <http://www.utisouthwest.org>

COURSE SCHEDULE

The conference/course begins at noon on Tuesday, July 19 and ends at noon on Friday July 22, 2005.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

The course is an arena for personal growth of several kinds:

- *Character development:* **humbling** ourselves as the Spirit uses the twin instruments of culture and ministry to form greater dependence on God.

- *Cultural exegesis*: **interpreting** major forms of cultural influence that are creating the context in which the Christian gospel must be communicated.
- *Theological reflection*: **hearing** culture posing critical theological questions that call for reflective skills that are true both to Scripture *and* context.
- *Personal reframing*: **seeing** personal and corporate ministry as an agency of community transformation rather than a collection of static roles and functions.
- *Community formation*: **relating** to other believers involved in cooperative transformational efforts that emphasize the unity of the body of Christ
- *Ministry enhancement*: **discerning** opportunities to cooperate with the Spirit in the transformation of our own communities.
- *Ongoing growth*: **equipping** with self-sustaining skills that can inform all of the objectives above during future ministry.

COURSE READING OPTIONS

Anderson, David. *Multi-Cultural Ministry: Finding Your Church's Unique Rhythm*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2004. (208 pages)

Backman, Richard. *Bible and Mission: Christian Witness in a Postmodern World*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2004. (128 pages)

Bakke, Ray. *A Theology As Big As the City*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity, 1997. (240 pages)

_____. *The Urban Christian: Effective Ministry in Today's Urban World*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity, 1987. (200 pages)

Bandy, Thomas G. *Fragile Hope: Your Church in 2020*. Easum-Bandy Associates, 2002.

Barna, George and Henry R. Jackson. *High-Impact African American Churches*. Regal, 2004. (268 pages)

Blount, Brian K. and Leona Tubbs, eds. *Making Room at the Table: An Invitation to Multicultural Worship*. Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox Press, 2000.

Bolsinger, Tod. *It Takes Church to Raise a Christian: How the Community of God Transforms Lives*. Brazos, 2004 (224 pages)

Clapp, Rodney. *A Peculiar People: The Church as Culture in a Post-Christian Society*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 1996. (248 pages)

Conn, Harvey M. and Manuel Ortiz, eds. *The Urban Face of Mission: Ministering the Gospel in a Diverse and Changing World*. P & R Publishing, 2002. (375 pages)

_____. *Urban Ministry: The Kingdom, the City, and the People of God*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity, 2001. (527 pages)

Corbitt, J. Nathan and Vivian Nix-Early. *Taking It to the Streets: Using the Arts to Transform Your Community*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2003. (288 pages)

Dear, Michael J. *The Postmodern Urban Condition*. Oxford: Blackwell, 2000. (250 pages)

Edington, Howard. *Downtown Church: The Heart of the City*. Abingdon Press, 1996. (157 pages)

Frost, Michael. *The Shaping of Things to Come: Innovation and Mission for the 21st Century Church*. Hendrickson, 2003. (250 pages)

Harris, James Henry. *The Courage to Lead: Leadership in the African American Urban Church*. Rowan and Littlefield, 2002. (225 pages)

Hunter, George. *Radical Outreach: Recovery of Apostolic Ministry and Evangelism*. Nashville: Abingdon, 2003. (208 pages)

Kimball, Dan. *Emerging Worship: Creating Worship Gatherings for New Generations*. El Cajon, Ca.: emergentYS, 2004. (238 pages)

Kretzmann, John P. *Building Communities from the Inside Out: A Path to Finding and Mobilizing a Community's Assets*. ACTA Publications, 1997. (376 pages)

Lewis, Robert. *The Church of Irresistible Influence*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2001. (224 pages)

Lingenfelter, Sherwood G. *Transforming Culture: A Challenge for Christian Missions*. 2nd ed. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 1999. (190 pages)

_____. *Agents of Transformation: A Guide for Effective Cross-Cultural Ministry*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1996. (282 pages)

Linthicum, Robert. *Transforming Power: Biblical Strategies for Making a Difference in Your Community*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 2003. (204 pages)

Mattessich, Paul. *Community Building, What Makes It Work?: A Review of Factors Influencing Successful Community Building*. Amherst H. Wilder Foundation, 1997. (102 pages)

- McNeal, Reggie. *The Present Future: Six Tough Questions for the Church*. San Francisco: Jossey- Bass, 2003. (151 pages)
- Nathan, Rich. *Who Is My Enemy?: Welcoming People the Church Rejects*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2002. (288 pages)
- Nixon, Paul D. *Fling Open the Doors: Giving the Church Away to the Community*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2002.
- Ortiz, Manuel. *One New People: Models for Developing a Multiethnic Church*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity, 1996. (158 pages)
- Perkins, John, ed. *Restoring At-Risk Communities: Doing It Together, Doing It Right*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1995. (266 pages)
- _____. *Beyond Charity: The Call to Christian Community Development*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1993. (192 pages)
- Robinson, John. *Invading Secular Space: Strategies for Tomorrow's Church*. Kregel Publications, 2004. (224 pages)
- Romanowski, William D. *Eyes Wide Open: Looking for God in Popular Culture*. Grand Rapids: Brazos, 2001. (171 pages)
- Roxburgh, Alan. *Crossing the Bridge: Church Leadership in a Time of Change*. Precept Group, 2000. (161 pages) [This is out of print, so look for it used online.]
- Rusaw, Rick, et al. *The Externally Focused Church*. Group, 2004. (224 pages)
- Schmidt, Alvin J. *Under the Influence: How Christianity Transformed Civilization*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2001.
- Sider, Ronald J. *Churches that Make a Difference; Reaching Your Community with Good News and Good Works*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2002. (334 pages)
- Stetzer, Ed. *Planting New Churches in a Postmodern Age*. Nashville: Broadman and Holman, 2003. (384 pages)
- Sweet, Leonard, ed. *The Church in Emerging Culture: Five Views*. El Cajon, Ca.: emergentYS, 2003. (263 pages)
- Villafane, Eldin. *Transforming the City : Reframing Education for Urban Ministry*. Grand Rapids : Eerdmans, 2001. (222 pages)
- White, Randy. *Journey to the Center of the City : Making a Difference in an Urban Neighborhood*. Downers Grove : InterVarsity, 1996. (143 pages)

Yancey, George A. *One Body, One Spirit : Principles of Successful Multi-Racial Churches*. Downers Grove : InterVarsity Press, 2003. (180 pages)

Yoder, John H., et al, eds. *Authentic Transformation: A New Vision for Christ and Culture*. Nashville: Abingdon, 1996.

COURSE BIBLIOGRAPHY

Emerging Church/Emerging Culture: A Select Resource List is available at my AGTS faculty web page. A downloadable pdf version is also available there.

http://www.agts.edu/faculty/faculty_publications/bibliographies/creps_bibliography/index.html

The free Acrobat reader required to read pdf files is available at:

<http://www.adobe.com/products/acrobat/readstep.html>

COURSE OUTLINE

Tues., July 19 *Urban Church and Ministry Leadership teams*

Wed., July 20 *Emerging Culture*

Thus., July 21 *Ministry Models and Transformational Leadership*

Fri., July 22 *Transformational Congregations*

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. Session:

- a. *Attendance*: at all conference sessions is required.
- b. *Participation*: in all conference discussions, exercises, and field trips is required.

3. Post-Session:

- a. *Read*: 1250 pages from the Course Reading Options list. No books read previously should be counted toward the course reading requirement. Submit a report on your reading with your post-session projects. The report should consist simply of the percentage of the reading you have completed by the project submission deadline of **October 22, 2005**. The percentage of reading completed will be multiplied by 100 points.
- b. *Reading Reflection paper*: write 5-7 pages summarizing the key ideas from the pre-course reading that you found most important, disturbing, and/or enlightening. Synthesize the key arguments briefly and then reflect on how they

apply to your present or future ministry context. This paper is due with the post-session projects on **October 22, 2005**, and is worth 100 points.

- b. *Field research journal and paper*: Keep a written journal of the visits to ministry sites during the conference. The journal is worth 100 points and is to be turned in with other post-session assignments. Write a 7-10 page response to our field experiences integrating personal journals, course readings, class sessions, and personal reflection. The purpose of the paper is to use the experience to reflect on the nature of today's urban culture, the ministry that will be needed to reach it, and the specific implications for your ministry. 200 points are available for this paper. **Due date: October 22, 2005.**
- c. Choose *one* of the following options (300 points): **Due date: October 22, 2005.**
- 1) *Produce a multi-media documentary*: on some significant feature of urban culture and/or the ministry that is rising up to engage it. Examples could include documenting a non-traditional local church in-depth, surveying and evaluating significant internet ministries, on-the-street interviews with citizens of urban culture, sampling various preaching styles in non-traditional worship services, comparing urban ministries, etc. Documentaries must be multi-media in format and approximately 10 minutes in length.
 - 2) *Write a scenario*: depicting the development of a relatively new and significant cultural force operating in the urban context, or a new ministry that addresses transformational issues. Examples could include a plan for church planting, the establishment of a web-based ministry, creating a ministry to urban citizens within an existing church, etc. Write a 10-page paper that presents your scenario in a credible, specific way.
 - 3) *Write an in-depth reading reflection*: read an additional book from the Course Reading Options list and write a 10-page paper that outlines the author's central thesis and responds to it in terms of your ministry context. This is to be a high-quality reflective essay, not a library research assignment, and must feature specific applications to your ministry context and or your theology of ministry.
 - 4) *Devise a self-development plan*: write a 10-page paper detailing your plan for developing the skills for ministry in an urban culture. This should include background research, personal growth, training, skill enhancements sought, implementation challenges, evaluation methods, and a timeline.
 - 5) *Create sermons*: using insights gained from the class, write two sermons of significant length designed to reach an urban audience. *Do not recycle old messages!* You may do either a manuscript, or a very, very detailed outline.

While all sermons must be turned in hard copy, they may be accompanied by audiocassette and/or media support (e.g., PowerPoint, video clips, etc.) If you speak without notes, an audiocassette is required.

- 6) *Write a research paper*: choose a major theme related to the course and write a 10-page research paper. The paper should identify and reflect upon key ideas related to the topic, report on some of the major literature in the area, and apply conclusions to your ministry context. Supporting footnotes and a 15-item bibliography are required.
- 7) *Report on internet ministries*: research internet-based models of urban ministry and prepare a 10-page paper on your findings. The presentation should include a brief review of the literature, descriptions of the various models, web links, and other key features. Draw conclusions about their use of the internet itself, and the application (if any) of their ministry model to your own (i.e., what you learned from them that could be applied in your context).
- 8) *Design a multimedia project*: using the course as a starting point, develop a brief multimedia (Web-based, PowerPoint, etc.) presentation that would accomplish either of two goals: making transformational urban ministry comprehensible to the mainstream church, or, making the gospel comprehensible to a specific urban audience.
- 9) *Propose a self-designed project*: every student has the option of proposing one or more Self-Designed credit projects that relate specifically to a ministry or research interest relevant to the course subject matter. These projects must be approved in advance by the professor.

All written assignments are to be typed, double-spaced, represent high-quality, original, graduate-level work, and follow the *Turabian* style manual, 6th edition.

All assignments can be emailed to the professor (ecreps@agts.edu) with a title page that includes your name, address, phone and email, course number, title, and site.

Due date: all post-session assignments must be emailed or postmarked no later than October 22, 2005. Grades for late work will be lowered by one letter grade for each week by which the project exceeds this deadline.

(Note: the participant will be charged a \$30 change-of-grade fee if work is turned in after the due date stipulated on the syllabus, even if permission has been given by the instructor.)

GRADING PROCEDURE**Points**

Required Reading Credit Report	100
Reading Reflection Paper	100
Field Research Journal	100
Field Research Journal and Reflection Paper	300
Post-Session Project Option	400
TOTAL POINTS AVAILABLE:	<u>1000</u>

AGTS Grading Scale

Publishable = A+
100% - 94% = A
93% - 90% = A-
89% - 87% = B+
86% - 84% = B
83% - 80% = B-
79% - 77% = C+
76% - 74% = C
73% - 70% = C-
69% - 67% = D+
66% - 64% = D
63% - 60% = D-

SPECIFIC DATA

Course syllabus prepared by Earl Creps, June 2005.