

Loyola University of Chicago
Institute of Pastoral Studies
IPS 532 Social Context: Ministry in the City
Mondays 7.00 pm-9.30 pm
Lewis Towers, Room 508
Instructor: Kazi Joshua (kjoshua@imsa.edu)
August 25-December 1, 2008

“The Spirit of Lord is Upon me, because he has anointed me to preach god news to the poor, he has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord” (Luke 4: 18-19, RSV)

“Is this not the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of wickedness, to undo the thongs of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free and to break every yoke? Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover him/her, and not hide yourself from your own flesh?” (Isaiah 58: 6-7, RSV)

“...The crucial question is whether social and environmental movements can win sufficient support from among the victims and their sympathizers, and from other groups and institutions in society, to use and expand this space. The main aim must be to create global democratic political institutions which are capable of monitoring the transnational capital markets and forcing them to operate according to social-environmental standards,, in short, to create an economy with a human face, an economy that sustains life” (Ulrich Duchrow, “Alternatives to Global Capitalism”, 327)

“But the much larger and more threatening impacts stem from the economic activity of those of us participating in the modern, increasingly prosperous world economy. This activity is consuming vast quantities of resources from the environment and returning to the environment vast quantities of waste products...So, a fundamental question facing societies today-perhaps the fundamental question-is: how can the operating instructions for the modern world economy be changed so that economic activity both protects and restores the natural world? My conclusion, after much searching and considerable reluctance, is that most environmental deterioration is a result of systemic failures of the capitalism we have today and that long-term solutions must seek transformative change in the key features of this contemporary capitalism.” (James Gustave Speth, “The problem with capitalism” Yale Alumni Magazine, March/April 2008)

“Social thinking and social practice inspired by the Gospel must always be marked by a special sensitivity towards those who are most in distress, those who are extremely poor, those suffering from all the physical, mental and moral ills that afflict humanity, including hunger, neglect, unemployment and despair...you will

also want to seek out the structural reasons which foster or cause the different forms of poverty in the world...so that you can apply the proper remedies” (Pope John Paul II, Yankee Stadium, October 2, 1979)

“As part of our task of mission, we would consider it particularly important today to devote ourselves, together with the people we serve and with other people of good will to identifying, critiquing and whenever possible, transforming (the socio-economic and political structures of society) for the benefit of authentic human development” (1978 Maryknoll Chapter, Mission Vision, #25)

**“We cannot be excused from making the most rigorous possible political and social analysis of our situation. This will require the utilization of the various sciences, sacred and profane, and of the various disciplines, speculative and practical and all of this demands intense and specialized studies. Nothing would excuse us, either, from undertaking a searching discernment into our situation from the pastoral and apostolic point of view. From analysis and discernment will come committed action; from the experience of action will come insight into how to proceed further”
No. 44 (“ Our Mission Today”, 32nd General Conference of the Society of Jesus, Decree 4, 1975)**

**“Go to the people
Live with them,
Learn from them,
Love them.
Start with what they know,
Build with what they have.**

**But with the best leaders
When the work is done
The task accomplished
The people will say,
“We have done this ourselves”**

(Lao Tsu, 700 B.C.E, China)

COURSE DESCRIPTION: The Christian story suggests that God cared enough about the human condition that God self dwelt in human flesh and contexts. As such in an attempt to be faithful to living out the gospel and the ministry of the Good News, we have to take into account the times and places that we find ourselves called to minister in and through. We will pay close attention to the material conditions that we find ourselves in and the communities that we are located in to minister. We will develop both theory and skills for understanding the context of ministry in the fullest sense of the word. This will

include the political, cultural, economic and religious realms of the world. We can not be effective if we do not have a better understanding of the context in which we are called to serve. Understanding the context is however not a substitute for action itself, rather it is informed ministry that reflects upon its praxis in the light of the prophetic proclamation of the Good News. As such, we will situate all analysis within the context of practical ministry: How might our analysis serve us in our ministry on behalf of Spirituality and Justice? Our praxis and analysis will be rooted in the Gospel and our work will be informed by theological reflection. It is not just what we understand the world to be, but rather what does our faith tradition say about this world and these conditions? How do we locate our own praxis within the larger project of faith in the world? We will seek to work out these questions through our readings, class discussion, class assignments and the semester long collective project that will put all these skills and theory at work in the real world.

REQUIRED TEXTS:

Holland and Henriot, "Social Analysis: Linking Faith to Justice" (New York: Orbis Books, 1983)

Smock, "Democracy in Action: Community Organizing and Urban Change" (New York: Columbia University Press, 2005)

Hawken, "Blessed Unrest: How the Largest Movement in the World came into Being and Why No One saw It Coming" (New York: Viking, 2007)

McNeil, "A Credible Witness: Reflections On Power, Evangelism and Race" (Illinois: IVP Books, 2008)

NOTE: An option is available to replace two of the above books (Hawken and McNeil) upon consultation with the Instructor. A list of options is available upon request.

VISUAL TEXTS (We are not going to use all of these in class)

"Down and Out in America"

"Voices of Cabrini"

"Democratic Promise"

"Pole town Lives!"

"Wal-Mart: The High Cost of low prices"

"Holding Ground: The rebirth of Dudley Street"

"This Black Soil"

"The Fight in the Fields: Cesar Chavez"

"Building Community in America's Inner Cities Block by Block"

"Made in LA"

"Two square miles"

"Faces of Homelessness"

"Poverty in Chicago"

"Unnatural causes" (Four Parts)

"Sisters of Selma"

"The Story of Stuff"

"Majora Carter at TED"

OBJECTIVES: At the end of the course, the student should be able to;

1. To be knowledgeable and competent in the use of a variety of methods of social analysis to aid the work of effective ministry.
2. Have a working knowledge of economic and political terms in common use among advocates of the marginalized in the city.
3. Identify key players and forces in a ward or neighborhood in the city.
4. Identify and understand the complexity of race and class in the city in order to navigate adequately the demands of ministry in a multicultural urban setting.
5. To be knowledgeable and competent in a variety of methods deployed in the interest of social change.

METHODS;

1. Class presentation and lecture
2. Class Readings
3. Assignments of a practical nature
4. Outside class activities of observation and participation
5. Group project on a issue or area that engages the theory and skills developed in the class
6. Theological Reflection
7. Guest Presenters
8. Class Discussion and presentations
9. Classes held “in context”, we will have a moving class room that will meet Several times in ministry sites that will instruct us on the “urban context for ministry”. Logistical and location information will be provided during the course.
- 10. Use of blackboard**

GRADING:

1. Semester Project on Social Analysis (50%) (There will be a presentation at the end of the semester, and the final written product (electronic) will be due at the end of November, 2008)
2. Attendance and Participation at outside class events (15%) (These will be assigned in class). If a student misses more than 3 classes, the course grade will be adversely affected. If a student misses up to 50% of the class, the student will not pass the course.
- 3 Class Readings, Discussion, and participation in class (20%)
4. Weekly journal entry (15%) (due every Monday in electronic form, no more than one page)

CLASS AND READING SCHEDULE:

I. August 25, 2008: First Day of class, “Introduction to Social Analysis” What do we mean when we talk about Social Analysis? What does it look like and where and how can we begin?

Reading: Henriot and Holland, pp. ix-30

Lectionary: Readings for Aug 24, 2008 will be used (Guiding question for Theological reflection: What stands out for you in these readings and is there a connection to our work of ministry in this class?)

(No journal entry this week)

View: “The Story of Stuff”

II. September 1, 2008: No class meeting

Reading: Henriot and Holland, pp. 31-63

Outside Class assignment: Do “Analysis on the Red Line” or “Comparative shopping experience” using guidelines from class and be ready to reflect on the connection to concepts discussed in class.

Due: Journal entry (Guiding questions: 1. What is being highlighted for you from the readings and class discussion? 2. How does it connect to your own thinking and work on ministry? 3. What questions or reflections do you have beyond 1 and 2?)

III. September 8, 2008: Is analysis connected to Change? What are the implications for ministry in the city?

Reading: Henriot and Holland, pp. 64-112

Video: “Unnatural Causes” (Part 1) (Guiding questions: 1. How does Henriot help us name what is going on and what are the demands on ministry? 2. Do we see the activity of God in this picture?)

Due: Journal entry. Oral report on ‘Analysis on the Red Line’ or “Comparative shopping experience”

Decide what topic, issue, or area the semester long project is going to focus on and in what groups.

Outside Class assignment: Do preliminary work on the semester long project. Define what the issue is, begin thinking and working together with your team or group.

IV. September 15, 2008: Popular Democracy, Leadership and Change in an Urban Context.

Reading; Smock, pp. 3-64

Due: Journal entry and oral report on “Analysis on the Red Line” and “Comparative Shopping experience” If everybody has not reported yet. Also due, a one paragraph statement of area of inquiry for semester long theme project.

View: “Unnatural Causes” (Part 2)

V. September 22, 2008: Community Capacity and Governance Structures that foster Justice

Reading: Smock, pp. 65-146

Due: Journal entry and any update or collective discussion on status of collective semester project.

View: Unnatural Causes” (Part 3)

VI. September 29, 2008: Social and Political Analysis in the service of Praxis and Social Change

Reading: Smock, pp. 149-221

Due: Journal entry. One page summary of status of semester long theme project.

View: “Unnatural Causes” Part 4

VII. October 6, 2008: Social Analysis and its Global Implications (Is the whole world our context for ministry?) (There is no class meeting)

Reading: Smock, pp. 261-222

Due: Journal entry

VIII. October 13, 2008: Global Social Movements for Change

Reading: Hawken, pp.1-67

Due: no journal entry. An outline of the framework for the research paper for semester long theme project.

IX. October 20, 2008: Does Economics Matter for Ministry?

Reading: Hawken, pp. 69-114

Due: journal entry. Oral report on semester long theme project.

View: “This Black Soil”

X. October 27, 2008: Do People of faith have something to say about the Empire?

Reading: Hawken, pp. 117-190

Due: Journal entry and update on semester long project (how is it going?)

Video: “Holding Ground: The rebirth of Dudley Street” (Guiding question: What can we learn from this experience?)

Outside Class assignment: meet with your group to work on theme project.

XI. November 3, 2008: Race and class and the challenge of ministry in a multicultural city

Reading: McNeil, pp. 15-48

Due: No journal entry, oral report on status of semester long project

XII. November 10, 2008: The complexity of race and class in efforts of social change

Reading: McNeil, pp. 49-90

Due: Journal entry and update on semester long project

View: “Sisters of Selma”

XIII. November 17, 2008: Dignity, Agency and theological reflection on the struggle for justice

Reading: McNeil, pp. 90-134

Video: “Majora Carter TED)

Due: No journal entry and update on research project

XIV. November 24, 2008: Where do we go from here?

Reading: handouts

Due: No Journal entry and full reports on research project

XV. December 1, 2008: Last day of class

Reading: none

Due: Complete presentations of research project

Class Evaluation

Closing Reflection.

Final Paper Due Dec. 5, 2008