

Interactive LEARNING GUIDE

Urban Missiology in the Postmodern Metropolis

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INSTITUTE OF
THEOLOGICAL
STUDIES



STUDY LOG

Urban Missiology in the Postmodern Metropolis

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• This study log should assist you in a couple of ways. First, it provides you with a course overview at a glance. You can see the assignments and the course content to which they relate. Second, it provides you with an opportunity to plan your work so that you do not fall behind and sacrifice learning for cramming. Third, it provides both you and your instructor with a way to measure your progress at any given point in the academic term. IF you use this tool well, you may find that completing the course becomes much less stressful and much more beneficial to your learning.

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ASSIGNMENT	TARGET	COMPLETE
Lesson 1: Seeing the City Through God's Eyes		
Read <i>Gospel & Urbanisation</i> I:1-24		
Listen to Lecture 1		
Answer questions		
Lesson 2: Toward a Conceptual Framework / The Premises		
Read articles		
Read <i>Gospel & Urbanisation</i> I:24-45		
Listen to Lectures 2-7		
Complete Charts 1-3		
Dialogue with the Literature #1		
Lesson 3: The Gospel In Context In the Patristic Period		
Read article		
Listen to Lecture 8		
Lesson 4: Understanding Modern Urban Systems		
Read Hunsberger & Van Gelder 139-172		
Read <i>Gospel & Urbanisation</i> II & IV:15-18		
Listen to Lectures 9-11		
Answer questions		
<i>Determine the metropolitan area for the Integrative Study</i>		

ASSIGNMENT	TARGET	COMPLETE
Lesson 5: The Rise of the Postmodern City		
Read article		
Read Bosch 349-367		
Read Hunsberger & Van Gelder 113-138		
Read <i>Gospel & Urbanisation</i> IV:35-38		
Listen to Lectures 12-13		
Case Study #1		
Lesson 6: An Emerging Contextual Theology		
Read Bosch 368-510		
Read Hunsberger & Van Gelder 69-78		
Read <i>Gospel & Urbanisation</i> III		
Listen to Lectures 14-15		
Dialogue with the Literature #2		
Lesson 7: Affirming the Gospel in the Plurality of the City		
Read Gellner		
Read articles		
Read <i>Gospel & Urbanisation</i> IV:29-34		
Listen to Lectures 16-19		
Case Study #2		

ASSIGNMENT	TARGET	COMPLETE
Lesson 8: Reappropriating Public Space: Ecclesiological Challenge		
Listen to Lecture 20		
Lesson 9: Networking and the Art of Community Development		
Read <i>Gospel & Urbanisation</i> III:37-50		
Listen to Lectures 21-22		
Lesson 10: Mobilizing Volunteers for Community Development		
Read <i>Gospel & Urbanisation</i> IV:39-48		
Listen to Lecture 23		
Lesson 11: What Types of Church Do We Need in the City?		
Read article		
Listen to Lecture 24		
<i>Complete the Integrative Study</i>		

COURSE COMPLETED: _____!

COURSE INTRODUCTION



Urban Missiology in the Postmodern Metropolis

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Course Perspective

The purpose of this course is to develop a relevant evangelical praxis for the church within the urban context. This is understood as a contextual or local theology. The course will expose you to various dimensions of post-modernity as examined by several contemporary authors. As a result, you will develop pertinent theological, missiological and strategic initiatives that your congregation can pursue in the evolving global metropolitan ethos.

Course Objectives

The lecturer in this course will use an andragogic method (*that is, primarily self-directing; andragogy assumes that adults learn in ways that are significantly different from the ways that children acquire new behaviors*); therefore the students will be invited to establish their own course objectives after the first session. We will emphasize the primary andragogic methods of (student) self-directed study, practicality, problem-solving, on-field experience, story-telling, an informal-learning environment, and diversified instructional methodologies.

Upon completion of this course you should be able to:

1. Articulate in your own words the primary sources of information of a contextual praxis for urban ministry.
2. State the premises of contextual (urban) missiology, the principal hermeneutical debates over the past quarter of a century and the emerging paradigms in urban mission.
3. Evaluate the issues in the shift in cultural studies from *modernity* to *postmodernity* and the implications for urban ministry.
4. Exegete a metropolitan area, understanding the interplay of societal forces on urban functions and local influences that affect urban life and values.
5. Articulate / assess a relevant urban spirituality for your life and the community of faith in the light of your learnings in the course.

At regular intervals in the course we review the learning objectives of the course and the flow of the teaching. At the beginning of lecture 21 a major evaluation is given.

Course Content Overview

Lecture 1	Introduction to the Course: Seeing the City through God's Eyes
Lectures 2-7	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Toward a Conceptual Framework for Urban Missiology ... the Metropolis and Evangelical Traditions in Hermeneutical Dialogue• The Premises of Contextual Theology: A Survey of the Presuppositions of Urban Theology and an Overview of the Literature
Lecture 8	The Gospel in Context in the Patristic Period: A Case Study
Lectures 9-11	Understanding Modern Urban Systems
Lectures 12-13	The Rise of the Postmodern City
Lectures 14-15	An Emerging Contextual Theology
Lectures 16-19	Affirming the Gospel in the Plurality of the City
Lecture 20	Reappropriating Public Space: An Ecclesiological Challenge
Lectures 21-22	Networking & the Art of Community Development
Lecture 23	Mobilizing Church Volunteers for Community Development
Lecture 24	What Types of Churches Do We Need in the City?

Course Assignments

To accomplish the course objectives, you will complete the following assignments:

1. **Lectures and Reading:** You are required to listen carefully to the 24 lectures, following the notes in the study guide. You should do the required reading with each lecture:

Texts:

Ernest Gellner, *Postmodernism, Reason and Religion*
Glenn Smith, (ed.) *The Gospel and Urbanization*, 4th edition
David J. Bosch, *Transforming Mission*, Part 3 (349-520)

The student is required to read 1,200 pages including these required readings and other texts found in the bibliography, answering the questions in the study guide. (If the course supervisor so requires, the student will hand in written answers.) In addition to the lectures, you should anticipate 100+ hours of preparation for the course ...

2. **Dialogue with the Literature (30%):** After listening to the 7th lecture and doing the reading of required articles, use the attached document to reflect on your learnings from that literature for your ministry situation at the present time.

After listening to the 15th lecture and doing the required reading (for lectures 8-15), use the attached document to reflect on your learnings from that literature for your ministry situation at the present time.

3. **Two Case Studies (30%):** The student will complete two case studies using the attached document. These studies shall be inspired by actual life situations where the student was ministering with one or several persons. In the study, the student will depict the social / cultural context so as to stimulate reflection on the contextualization of the mission of the church in the urban context.

The first one must be written after lecture 13 and the second after lecture 19.

4. **Integrative Study (40%)** (twenty pages): Drawing from personal experience and utilizing the reading done in your area of interest, this paper will outline the cultural / sociological themes of the part of the urban culture being studied. Then, design strategies that will mobilize the congregation to address the marginalization of the gospel in the city.

Please determine the metropolitan area that you will study after the first lecture so that you can begin research immediately. Listen carefully to lectures 9, 10 and 11 that will help you understand modern urban systems. For further reading see the book *Neighborhood Organizers Handbook*, Warren S. Warren (South Bend: Notre Dame, 1977).

Listen carefully to lectures 16-24 for ideas or strategies to address the marginalization of the Gospel. You will be graded on your ability to:

- 1) Integrate findings from the 20 steps of the article "How to Exegete a Neighborhood" in the description of the cultural / sociological themes of the metropolitan area.
- 2) Describe the world view of the area.
- 3) Detail how the Gospel is marginalized in this setting.
- 4) Propose pertinent strategies.

At the beginning of lecture 16, instructions for this assignment are detailed following this outline.

Additional Information for Assignments

Case Study

1. *Task:*

Write a short report from a recent event that occurred in your evangelistic ministry. You should include in your report the details of the meeting while applying the following steps and clearly illustrating the decision you took as well as the reasons which influenced it.

2. *Goal:*

Your report should explain your ministry's context, what you consider a significant experience in that ministry, a list of your objectives, as well as your decision making process and your capacity to reflect on the efficiency or the realization of your ministry. You will have the opportunity to submit your case study to the other members of the group who will suggest possible alternatives. They will help you to reflect on your work.

3. *Report:*

Your report must divide in four sections. Even if each section requires the same amount of work, they don't necessarily need to be of the same length. However, if sections are missing, your final grade will reflect this.

- a) The background. Give a context to the event: what you had in mind; what you hoped for; what you feared was going to happen; when and how you became aware of the situation and got involved; what pressures and people have hastened and influenced this situation.
- b) The definition. What happened and what did you do? You can use the direct dialogue that went on, while narrating. It is important to use pertinent facts while putting the emphasis on the situation in relationship with the people already involved.
- c) The study. Identify the items and relationships carefully especially as they pertain to change and resistance to change. What theological principles are understood? What styles of leadership and what organizational culture are used?
- d) Evaluation. Evaluate your efficiency within the situation. Did you accomplish what you set out to do? If so, why? If not, why? What are the factors that you had not foreseen and which played in? What items or questions you would like to discuss with the group?

4. *Confidentiality:*

If you do not want to reveal the identity of the people or the organizations subject to your case study, then use fictitious names. As real ministry situations will be presented and discussed, it is imperative that names of people and organizations not be divulged. You must keep your presentation confidential.

Dialogue with the Literature

1. *Introduction* (short)

- a) Indicate the title(s) of your chosen document(s).
- b) Give the exact reference of the document(s) or collection(s) that you chose to do your reflections on.
- c) If your document(s) is quite lengthy, you can choose to only study a section(s) but you must clearly indicate it.

2. *Study* (the most important section)

- a) You can gather all the information that your document contains, or you can bring out what it contains on a particular theme.
- b) While bringing out the information from your document, try to be as objective as possible as you are trying to discern as well the most important and most often recurring data. In all cases, please abide by the terms of the document.

3. *Conclusion* (brief but to the point)

Show how the document seems interesting. Present, if you want, your point of view or comments. Bring a critical reflection on the application of readings to your ministry situation.

4. *Bibliography*

No bibliography required. In your text body, cite your document with its internal divisions precisely (if you have any, like the books of the Bible).

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COURSE LESSONS

Urban Missiology in the Postmodern Metropolis

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LESSON #1: Lecture 1

Seeing the City Through God's Eyes

During the first lecture, fill in each portion of the chart as Dr. Smith discusses it. You may want to fill in the outline that follows as well. Then read the resources listed below and answer the questions.

1. Fill in each portion of the chart below while listening to the first lecture.

Characteristics of the Four Principal Pedagogical Approaches

Approach	Lecture	Closed Program	Self Study	Open Interaction
Focus				
Learner				
Role of Instructor				
Objectives				
Methodology				

2. Now that you have completed listening to the first lecture, read the first five articles in the reader, *The Gospel and Urbanisation* (Section I: 1-24).

Upon completing the reading, answer the following questions (taken from the reader, I: 47) ...

3. Discuss the important elements of a Biblical perspective on the city.
4. What do you learn in this section about contextualizing your theology for urban ministry? How will you go about making your perspective, including evangelism, relevant to your urban situation?
5. Study the following list of barriers to evangelism that surfaced in an urban consultation in Montreal in May, 1988 (see I: 48). How many of these affect the church in your city? What is not on the list? What are the obstacles in your city?
6. In the space below, write out your learning objectives for the course.

In determining your learning objectives for the course, first make sure that you understand the five objectives that the professor has intended. Second, determine right away the (part of) city urban area you will study for the integrative paper. In establishing your own learning objectives, you are answering the fundamental questions, "What do I want to know by the end of the course?" "What aptitudes (skills) do I want to master in the course of study?" and "What new perspectives (attitudes) do I want to acquire?" These objectives must be realistic, specific, attainable and measurable.

Lecture One - Outline

I. INTRODUCTION TO A POSTMODERN METROPOLIS

A. JOURNEY INTO THE CITY

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6. THREE FUNDAMENTAL QUESTIONS

a.

b.

c.

II. JEREMIAH 29:1-7

A. CONTEXT

B. VERSES 4-7

1. The Lord God Almighty

2. Key verbs

a. verses 5-6

b. verse 7a

c. verse 7b

3. The promise

a.

b. 1 Timothy 2:1-3

C. THE POST-EXILIC PERIOD

III. INTRODUCTION TO THE COURSE

A. VOCABULARY ... addressing the city

1.

2.

B. KEY URBAN TERMS

1. urban growth

2. urbanization

3. urbanism

C. PRIMARY TEACHING GOALS OF THE COURSE

D. ANDRAGOGICAL METHOD

1.

2.

3.

4.

5. comparison to other methods of learning (see chart)

E. THE STUDENT'S PERSONAL LEARNING OBJECTIVES

LESSON #2: Lectures 2 through 7

Toward a Conceptual Framework for Urban Missiology

- and -

The Premises of Contextual Theology

These lectures provide the theoretical framework for doing theology in the postmodern metropolis. You will explore the key issues in the contextualization debate and the primary ways in which practitioners attempt to understand that basic purpose of theological inquiry - the reflection of Christians upon the Gospel in light of their own circumstances. You should listen to these lectures using the outlines, complete the required reading of articles and complete the assignment "Dialogue with the Literature" before moving to Lesson #3.

In lectures 16-19 we will examine ways to apply the framework to the postmodern metropolis.

1. The following list contains the required reading for this section of the course, which you should complete after listening to this set of lectures.

Glenn Smith, "Doing Theology in the Canadian Urban Context: Some Methodological Considerations," in *The Gospel and Urbanization* (Section I: 24-45).

2. Before moving on to Lesson #3, complete the assignment "Dialogue with the Literature."

Lecture Two - Outline

- I. PRELIMINARY ACTIVITIES
 - A. REFLECTIONS FROM THE ARTICLE BY MARKLEY
 - B. FILL OUT THE TWO ACCOMPANYING CHARTS
- II. REFLECTION / ACTION METHODOLOGY IN URBAN MISSION
 - A. KENNETH SURIN'S QUOTE
 - B. THE PURPOSE OF THEOLOGICAL INQUIRY
 - 1.
 - 2. key concepts
 - C. CONTEXTUALIZATION
- III. SOURCES OF INFORMATION FOR THEOLOGICAL INQUIRY
- IV. JOURNEY THROUGH THE SECOND MISSIONARY JOURNEY

Lecture Three - Outline

I. FIVE FUNDAMENTAL QUESTIONS

A.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

B. REFLECTION OF DAVID BOSCH - page 176: Transforming Mission

II. FIVE CRITERIA FOR DOING URBAN THEOLOGY

A.

B.

C.

D.

E.

Lecture Four - Outline

- I. PREAMBLE
- II. KEY TERMS
- III. "CONTEXTUALIZATION"
- IV. HOW WILL ONE IMPLEMENT THE CRITERIA?
MODELS FOR REFLECTION & ACTION
 - A. Padilla's contribution: four partners in exchange
 - B. Variations to implementing the paradigm
 - C. Possible problems

Lecture Five - Outline

I. REVIEW OF THE PRIMARY PRINCIPLES

II. PHILIPPIANS 1:27-2:18

Lecture Six - Outline

- I. A URBAN PLUNGE INTO A PAC-RIM METROPOLIS
 - A. URBAN REALITIES
 - B. CRUCIAL URBAN ISSUES
- II. OTHER MODELS FOR DOING URBAN THEOLOGIZING
 - A. DE GRUCHY
 - B. PETER SCHEILLNER
 - C. LIBERATION THEOLOGIES OF LIBERATION
 - D. DOUGLAS HALL
 - E. ROBERT SCHREITER

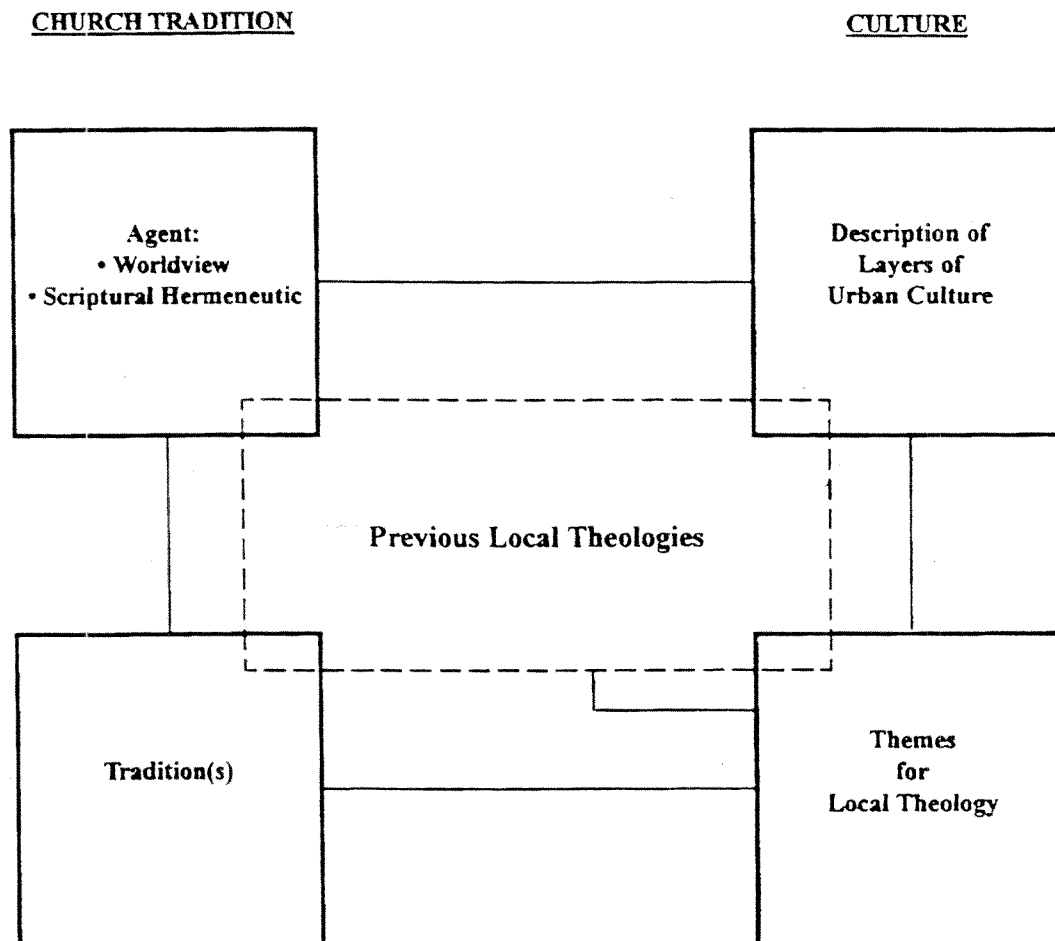
Lecture Seven - Outline

I. SUMMARY OF SCHREITER'S MAP

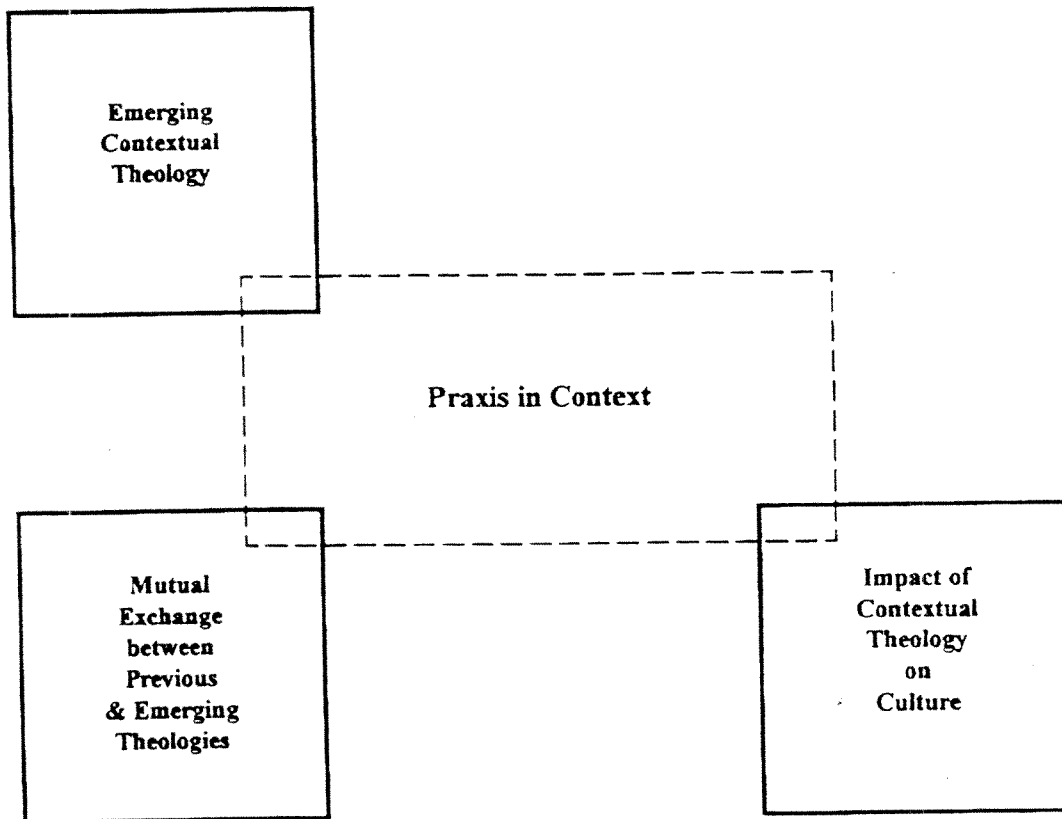
II. INSIGHTS FROM PAUL HIEBERT

III. ADAPTATION OF THE MAP FOR THEOLOGIZING IN THE POSTMODERN METROPOLIS.

A.



B.



IV. A CASE STUDY IN EPHESUS

Chart 1

Scale: **5 Probably accurate**
 4 Possibly accurate
 3 Unsure
 2 Possibly inaccurate
 1 Probably inaccurate

Example: Most American adults pay an income tax. **5**

Respond to the following statements using the scale above.

1. The best way to fulfill Christian commitments is to attend worship and regularly scheduled church activities.
2. God's method of salvation is the conversion of individuals one by one.
3. Church congregations should generally be run by paid clergy.
4. Democratic capitalism, for all its faults, is the closest approximation we have to the economic system God desires for the world.
5. It would be inappropriate for members of a church to express Christian love by regularly kissing each other as a public greeting.
6. The true Gospel will look the same no matter what the cultural setting.
7. Since Jesus was God from eternity, he was not significantly affected by the culture in which he lived.
8. The real needs of those around us should influence the way we share the Gospel more than our understanding of doctrines.
9. The New Testament gives us the basic picture of the church for today.
10. Neither polygamy nor slavery should be tolerated within the church.
11. We should use contemporary and historical dance forms in worship.
12. God speaks to his people through dreams.
13. A Christian farmer should pray and ask God to help him determine how and when he should plant his crops.
14. A person can experience not one but three or more conversions, each one deepening the previous one.
15. It is more important to finish a large family breakfast than to arrive at church on time.
16. We should worship God by using incense in the congregational worship.

Chart 2

Agree - Disagree

1. The theology and strategies of a local church must be independently considered.
2. Theology is sociologically neutral. If you agree, explain why. If you disagree, explain why.
3. The beliefs of the New Testament church are more important than her way of being the church.
4. God is more interested in people than in places.
5. The corporate evil is the sum of the sins of individuals.
6. Mission is the mother of the Church and theology her daughter.

Chart 3

**Methodological Approaches to the Reflection of Christians
Upon the Gospel
In Light of Their Circumstances**

<u>Approach</u>	<u>Principle</u>	<u>Strengths</u>	<u>Weaknesses</u>
Translation			
Adaptation			
Contextualization			
	• Ethnographic		
	• Liberation		
Indigenization			

LESSON #3: Lecture 8

The Gospel In Context In the Patristic Period

This lecture will examine how the early church rooted its theological response to contextual concerns. The development of the doctrine of theodicy will serve as a case study. It will allow us to see how previous theologies influence the development of contextual theologies today.

Lecture Eight - Outline

- I. WHAT IS THE BIBLICAL RESPONSE TO EVIL AND SUFFERING?
 - A. HUMAN SUFFERING
 - B. SOCIAL INJUSTICE
- II. THE EPISTLE TO DIOGNETUS
- III. THE SHEPHERD OF HERMAS
- IV. IRENAEUS
- V. CONCLUSION

LESSON #4: Lectures 9, 10 and 11

Understanding Modern Urban Systems

These three lectures will equip you to appropriate the tools of cultural studies (especially ethnomethodology) to scratch below the surface of metropolitan areas and understand how a city functions. These lectures will examine seven different aspects of urban systems, allowing us to understand both how to study a city and identify themes for theology. We will look closely at how to use urban resources to exegete the metropolitan setting.

1. Please read the materials listed below prior to listening to these three lectures.

Section II of *The Gospel and Urbanisation* & Section IV, Article 4.

P. Hiebert, "The Gospel in Our Culture: Methods of Social & Cultural Analysis," in *The Church Between Gospel and Culture*, ed. G. Hunsberger & C. Van Gelder (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1996): 139-157.

D. Scotchmer, "Symbols Become Us: Toward a Missional Encounter With Our Culture Through Symbolic Analysis," in *The Church Between Gospel and Culture*, ed. G. Hunsberger & C. Van Gelder (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1996): 158-172.

Upon completing the reading, answer the following questions (taken from the reader, II: 41) ...

2. How do these five articles help you to understand the urban world?
3. Given the realities of worldwide urbanization, what should be the major agenda of Christian missionaries in western cities? in Two-Third world cities?
4. Discuss how the 'Three "R's" of Ministry' (art. 2) apply specifically to your city.

Lectures 9, 10, 11 - Outline

APPROPRIATING THE SOCIAL SCIENCE FOR URBAN THEOLOGIZING

I.

II.

III.

IV.

SEVEN FUNCTIONS OF AN URBAN AREA

I.

II.

III.

IV.

V.

VI.

VII.

EXEGETING THE POSTMODERN METROPOLIS

LESSON #5: Lectures 12 and 13

The Rise of the Postmodern City

An emerging theme in urban missiology is postmodernism. These two lectures will survey the rise of this cultural trend from its early influence on urban architecture to its pervasive influence in urban living. We will surface the main tenets of postmodernism by answering four fundamental questions. This will allow you to see themes that will influence the emerging contextual theology in your city.

At the conclusion of these lectures you should complete the first of two case studies using the case study document found in the syllabus.

1. Please complete the reading listed below prior to listening to the lectures.

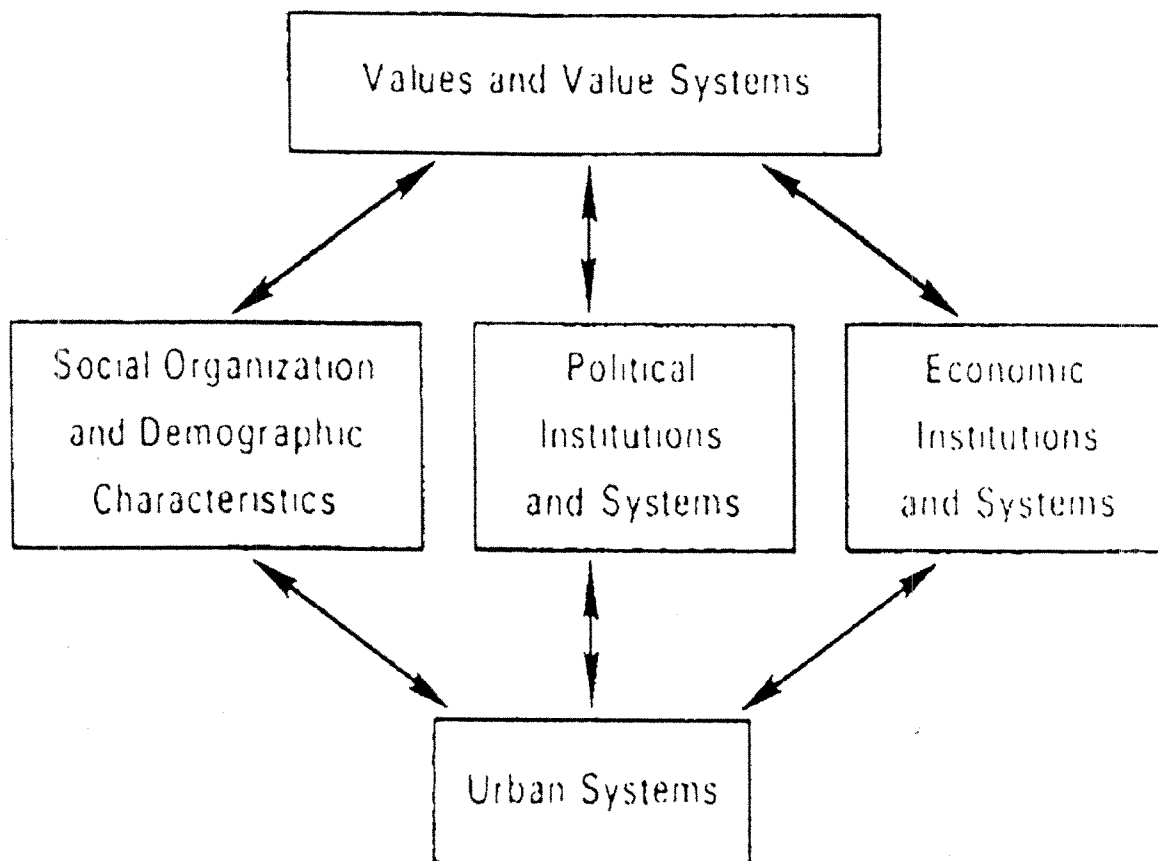
David J. Bosch, *Transforming Mission* (Maryknoll: Orbis, 1992): 349-367.

David Lyon, "Postmodern Canada," in *The Gospel and Urbanisation* (Section IV: 35-38).

Lectures 12, 13 - Outline

- I. REVIEW OF THE FIRST 11 LECTURES
- II. EXCURSUS: WHAT IS A WORLDVIEW?
- III. THE ROOTS OF POST-MODERNITY
- IV. "BUT THIS IS A POSTMODERN MOVE FROM WHICH MOVEMENT?"
 - A. ANTHONY GIDDENS' REFLECTIONS ON MODERNITY
 - B. INSIGHTS FROM A MISSIOLOGIST
 - C. WHAT IS MODERNITY?
- V. VACLAV HAVEL DESCRIBES THE SHIFT
- VI. POSTMODERNITY "DEFINED"
- VII. POSTMODERNITY IN THE METROPOLIS

Chart 4



LESSON #6: Lectures 14 and 15

An Emerging Contextual Theology for a Postmodern Metropolis

The agent of reconciliation from the social situation of the community of faith has wrestled with the worldviews of the postmodern city. This is the culture within which one will contextualize a relevant praxis. Beginning with the initial dialogue with Scripture and the themes of a detailed description of the urban milieu one arrives at a deeper understanding of one's theological tradition. A theology with the city that holds together the reign of God as the goal and incarnation as strategy emerges.

In these lectures, we examine the contours of the drama of God's story for a postmodern city.

At the conclusion of these lectures, you should have completed the readings for lectures 8-15 and so you should do the second "Dialogue with the Literature."

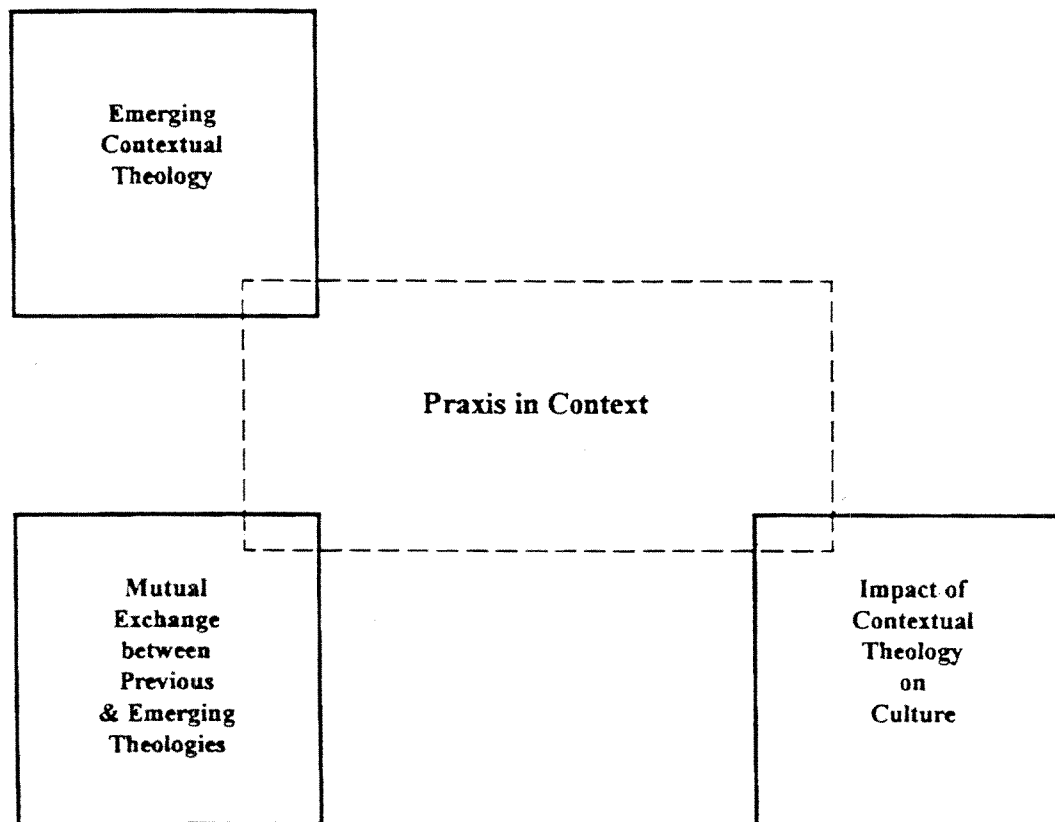
1. Please read the materials below prior to doing the "Dialogue with the Literature."

Section III of *The Gospel and Urbanisation*.

David J. Bosch, *Transforming Mission* (Maryknoll: Orbis, 1992): 368-510.

Lectures 14, 15 - Outline

I. REVIEW OF THE GOVERNING FRAMEWORK FOR URBANIZING IN THE CITY



II. UNDERSTANDING GOD'S STORY FOR THE POSTMODERN CITY

A. OPTIONS FOR PURSUING ONE'S UNDERSTANDING

B. FIRST ACT OF THE SIX ACT DRAMA

C. SECOND ACT

D. THIRD ACT

E. FOURTH ACT

F. FIFTH ACT

G. SIXTH ACT

LESSON #7: Lectures 16 through 19

Affirming the Gospel in the Plurality of the City

Any engagement of the church with the postmodern city will need to wrestle with the ongoing marginalisation of institutional religion in culture. These lectures will examine the important themes of plurality and secularization. We will examine social studies research that sheds light on these themes. The contributions of David Martin, Peter Berger and David Ley will be critiqued.

This analysis will allow us to lay the groundwork for the fundamental question, “How does the church affirm the Good News in secularizing cities?” But such a question means we must wrestle with what it means to be made in the image of God. We will look at Calvin’s concept of *semen religionis* as a crucial premise of affirming the Gospel.

We will conclude these sets of lectures by looking at more social science research on religious beliefs in postmodern cultures and explore how the church can bring Biblical content in word, deed and sign to people made in the image of the sovereign God who affirm private faith with no public implications.

At the conclusion of these four lectures, complete the second case study.

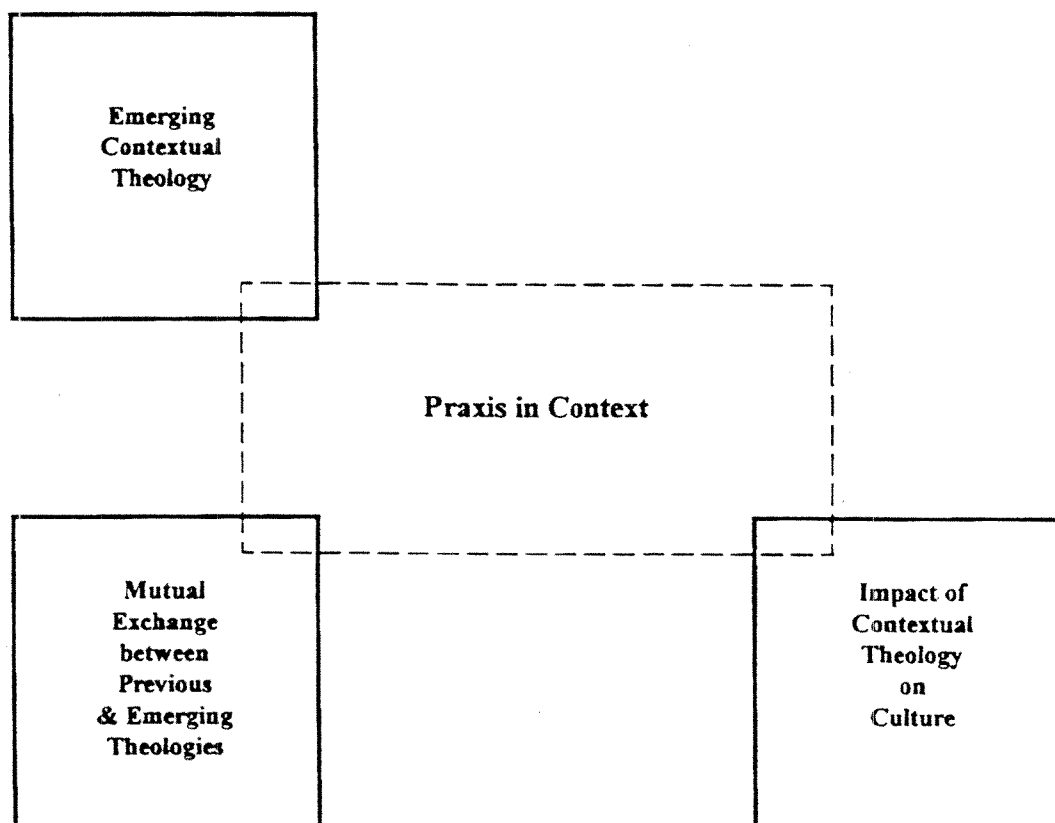
1. Prior to listening to the lectures, please complete the reading listed below.

E. Gellner, *Postmodernism, Reason and Religion* (London: Routledge, 1994).

G. Smith, “Reflections by a Concerned Parent Living With Plurality in Canadian Society,” in *The Gospel and Urbanisation* (Section IV: 29-34).

Lectures 16, 17, 18, 19 - Outline

I. REVIEW OF THE FIRST 15 LECTURES



- II. WHERE ARE WE GOING IN THE LAST SERIES OF LECTURES?
- III. WHERE DOES THE GOSPEL FIND ITSELF IN THE PLURALITY OF THE CITY?
 - A. Marginalization
 - B. Relativism
 - C. Competing spiritualities
- IV. WHAT IS CULTURE?
- V. HOW WILL WE CONTEXTUALIZE? WHAT MUST BE CONTEXTUALIZED?
IMPLICATIONS FOR THE PRIOR UNDERSTANDING OF CHRISTIAN FAITH
- VI. HOW WILL WE AFFIRM THE GOSPEL IN THE PLURALITY OF THE CITY?
 - A. Defining religion
 - B. Defining Secularization
 - C. Defining plurality
- VII. HOW WILL WE ARTICULATE AND LIVE THE GOSPEL IN THE CITY?

LESSON #8: Lecture 20

Reappropriating Public Space: An Ecclesiological Challenge

The New York urbanologist, Richard Sennett, defines a city as "... a human settlement in which strangers are likely to meet." At the *Cité Internationale Competition in 1991*, an old idea was revived, "How do you renew public space - where strangers meet and communicate with each other?" This is not necessarily the 19th century concept of the public square. But how can the church help the city recreate cultural activities, creative events and arts, public discussion, performance and music?

This lecture will explore the theological praxis of animating public space.

Lecture 20 - Outline

I. THREE CRUCIAL ISSUES

A. Facts versus Beliefs

B. Private world versus Public world

C. Virus of pluralism

II. Notice how this gets worked out in the public urban arena:

A. Zacharias, 1990

B. Zacharias, 1992

C. Sennett

LESSON #9: Lectures 21 and 22

Networking and the Art of Community Development

This lecture examines networking in the city. Follow the chart as you listen to the lecture.

1. Please read the following article before you begin to listen.

Robert Linthicum, "Networking: Hope for the Church in the City," in *The Gospel and Urbanisation* (Section III: 37-50).

Community Organizing Strategy

1. NETWORKING

The community organizer gets to know the people and discover their problems and abilities.

2. COALITION BUILDING

People with similar skills or problems are drawn together and encouraged to find their own solutions to their poverty.

3. ACTING/REFLECTING/ACTING

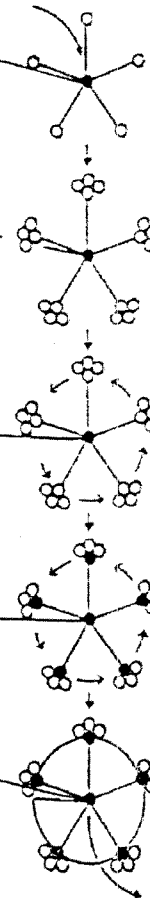
Groups begin to plan ways of tackling communal needs. A sense of community develops.

4. LEADERSHIP EMPOWERING

Leaders emerge. Groups begin to work together with others in a network.

5. THE REBIRTH OF COMMUNITY

Community is built. The slum begins to change. The people have a hope and a future. The poor are empowered. The community organizer can move on.



Lectures 21, 22 - Outline

- I. REVIEW OF THE FIRST 19 LECTURES
- II. JESUS AND PAUL IN THE CITY
- III. THE ART OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND PARTNERSHIPS
 - A. SIX PRIMARY ISSUES
 - B. HOW DO WE MAKE THIS WORK IN A SPECIFIC AREA?

LESSON #10: Lecture 23

Mobilizing Church Volunteers for Community Development

Social science research tells us that the volunteer sector in metropolitan areas is “booming” yet still in need of massive help. How can the church in the city mobilize parishioners to join the structures of urban society in redemptive service?

1. Please read the following article before the lecture.

LESSON #11: Lecture 24

What Types of Church Do We Need in the City?

In his book, *Effective Church Leadership*, Kenneth Callahan underscores three realities that influence church life today. In this final lecture we will examine the question of church extension in the postmodern city.

1. As preparation for the lecture, please read this article.

Charles Trueheart, "Welcome to the Next Church," *Atlantic Monthly* (August 1996): 37-58.

Lecture 24 - Outline

- I. ACTS 11 and 13:1-5

- II. We need to contextualize these principles by planting churches that:
 - A. integrate the five principles of corporate ecclesial life

 - B. take the cultural plurality of the city seriously

 - C. take the principalities and powers seriously

- III. FINAL REFLECTIONS