

COURSE SYLLABUS

Urban Missiology

Course Lecturer: Glenn B. Smith, DMin

Executive Director of Christian Direction in Montreal, Canada

Course Description

The large cities of the world present enormous challenges and opportunities to the church of Christ. The purpose of this course is to develop a relevant evangelical practice for the church within the urban context, understood as contextual, or local theology. This course will expose the student to various dimensions of postmodernity as examined by several contemporary authors. The goal of the course is to help learners develop pertinent theological, missiological, and strategic initiatives for urban settings that can be applied to their own ministry.

Course Objectives

Upon completion of the course, you should be able to:

- Know the primary resources for urban ministry.
- State the premises of contextual urban missiology.
- Identify the principle hermeneutical debates concerning urban missions over the past 50 years and summarize the emerging paradigms.
- Evaluate the issues of postmodernity as they relate to urban ministry.
- Articulate and assess a relevant urban spirituality for life and the community of faith in light of the information gained from the course.

Course Lecturer



Glenn B. Smith, DMin

Education:

- Union des Universities Privées d'Haïti, DHon
- Northern Baptist Theological Seminary, DMin
- Université d'Ottawa, BA and MA
- University of Michigan, BA

Teaching Career:

- Professor of Urban Ministry and Patristic Studies, Faculté Théologique Évangélique in Montreal (1984-2004)

- Part-time professor of Urban Ministry and Spirituality, École de Théologie Évangélique de Montréal (1984–2007)
- Professor, Institut de Théologie pour la Francophonie
- Instructor, Farel Institute in Québec, McGill University, Bakke Graduate University, and the Institut des Études Bibliques in British Columbia
- Regular visiting professor, Université Chrétienne du Nord d’Haïti in Limbé, Haiti
- Professor at various schools throughout Canada
- Occasional teacher at schools in Africa and Europe

Other Career Highlights:

- Executive Director, Christian Direction
- Pastoral ministry in Montreal
- Chairperson, Board of Directors of the Canadian Council of Christian Charities (1990-1992)
- Board of Directors of the Canadian Council of Christian Charities
- Board of Directors of World Vision
- Board of Directors for InterVarsity Christian Fellowship of Canada
- Regional and National Director of Campus Crusade for Christ
- Senior associate for urban mission, Lausanne Committee on World Evangelization
- Editor of the periodical *The Gospel and Urbanization*

Publications:

- Numerous articles on contextualization, church planting, and urban ministry in educational and missiological journals and magazines
- Authored the book *Following Jesus: God Invites Us into Transforming Discipleship*, which has been published in English, French, and Spanish
- Co-authored the books *Espoir pour la ville, Dieu dans la cité (Hope for the City, God in the City)* and *L’histoire du protestantisme au Québec depuis 1960 (The History of Protestantism in Quebec Since 1960)*
- Editor of additional books, including *The Gospel and Urbanization*

Recommended Reading

Though not required, you may choose to read the textbooks shown below to supplement your learning.

Bosch, David J. *Transforming Mission: Paradigm Shifts in Theology of Mission* (American Society of Missiology Series, no. 16). New York, New York: Orbis, 1991.

Gellner, Ernest. *Postmodernism, Reason and Religion*. USA: Routledge, 1992.

Smith, Glenn, ed. *The Gospel and Urbanization*. 4th ed. Montreal, Canada: Christian Direction, Inc., 1997.

Textbooks can be ordered through your local bookstore, various online bookstores, or through your preferred eReader when available

Course Methods

The lecture content for each lesson is provided in two easy-to-use formats: audio and PDF text (if available). Students can choose the medium (or combination of media) that most closely aligns with their individual learning styles.

Course Assessment and Requirements

Course requirements include:

- Listening to all 24 audio lectures.
- Completing a final self-assessment form in which you will reflect on the content in the course and evaluate your life in light of what you have learned. The specifics of this assessment are provided in the course materials.

Course requirements noted in this syllabus will be validated before a Certificate of Completion is awarded to any student. No numeric or letter grade will be awarded for this course.