

**SCUPE 305: DIMENSIONS AND DYNAMICS OF URBAN MINISTRY**  
**THE GOSPEL IN THE CITY**  
**The Rev. Dr. Yvonne V. Delk-Instructor and Spirit Guide**

3 semester hours

Winter term

Jan3-7,10-14, 2005

MS I. Nature and Practice of Ministry

“We have taken the liberating, radically inclusive, egalitarian, justice-oriented, life giving gospel and transformed it into an instrument of culturism, colonialism, racism, sexism, heterosexism and exclusiveness. Its time to reclaim the gospel’s themes of justice, liberation, inclusivity and risk.” Yvonne Delk

“A specter of despair haunts late twentieth-century America. The quality of our lives and the integrity of our souls are in jeopardy. Wealth inequality and class polarization are escalating----with ugly consequences for the most vulnerable among us. Spiritual malnutrition and existential emptiness are rampant.....We need a moral prophetic minority of all colors who muster the courage to question the powers that be, the courage to be impatient with evil and patient with people and the courage to fight for social justice..... Only a new wave of vision, courage, and hope can keep us sane.” Cornel West  
Restoring Hope

**The Course:**

This course, organized as a sequence of days concentrating on particular neighborhoods and the ministries at work within them, demonstrates a variety of approaches to the gospel in the city. The conversations with urban ministers provide a comprehensive view of SCUPE’s approach to urban work.

**Course Objectives:**

- 1) to discover the good news in the city in the context of a church and a society that continues to be broken by race, economic injustice and violence;
- 2) to empower students to reflect on ministries that address issues of racism, economic injustices, and violence;
- 3) to engage students in conversations with urban leaders who are taking the good news of the gospel into the communities in which they are located.
- 4) to encourage and motivate students to claim their prophetic roles as faith-based leaders who possess vision, models, and the courage to fight for social justice.

**Context for the Course:**

The city will be our venue traveling to two sites most days and spending a three hour block in each ministry setting interacting with leaders and ministries that bring good news to the city.

“The streets are where the gospel can most clearly and powerfully be heard and where God can most clearly be seen.... In the middle of the city there is both danger and opportunity. We must be wary less the grandeur of human accomplishment, the monuments of pride, blur our vision and cloud our memory. In the city we may be greatly tempted to forget God. But amidst all these symbols of human hope and despair, we have the possibility of witnessing God at work knitting together a fresh creation. God grant us eyes to see and ears to hear”.

The Word on the Street

By Stanley P. Saunders and Charles L. Campbell

### **Required Readings:**

**The Word on the Street** by Stanley P. Saunders and Charles L. Campbell

**Faith Works**-Lessons from the Life of an Activist Preacher-Jim Wallis

**Letter Fr**

### **Additional Readings:**

In addition to the required readings for the entire class, it is suggested that each student, read at least one of the books below based on the issue that they choose as a focus for their work in teams.

**What Makes You So Strong?** Sermons of Joy and Strength from Jeremiah A. Wright, Jr.

**Dismantling Racism: The Continuing Challenge to White America**  
by Joe Barndt

**The Betrayal of the Urban Poor** by Helen Slessarev

**The Survivor's Voice: Healing the Invisible Wounds of Violence and Abuse** by Kathy Manis Findley

**A Whosoever Church** by Gary David Comstock

### **Course Requirements:**

- 1) Class attendance and participation in class discussion;
- 2) Complete assigned readings;
- 3) Team presentation in class reflecting theologically on racism, economic injustice, and violence from the perspective of one or two of the ministries that have been identified in this course;

4) Final paper which will identify individual and systemic learnings combined with a plan of action to be used in a setting in which they are engaged addressing one of the issues presented in this class. The paper should be no more than eight typed pages double spaced.

**Breakdown of Grade:**

Attendance, reading assignments & participation	70%
Group Presentation in Class	15%
Final Paper	15%

**Staff For The SCUPE 305 Course:**

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