



TYNDALE

• SEMINARY •

Course Syllabus Winter 2013

POVERTY IN CANADA: THE CHURCH'S WITNESS AMONG THE POOR MISS 0786

TUESDAYS, 6:30 PM – 9:20 PM
JAN. 15 TO APR. 9, 2013

INSTRUCTOR: RICK TOBIAS
Email: rick@ysm.ca

Office Hours: Before or after class by arrangement

To access your course material, please go to <http://mytyndale.ca>

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

An examination of the causes and effects of poverty in Canada from a sociological and Biblical perspective, with a focus on poverty as a culture. An attempt to demythologize the poor and develop understanding and relationships that dismantle our apprehension. Examines how the church serves our poor through its individual, community and prophetic ministries as well as how the poor enrich the church. A variety of ministry models and issues are examined. Some classes are held off campus.

II. LEARNING OUTCOMES

At the end of the course, students should be able to:

- develop a practical understanding of what it means to experience poverty in Canada.
- develop a praxis oriented biblical understanding of poverty and what it means to serve among Canada's impoverished peoples.
- gain insight into the hard ministry realities faced when one moves from the confines of more traditional ministries.
- develop basic skills required to serve among Canada's impoverished peoples.
- gain insight into how to develop an appropriate survival and self care strategy.

III. COURSE REQUIREMENTS

A. REQUIRED TEXTS

Ehrenreich, Barbara. *Nickel and Dimed: On (Not) Getting by in America*. 10th Anniv. Edition. New York: Picador, 2011. 0-8050-6389-7. (pbk)

Gately, Edwina. *I Hear a Seed Growing*. 20th Anniv. Edition. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis, 2011. 0-940147-07-6.

B. SUPPLEMENTARY / RECOMMENDED READING:

Couture, Pamela. *Blessed Are The Poor?* Nashville, TN: Abingdon Press, 1991. 0-687-03615-1.

Huff, Tim. *The Cardboard Shack Beneath the Bridge*. Pickering, ON: Castle Quay Books, 2007. 1-897186-09-01.

Paul, Greg. *20 Piece Shuffle; Why The Poor And Rich Need Each Other*. Paris, ON: David C. Cook, 2009. 978-1-4347-9942-5.

Smiley, T. & C. West, C. *The Rich and the Rest of Us*. Carlsbad, CA: Smiley Books, 2012. (Distributed by Hay House Inc.) 978-1-4019-4063-8.

C. ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING:

1. Personal Class Reflection Papers: Three (3) one page class reflection papers are required (See Section D. General guidelines for the submission of written work). Your paper is to focus on one new theological concept, ministry idea, or event that you believe will impact how you think or feel about “the poor” and how this will impact your ministry with “the poor.” Each paper should:

- state the concept/idea/event clearly and succinctly.
- include the appropriate sociological, psychological, & theological reflection about the concept.
- include a clear statement about how this will impact your personal ministry strategy or a clear statement about how this has impacted your thinking and feeling.

Papers are to be passed in on the Monday following the class on which you are reflecting and are worth approximately 3.3% each. **Papers will not be accepted late.** Papers which do not include a personal reflection (i.e., how the material has impacted how you feel and think) will be significantly down-graded. I am not interested in how you think the church and/or any other individual or group should respond. AND for this course feelings trump thinking.

VALUE: 10%.

DUE: As noted above. (At least two must be submitted before reading week).

2. Community Engagement Papers: You will have three (3) involvements with missions which provide direct contact with the poor. You are to attend as a guest: not as a volunteer.

While at the mission or agency do not identify yourself as a student on assignment. (If directly asked by a staff member you may tell them you are a Tyndale Student and are there with the

mission's blessing). Dress down but not to the point of deceit. All you need to say to justify your presence is that you are a student, money is tight and you heard you could get a meal there. You are to arrive at the Mission at least 30 minutes prior to meal time. Please stay on location until that program ends. Attempt to engage people as you wait in line, eat and/or hang out. Your reflection paper should focus on:

- How you felt as you waited in line for your meal.
- What you felt as you interacted with the other meal guests.
- What would happen to your spirit if you had to eat at a Mission on a regular basis?

(If it makes you more comfortable you may pair with another student for your visit. However you are not to talk about the assignment prior to or after the experience. You may not stand together in line or sit together at meal. You are to give no indication of being with or knowing each other).

Papers are to be passed in the week following your visit. Your reporting on each visit should be **1.5 single spaced pages**. Each report is worth ten (10%). **These papers will not be accepted late.**

Each paper should begin with the following data: Name, Place of Engagement, Date and Time spend in at the Mission / Agency, personal engagements. Papers which do not include a personal reflection (i.e. how the experience has impacted your feeling and thinking) will be significantly down-graded. I am not interested in how you think the church and/or any other individual or group should respond.(See End Note) presentation requirements).

Agencies willing to host you:

CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY CENTRE (Yonge Street Mission)
New Hope Fellowship
270 Gerrard Street East
Contact: Janice Rainey. Call her to book a time.
Ph: 416-929-9614
- Meals: Thursdays from 4:00-9:00 PM.

EVERGREEN: (Yonge Street Mission)
381 Yonge Street
Ph: 416-977-9259 Ext.227
Contact: Vlad. Check in with Vlad when you arrive.

SANCTUARY:
25 Charles Street East (South of Bloor/East of Yonge).
- Meals: Wed and Thurs 4:30.
Ph: 416-922-0628.
Contact: Thea: Call her to book a time.
Possible involvements on Wed. afternoons and Thurs. nights.

ST. FRANCIS TABLE: (Capuchin Outreach).
1322 Queen Street West

Ph: 416-532-4172.
No Contact: Just show up.
- Dinner: Mon - Thur. 4:30 - 6:00PM

SCOTT MISSION:
502 Spadina Ave.
Ph. 416-923-8872
Contact: Trevor Smith. Just show up.
- Meals are served Monday to Saturday.
- First Seating: 10:30
- Second Seating: 11:30.

OUT OF THE COLD:
You may eat or spend the night at Out of the Cold.
Check Internet: Toronto 211. Enter Out of the Cold for a listing of Locations and times for specific programs.

OTHER: If you have another "involvement" you would like to do, please email me for approval. No credit will be given for any new "involvement" that did not have prior approval.

Value: 30%.

Due: *As noted above. (At least two must be submitted before reading week).*

3. Reading: You are to read **six hundred** pages of new material (new material is material which you have not read previously). Material should come from assigned texts. If you have read all the assigned texts, you may negotiate other reading. You may also negotiate a limited amount of outside reading if you think you have found something which may be relevant. Permission must be in writing.

Reporting: From your reading; select **three** new ministry concepts/ideas you think could benefit you and/or your ministry. What have you learned and how do you think you can apply each concept to your ministry? How has the material affected you? How are you and your ministry different? How will you and your ministry be different? Select **one** new concept/idea which you strongly disagree with. Each reflection will begin with a short, clear statement of the concept you are responding to as well as the book and page(s) where the concept is found. Explain the concept and tell me why you believe it would not be helpful to you and/or your ministry. (**Note:** These are reflection papers not book reports). (This is a total of 4 reports).

Your reporting on each concept/idea should be **1-1.5 single spaced pages**. (See End Note: presentation requirements) This is a major assignment. Creativity and in-depth personal reflection is required for a good grade.

Sign Off: Record the books read and the total number of pages, and sign that you have read them.

Texts: (See Prior Listing).

Value: 20%. (4 Reflections @ 5% each. Grades are assigned in direct relation to the number of pages read).

Due: March 19.

4. Final Exam / Paper: Write/design a 50-minute adult Sunday School class designed to enlighten your congregation about the needs of the poor in this city. Provide a biblical basis for Christian involvement with the poor and motivate your congregation to action. You are to request permission of the appropriate church leader to present your material to some segment of your congregation. Your paper should reflect the audience. Again, this is a major assignment. Creativity and in-depth reflection and thought are required for a good grade.

Value: 40%.

Due: April 15, 2013.

D. GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR THE SUBMISSION OF WRITTEN WORK

NOTE 01: All assignments are reflection-oriented. They are not book reviews, class reports or research papers. While your paper should indicate that you are interacting with course materials, you will receive little value for simply reporting on and/or critiquing other people's thoughts. Creativity, in-depth personal reflection and thought are required for a good grade.

NOTE 02: Be kind to trees. All assignments are to be emailed by 12:00 PM on the due date to: rick@ysm.ca . It is your responsibility to ensure your computer is virus free.

NOTE 03: All papers must be typed, single spaced, in a clear 12 point script and are to be submitted as an attachment using MS Word. On the subject line of your email include: your last name, assignment title and number. (Smith, Class Reflection #1 or Smith, Final Assignment etc.).

NOTE 04: No title pages are required for any assignments. Type your name, page number, and assignment title at the top of each page or as a header.

NOTE 05: Never hand in the only copy of an assignment. You should have a copy in the event an assignment goes astray.

NOTE 06: Ten percent (10%) will be deducted for each week your reading report and final assignment are late.

NOTE 07: Given there is no final exam, attendance and class participation will be factored into all grades. Failure to attend or to participate in classes will negatively impact your grade. Be present, be alert, be wise.

NOTE 08: All papers are professional, not academic in nature.

NOTE 09: Instructors may not take any course material submitted beyond the last day of the final exam week, unless the student gets written permission from the Registrar. You may assume that if I have not received your assignments by that deadline, I will submit an incomplete/failing grade.

NOTE 10: Academic Integrity

Integrity in academic work is required of all our students. Academic dishonesty is any breach of this integrity, and includes such practices as cheating (the use of unauthorized material on tests and examinations), submitting the same work for different classes without permission of the instructors; using false information (including false references to secondary sources) in an assignment; improper or unacknowledged collaboration with other students, and plagiarism. Tyndale University College & Seminary takes seriously its responsibility to uphold academic integrity, and to penalize academic dishonesty.

NOTE 11: Students should consult the current Academic Calendar for academic policies on Academic Honesty, Gender Inclusive Language in Written Assignments, Late Papers and Extensions, Return of Assignments, and Grading System. The Academic Calendar is posted at <http://tyndale.ca/registrar>.

E. SUMMARY OF ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING

Evaluation is based upon the completion of the following assignments

Personal Class Reflection Papers (3 x 3.3%)	10%
Community Engagement Papers (3 x 10%)	30%
Personal Reflection based on Required Reading (4 x 5%)	20%
A Final Paper	40%
Total Grade	100 %

IV. COURSE OUTLINE

Please Note: Classes are at Tyndale unless otherwise noted. All classes begin at 6:30 PM. Please show consideration to our guests by leaving adequate travel time to ensure you arrive at off-campus sites on time.

Confused? Call Stephanie @ 416-929-9614 or Email: rick@ysm.ca.

- Jan. 15. A. Welfare in Ontario.
B. The Welfare Game.
- Jan. 22. A. Welcome & Announcements
B. Intro: Between Moses and James: Deut.15 & James 1:27
- Bookends
- Foundation and Apex of Scriptural teaching.
C. Sociology: Poverty in Canada:
- Definitions and Numbers.
- Canadian Poverty Lines and Measures
- Jan. 29 A. Sociology: Poverty in Canada Continued.
B. Poverty in Toronto.

- Sociological & geographical movement.
 - Poverty By Postal Code
 - (Three City Report; Parts 1 & 2)
 - Racialization of Poverty
 - York Ethno-Racial Study
 - Ryerson Study
- Feb. 05 A. Dion Oxford: Homelessness, Shelter, and Housing
 B. Values as a Foundation for Ministry.
- Grace, Gratitude, Generosity.
 - Love: Revised and Revisited.
 - Transformation: Personal and Community.
- Location: The Salvation Army Gateway, [107 Jarvis Street, Toronto.](#)**
- Feb. 12 Towards a Biblical Understanding of Poverty
- A Hebrew Understanding of Poverty
 - Biblical Definitions of Poverty.
- . Towards a Biblical Understanding of Poverty; Con't.
- A Hebrew Understanding of Poverty; Con't.
- Feb. 19 Towards a Biblical Understanding of Poverty; Con't
- Poverty in the New Testament
- Feb. 26 A. Poverty in the New Testament Con't
- B. Biblical Insights: Inter-testamental Insights
- Mar. 05 A. Bill Ryan; "Pastoral Care of the Poor"
- B. Poverty as Culture
- Location: Yonge Street Mission. [306 Gerrard Street East.](#)**
- Mar. 12 **Seminary Reading Week: No Class.**
- Mar. 19 A. Poverty as Culture Con't.
- B. Biblical Rights of the Poor; Ministry Models.
- Mar. 26 A. Biblical Rights of the Poor; Ministry Models Con't.
- B. Ministry Responses: Compassion
- Apr. 02 A. Linda Moorecroft: Refugees and Refugee Resettlement.
- B. Ministry Stories: Gabriel's Tale.
- Apr. 09 A. Ministry Stories / Self-Care: Burn Out is Real.
- B. Wrap up and Evaluations.
- Apr. 15 Final Assignments are due