



TYNDALE

• SEMINARY •

Course Syllabus

WINTER 2019

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

JANUARY 15 – APRIL 9

TUESDAYS, 11:15 AM – 2:05 PM

INSTRUCTORS: DR. RICK TOBIAS (WITH BILL RYAN & JESSE SUDIRGO)

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Office Hours: Before or after class by arrangement

Access course material at <http://classes.tyndale.ca/>

Course emails will be sent to your @MyTyndale.ca e-mail account only.

[Learn how to access and forward emails to your personal account.](#)

The mission of Tyndale Seminary is to provide Christ-centred graduate theological education for leaders in the church and society whose lives are marked by intellectual maturity, spiritual vigour and moral integrity, and whose witness will faithfully engage culture with the Gospel.

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 apprehension. The course will examine 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.

Note: This course is limited to 15 credit students.

II. LEARNING OUTCOMES

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

1. Develop a practical understanding of what it means to experience poverty in Canada.

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

III. COURSE REQUIREMENTS

A. REQUIRED TEXTS

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

As well as one of the following:

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

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

B. SUPPLEMENTARY / RECOMMENDED READING AND TOOLS

Blue, Kevin. *Practical Justice*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP, 2006. ISBN-10: 0-8308-3368-4. ISBN-13: 978-0-8308-3368-9.

Bloomberg, Craig. *Neither Poverty Nor Riches*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP. 2000. ISBN: 0-8308-2607-6.

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

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

Fikkert, Brian, and Steve Corbett. *When Helping Hurts*. Chicago: Moody Publ., 2009. ISBN: 0802457053.

Keller, Tim. *Generous Justice; How God's Grace Makes Us Just*. New York: Riverhead Books, 2012. ISBN: 10: 1594486077.

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

Lupton, Robert. *Compassion, Justice and the Christian Life*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books. 2007. Pk. ISBN9780801017919.

Annan, Kent. *Slow Kingdom Coming*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP, 2016. ISBN: 978-0-8308-4455-5.

Myers, Bryant L. *Walking with the Poor*. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis, 1999. ISBN 1570752753

Tyndale recommends www.stepbible.org – a free and reputable online resource developed by Tyndale House (Cambridge, England) – for word searches of original-language texts, as well as for topical searches, interlinear texts, dictionaries, etc. Refer to the library for other [online resources for Biblical Studies](#).

C. ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING:

1. Personal Class Reflection Papers:

Three (3) one and a half page class reflection papers are required (See Section F. 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 feel or react 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 appropriate sociological, psychological, and theological reflection about the concept.
- Include a clear statement about how this will impact your personal ministry strategy and a clear statement about how this has impacted you personally; your thinking and feeling.

Papers are to be submitted on the Monday following the class on which you are reflecting and are worth 6% 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. We are not interested in how you think the church and/or any other individual or group should respond. In this course feelings trump thinking.

- **VALUE: 20%. (6% x 3 + 2% for completing all three papers on time)**
- **DUE: As noted above. (At least two must be submitted before reading week).**

2. Community Engagement Papers:

You will have two (2) involvements with missions which provide direct contact with people living with poverty. 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 guests.
- What would happen to your spirit if you had to eat at a Mission on a regular basis?

Papers are to be submitted 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 spent 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. We are not interested in how you think the church and/or any other individual or group should respond. (See End Notes presentation requirements).

Note 1: 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.

Note 2: Students may not begin this assignment prior to Jan 22.

Note 3: One reflection must be submitted prior to reading week.

Agencies willing to host you: (Agency list and contacts to be updated on During First Class)

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 [*note change of address*]
- Ph: 416-977-9259 Ext. 227
- Contact: Nathan. 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; Wednesday afternoons and Thursday 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 – update? Just show up.
- Meals 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 for approval. No credit will be given for any new "involvement" that did not have prior approval.

- **Value: 20%.**
- **Due:** As noted above. Both reflections must be submitted by **March 12th.**

3. Reading:

You are to read **six hundred** pages of new material (new material is material which you have not read prior to this course). 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 **two** 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).

Your reporting on each concept/idea should be **1.5 – 2.0 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%.** (2 Reflections @ 10% each. Grades are assigned in direct relation to the number of pages read).
- **Due: Mar. 25th.**

4. Final Paper/Project: 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: Apr. 12th.**

D. EQUITY OF ACCESS

Students with permanent or temporary disabilities who need academic accommodations must [contact](#) the [Accessibility Services](#) at the [Centre for Academic Excellence](#) to [register](#) and discuss their specific needs. *New students* must self-identify and register with the Accessibility Office at the beginning of the semester or as early as possible to access appropriate services. *Current students* must renew their plans as early as possible to have active accommodations in place.

E. SUMMARY OF ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING

Evaluation is based upon the completion of the following assignments

Personal Class Reflection Papers (3 x 6% + 2%)	20%
Community Engagement Papers (2 x 10%)	20%
Personal Reflection on Required Reading (2 x 10%)	20%
Final Paper/Project	40%
Total Grade	100 %

F. 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, Bill or Jesse as assigned. 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, and 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, an incomplete/failing grade will be submitted.

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.

Students are encouraged to consult [writing resources](#).

Students should also 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.

Research Ethics

All course-based assignments involving human participants requires ethical review and approval by the [Tyndale Research Ethics Board \(REB\)](#). Check with the Seminary Office (Room B302; aa@tyndale.ca) before proceeding.

G. COURSE EVALUATION

Tyndale Seminary values quality in the courses it offers its students. End-of-course evaluations provide valuable student feedback and are one of the ways that Tyndale Seminary works towards maintaining and improving the quality of courses and the student's learning experience. Student involvement in this process is critical to enhance the general quality of teaching and learning.

Before the end of the course, students will receive a MyTyndale email with a link to the online course evaluation. The link can also be found in the left column on the course page. The evaluation period is 2 weeks; after the evaluation period has ended, it cannot be reopened.

Course Evaluation results will not be disclosed to the instructor before final grades in the course have been submitted and processed. Student names will be kept confidential and the instructor will only see the aggregated results of the class.

IV. COURSE OUTLINE

Please Note: Classes are at Tyndale unless otherwise announced. All classes begin at 2:15PM. Please show consideration to our guests by leaving adequate travel time to ensure you arrive at class on time. Confused? Call Rick @ 416-355-3545 or Email: rick@ysm.ca.

Week 01 (Jan. 15) Introductions: Instructor / Stats / Biblical.

- A. Projection: Banksy: "The Life Style You Ordered Is Currently Out of Stock"
 - 1. Team. Welcome and Announcements
- B. The Three City Report:
 - 1. Three Cities.
 - 2. Claudia Alick - Employed Poor. (Video)
 - 3. Life between poverty and middle class.
 - 4. Vertical Poverty
- C. Intro: Between Moses and James: Deut.15 & James 1:27.
 - 1. Foundation and Apex of Scriptural teaching.

Week 02 (Jan. 22) Sociology: Poverty in Canada.

- A. Poverty in Canada: Definitions and Numbers.
 - 1. Stats and Handouts.
 - 2. Introduction to High Risk Groups
 - 3. Poverty In Toronto

4. The Daily Bread Annual Report.
 5. Sociological & geographical movement: An Expanding Circle of Poverty: From 416 to 905 and beyond.
- B. The Church's Historical Responses.
1. Foundations: The Response of the Early Church. (Pre-Constantine).
 2. Post World War II: The invention of the Suburbs, White flight, In-migration and immigration.
 3. Church Exits and Service.

Week 03 (Jan. 29) Sociology: Poverty in Canada Continued.

- A. The Plight of Urban High Risk Youth
1. Canadian Stats.
 2. Social Issues.
 3. Youth Homelessness surveys for Canada
- B. Racialization of Poverty
1. York Ethno-Racial Study

Week 04 (Feb. 05) Urban High Risk Youth / Towards a Biblical Understanding of Poverty.

- A. Old Testament/Hebrew Insights and Definitions of Poverty.
- B. Old Testament/Hebrew Insights Con't.

Week 05 (Feb. 12) Towards a Biblical Understanding of Poverty Con't.

- A. New Testament Insights and Definitions of Poverty.
- B. Inter-testamental Insights into Poverty.

Week 06 (Feb 19) READING WEEK – NO CLASS

Week 07 (Feb. 26) Towards a Biblical Understanding of Poverty; Con't.

- A. Imago Dei; The image of God In The poor.
- B. Poverty of Spirit vs a Theology of Poverty of Spirit.
- C. Values as a Foundation for Ministry.
1. Grace, Gratitude, Generosity.
 2. Love: Revised and Revisited. Beyond Loving Our Neighbour.

Week 08 (Mar. 05) Poverty as Culture.

- A. The Dale; Pastoring People Living with Poverty
- B. Poverty as Culture.

Week 09 (Mar. 12) Towards A Biblical Understanding Justice

- A. Biblical Justice: Compassion Mishpat, Tsēdaqah, and Hesed

Week 10 (Mar 19) Hospitality and Food as Sacrament:

- A. Power dynamics in First Corinthians and Poverty

B. Food and Communion.

Week 11 (Mar 26) Biblical Rights of the Poor; Ministry Models.

- A. Compassion and Justice: Doing good and bringing change.
- B. Justice and Systemic involvements & community development.

Week 12 (Apr. 02) Biblical Rights of the Poor; Ministry Models. Con't.

- A. Justice and Advocacy
- B. Advocacy and Journeying with People

Week 13 (Apr. 09) Self-Care.

- A. Compassion Fatigue: Self Care & Burnout Avoidance
- B. Wrap up and Evaluations.

Week 14 (Apr 16). ALL ASSIGNMENTS ARE DUE OR PAST DUE

V. SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

(Tyndale Library supports this course with [e-journals and e-books](#). See the [Library FAQ page](#).)

A more inclusive Bibliography will be distributed at the time of the course.