Northern Seminary at Lawndale  
DM 7824 Exploring Christian Community Development  
Summer 2015  
Sunday June 14 through Wednesday June 17  
Dr. Wayne “Coach” Gordon  
Dr. John Perkins  
(773)762-6389 ext 113  
gocoach@aol.com

Note: Dr. John Perkins will be with us Monday and be the primary professor for the day. Sunday class will begin with worship at Lawndale Community Church 11:00 am.

Class Schedule

Sunday 11:00am-5:00 pm  
Monday – Tuesday  9:00 am – 5:00 pm  
Wednesday 10:00 am -8:00 pm

Course Description

This course will explore the means and methodologies to do Christian community development. Christian community development is a philosophy of ministry to reach under resourced communities. The purpose of this course will be to study some of the key issues that have kept poor communities poor and individual people trapped in poverty. There will be special emphasis on the meaning of Biblical justice and how to live out a just life in America. One focus will be obeying the Great Command of scripture, Loving God and Loving our neighbor as ourselves.

This course is uniquely designed to learn from others in ministry facing the same tensions and pressures. By discussion and oral presentations of fellow students each person will learn the principles of longevity first hand.

Course Objectives

The clear objective of this class is to help students be able to understand the complexities of poverty, racism, injustice and other factors that have contributed to the under resourced communities in America. We will then learn how the philosophy of ministry know as Christian Community Development addresses these issues and brings hope to these situations.

• Understand the philosophy of Christian Community Development  
• To articulate and embrace a Biblical response to poverty, racism and injustice  
• learn from personal and practical interaction with current practitioners of Christian Community Development and apply that learning in their own context of ministry  
• help students learn to recognize the Biblical mandate to care for the poor and live out justice on an ongoing basis
**Required Readings**


**Course Requirements**

- Write a one page reflection paper on each book read for this class. (10%)  
- Pick one of the 8 key components of Christian Community Development and write a 3-5 page paper detailing the importance of this aspect of Christian Community Development. (15%)  
- Class discussion is very important and will be necessary to have intelligent dialogue with other classmates regarding the topics assigned. (15%)  
- Do a study of scripture regarding Justice and loving our neighbor as a priority of the Christian life. 3-5 pages. (15%)  
- Lead a discussion with the class on one of the books assigned for class. This can be done with one or two other students. (10%)  
- Complete a project using the concepts learned in class in your particular context of ministry. Write a one paragraph description of project for approval of by the professor by June 17th. A written paper of the details of project and results. (35%)  

**All work due to the professor in hard copy by September 15th**

Note: All Writing assignments must conform in format to Turabian, *A Manual for Writers*, 8th ed., 2013
Course Grading

See percentage next to course requirements.

Grading Scale

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Class Sessions

Each class session will present a combination of lecture, discussion and practical experience.

All books are to be read before the class discussion each day

Sunday June 14

- Understanding the Church in Christian Community Development
- Worship and ministry
- The Biblical Plan of God
- The Great Commandment
- Book discussion: Who Is My Neighbor?

Monday June 15

- Racism
- Understanding Justice
- John Perkins Story
- Book Discussion: With Justice For All
- Injustices
- Biblical justice
- Applying Christian Community Development in Difficult Situations
- Book discussion: More Than Just Race
**Tuesday June 16**

- Prisons and incarceration

- Book discussion: *The New Jim Crow*

- Changing the system

- Book discussion: *Brainwashed*

**Wednesday June 17**

- Poverty

  - Book discussion: *Family Properties*

  -- How to get out of poverty

- Book discussion: *Bridges Out of Poverty*

- Class will participate in Pray Chicago event in Garfield Park