COURSE DESCRIPTION

A congregation needs to understand its social and cultural context and its own character and identity in relationship to its surrounding community. Any urban environment can be described in terms of demographics, organizations, present day activities, historical events, networks, economics, political structures, and how churches embody certain characteristics and engage their community. Research tools and resources will be explored and implemented by students in selected geographic settings.

COURSE GOALS

Concepts: ecclesiology and missiology regarding church interface with the world, and theory concerning quantitative and qualitative research. Skills: quantitative and qualitative research in congregations and nearby communities and report development and use. Conation: commitment and habits accentuating church development and redevelopment, and congregational outreach to a community.

COURSE FORMAT

The class will meet weekly for 3 hours, for ten weeks. Class times will include lectures, individual and group exercises, modeling, web demonstrations, and reflective discussions of materials and experiences. Students will also work individually and in groups in Highland Park and at Faith United Presbyterian Church

REQUIRED READING:
Assigned articles

RECOMMENDED READING:
ASSIGNMENTS & GRADING
1. Attend and participate in class. (20%)
2. Read assignments as scheduled; keep a reading log for submission. Full credit given only when assigned readings are completed on schedule. (20%)
3. Complete 30 hours of social research in Highland Park and with Faith Presbyterian Church, including demographics, churches, community networks, and congregational interviews. Keep a detailed log of activities. (30%)
4. Complete individual and group reports on research and analysis. Weekly assignments are due at the beginning of class. Some reporting will be on the class email site on Campus Pipeline. (30%)
5. For students pursuing an A or A-, read an additional recommended book and write a 500-word Adler-style review; write a 2000-word paper or curriculum on congregational mission. This paper should reflect the student’s other seminary work, concepts and practices of this course, and a thesis about congregational life and mission. Topics need prior approval.

Assignments can be submitted during class or to the Office of Presbyterian Ministries, Carnell Hall. Late work can receive up to ½ credit. All submissions must be received by 5pm on June 10.

COURSE DETAILS & ETIQUETTE

Be on time and prepared for class. Latecomers disrupt the learning of others, show disrespect for initial activities, and perpetuate unhelpful patterns for being a learner and being in ministry. The requirements for thoroughness and for timeliness in graduate education are not dissimilar to the habits one needs as a mature and responsible leader in a church or other ministry group.

Self-reporting of Attendance and Reading assignments is to be done on the “Report Sheet”, attached. This should be turned in with your final paper. You must sign this report. Honest reporting about assignments, including lateness, is important because fairness and integrity are important. Also, it’s in the Student Handbook (see “Academic Integrity”).

Participate respectfully as we form a learning community. Give respect and attention to the ideas, comments, and questions of others. We want to encourage rigorous thinking and clear articulation in a welcoming environment. Hospitality in class, as we discuss varying viewpoints and personal experiences, does not mean we are just “nice” – rather it calls for careful listening, for empathy, for clarity in disagreements, and for words that honor the Holy Breath’s work in and among us. Attendance and attentive interaction when other groups are making presentations is expected.

Papers should follow norms for style and grammar. Late papers are penalized. Students who desire assistance with style and grammar are encouraged to contact the “Writing Center” at 626-584-5630 or to seek assistance from friends. Keep a printed or computer copy of your work until the graded copy is returned to you.

- All papers must by double spaced, 1" margins, pages numbered
- Use 12 pt Times Roman font, or a very readable serif font (not a sans-serif font)
- Follow Turabian for style.
**Academic Integrity Commitment.** At the beginning of this course we, as faculty and students, reaffirm our commitment to be beyond reproach in our academic work as a reflection of Christian character. We commit to honesty in all aspects of our work. We seek to establish a community which values serious intellectual engagement and personal faithfulness more highly than grades, degrees, or publications. Students are expected to review and understand the commitments to academic integrity as printed in the Student Handbook and the Seminary catalogue. Some infractions can be addressed by personal confrontation and corrective counsel. The following violations of these commitments will be firmly addressed formally:

- Submitting the same work in whole or in part in more than one course without the permission of the professor(s);
- Submitting as one’s own work paper(s) obtained from another source;
- Plagiarism, i.e., large and/or multiple unattributed quotations or paraphrases of ideas from published or unpublished sources;
- Unpermitted collaboration in preparing assignments;
- Cheating on exams by any means;
- Aiding another student on papers and tests in violation of these commitments.

Any of these violations will result in a failing grade on the assignment and possibly in the course, and will be reported to the Academic Integrity Group (see below) which may impose further sanctions in accordance with the Academic Integrity Policy. Evidence of repeated violations will result in a formal disciplinary process. (For the full statement on Academic Integrity see The Student Handbook.)

**Office hours, coffee, and the web** provide ways for the instructors and students to be in contact. Students are invited to email instructors concerning personal appointments. Students may wish to initiate meal conversations before class. Also, Campus Pipeline allows us to send email to selected students or to the entire class. **Students must register their email addresses with CP.** Go to www.fuller.edu, click on the Campus Pipeline icon, click on setup, and complete the enrollment. You can have your mail forwarded to another account. If you need assistance, call the Registrar’s Office at 626-584-5408.

**Incompletes** are only granted in extenuating circumstances (medical emergencies, etc). Requests, signed by the instructor, are due in the registrar’s office on the last day of the quarter. The length of the extension is governed solely by school academic policies. Incompletes are not intended to cover for bad time management, including everyone’s need to structure schedules to allow for unexpected obligations.

**Returning papers.** Students who want their papers returned must provide for mailing or pickup. Papers turned in without self-addressed, stamped envelopes (without sufficient postage) or Fuller box numbers will be held in the Office of Presbyterian Ministries, Carnell Hall, for one quarter past the completion of the class.

**Gender inclusive language.** The faculty is committed to the use of gender inclusive language in accordance with the joint faculty approved policy. Students are strongly encourage to use inclusive language in their writing.
## COURSE SCHEDULE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Session &amp; Date</th>
<th>Research Due</th>
<th>Reading Due</th>
<th>Class Topics</th>
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</table>
| #1 3/28        |              |             | Overview of texts and syllabus  
Orientation to site and PCUSA  
Introduce research  
Assign teams |
| #2 4/4         | 2 hours in HP  
Conversation with retailer  
Propose boundaries | **Kretzmann** Intro, 2, 3 | Geographic boundaries  
Kretzmann  
Assign community research |
| #3 4/11        | Team work on churches,  
schools, government, and  
civic organizations | **Branson** Foreword,  
Preface, ch 1-4  
**D Jacobsen** 1-7 | Teams report  
Appreciative Inquiry  
Assign AI interviews  
Community Organizing  
Assign Community Research |
| #4 4/18        | Set up, begin interviews  
Team research in community | **D Jacobsen** 8-12  
**E Jacobsen** Foreword,  
Preface, Part I,  
Appendix A | Demographics  
City Life |
| #5 4/25        | Continue AI and community research | **E Jacobsen** Pt2,  
Conc, Apx C  
**Dudley** |  |
| #6 5/2         |              | **Kretzmann** 1, 4-6 |  |
| #7 5/9         |              |             |  |
| #8 5/16        |              |             |  |
| #9 5/23        |              | **Reader** |  |
| #11 6/6        |              |             |  |

6/10 – All papers and student self-report are due.
## COURSE REPORT SHEET

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Session &amp; Date</th>
<th>Research Completed - note activity, date, hours</th>
<th>Reading Completed - “X” on time; “L” late</th>
<th>Class Attendance (150 min)</th>
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Final Paper due 6/10 – Attach this Report Sheet
Pursuing an A: Addl book review _____ Paper _____