**Urban Apologetics**

 01PT6225

 **Reformed Theological Seminary** — **Jackson, MS**

 **Fall Term, 2021**

 Instructor: Carl F. Ellis, Jr.

**Course Description**

An Analysis of today's competing value systems and world views including an examination of various social visions. This course explores the hidden forces behind cultural conflict and suggests biblical ways to address these conflicts. The emphasis is on the universal influences which give rise to inequality using the African American experience as a case study. This course covers ideologies which have contributed to the contemporary urban cultural crisis and includes suggested biblical approaches for addressing the underlying issues.

**Objectives**

 At the end of this course, the student will be able to:

 1. Identify the nature and basic components and dynamics of culture.

 2. Articulate how culture effects the consciousness and behavior of individuals and corporate bodies of people.

 3 Explain the role of God's grace and man’s sin in the life of a culture.

 4. Recognize the basic approaches to public policy and the views of humanity on which they rest.

 5. Distinguish between *empowerment* and *enablement* approaches to ministries in a sub-dominant cultural context.

 6. Assess the value systems that drive various sub-cultures.

**Required Reading**

 1. Anderson, Elijah: *CODE OF THE STREET*

 2. Douglass, Fredrick: *What to the Slave is the Fourth of July?*

 3. Ellis, Carl F.: *FREE AT LAST?: The Gospel in the African-American Experience*

 4. King, Dr. Martin Luther, Jr.: *Letter from Birmingham Jail*

 5. Mason, Eric: *URBAN APOLOGETICS*

 6. Sanneh, Lamin: *WHOSE RELIGION IS CHRISTIANITY? The Gospel Beyond the West*

**Supplemental Readings**

 1. Edgar, William: *THE FACE OF TRUTH: Lifting the Veil*

 2. Brooks, Christopher: *URBAN APOLOGETICS*

 3. Dalrymple, Theodore: *LIFE AT THE BOTTOM*

 4. Naugle, David K.: *WORLDVIEW: The History of a Concept*

 5. Newbigin, Lesslie: *THE GOSPEL IN A PLURALIST SOCIETY*

 6. Pratt, Richard: *EVERY THOUGHT CAPTIVE*

 7. Walsh, Brian J. & Middleton, Richard: *THE TRANSFORMING VISION*

**Course Requirements**

 1. **Complete all reading assignments by October 31, 2021.**

 2. Consistent class attendance and participation in class discussions.

 3. **A response paper due on November 7, 2021** — 15-20 pages.

 4. Complete a final exam during the Examination period — **December 7-9, 2021**

5. **Guidelines for Response Papers**

 a. CREATIVITY: Evidence of personal insight into the content.

 b. CLARITY: Thinking and expression of thought clearly communicated.

 c. CONCEPTUALIZATION: Analytical skills evident.

 d. CONTRIBUTION: Practical and usable in ministry.

 6. **Format Guidelines for Response Papers**

All papers must be in ***Word Perfect 7*** or higher; ***MS Word 95 for Windows*** or higher; or ***MS Word for Mac***2008 or higher.

 Email the paper as an attachment to: **cellis@rts.edu**

**PLEASE BE SURE YOUR NAME IS ON THE PAPER ITSELF** and identify your email as “**RTS - URBAN APOLOGETICS**” (all caps)

 If you run into difficulty meeting the deadline, please call me at:

423) 280-4183 (cell)