
Radical Hospitality

TRT2811HF

Interdisciplinary Perspectives & Practices

Instructor: Jason McKinney, PhD.
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Location: Epiphany & St Mark, south doors
201 Cowan Ave., Parkdale

Course Website:
<https://urbantheology.moodlecloud.com/>

Time: Thursdays, 7:00 – 9:00 pm

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course will introduce students to three dimensions of hospitality.

1. The *phenomenon* of hospitality: something of its history, theology, and practice in the Christian tradition.
2. The *concept* of hospitality: attending to some of the 20th century philosophical reflections on the theme.
3. The concrete *practice* of hospitality.

This year's course will focus on the **realities of urban life and gentrification** as a way to think concretely about radical hospitality.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Classroom Sessions: Enrolled TST students will meet on the alternating weeks for seminar-style discussions. Here we will debrief the lectures, discuss the course readings, and engage further themes related to hospitality.

Public Lecture Series: the class will double as a lecture series on hospitality. Three guest lecturers will be invited to share their own reflections the theme of gentrification. This series is being offered in partnership with the *Parkdale Neighbourhood Land Trust* and will be open to the local community.

A *Topoanalysis*

“Of course, thanks to the house, a great many of our memories are housed ... our memories have refuges that are all the more clearly delineated. All our lives we come back to them in our daydreams... Topoanalysis, then would be the systematic psychological study of the sites of our intimate lives.” - Gaston Bachelard

For this short (3-5 page) paper students are asked to reflect on some of the spaces and interiors of their early childhood in order to unearth fundamental experiences of “homefullness” or well-being. Such experiences are important to a phenomenological understanding of the theme of hospitality and a theological understanding of its practice.

Reading Reports: Students will write a 1-2 page response to THREE of the assigned course readings. This will include a brief summary of the piece as well as a few paragraphs worth of reflection and response. Students must choose ONE reading prior to the Reading Week and TWO readings after.

Project Proposal: A written summary of the final paper. This should include a thesis statement, an outline of the argument, and a bibliography. This proposal will be presented to the class.

Participation: Attendance at all seminar sessions and public lectures is expected. Readings will be assigned by the course instructor for each session. Students will be expected to have completed the readings before each session and be prepared to discuss them. It is recommended that students arrive for class having prepared some questions based on the readings.

Final Paper: At the end of the course, students will have an opportunity to construct their own “theology of hospitality,” which will be attentive to all three of the dimensions of hospitality mentioned above.

EVALUATION

Participation	20%
<i>Topoanalysis</i>	20%
Reading Reports	20%
Project Proposal	10%
Final Paper	30%

TEXTS [available at Crux Books]

- Lupton, Robert D. *Compassion, Justice and the Christian Life: Rethinking Ministry to the Poor*. Baker Books, 2010.
- Nouwen, Henri J. M. *Reaching Out: The Three Movements of the Spiritual Life*. Reissue edition. Garden City, N.Y: Image, 1986.
- Pohl, Chistine D. *Making Room: Recovering Hospitality as a Christian Tradition*. Grand Rapids, Mich: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1999.

All other readings will be available for download from the course website (see above).

SCHEDULE

Date	Theme	Reading
September 15	Introduction & Syllabus Review	
September 22	Hospitality in the Christian Tradition	C. Pohl, <i>Making Room</i> , 3-58 I. Illich, “Hospitality and Pain”

September 29	Homefullness and Hospitality	G. Bachelard, Poetics of Space, 3-17 (optional 18-37) “Memories of Favourite Locations Have a Special Place in Brain New Scientist.”
October 6	The Stranger	T. Nail, “Migrant Cosmopolitanism” G. Simmel, “The Stranger”
October 13	Expulsions	S. Sassen, “A Savage Sorting”
October 20	Hospitality, Land, and the City	L. Simpson, “Land as Pedagogy” & TBD
October 27 – Reading Week		
November 3	*PUBLIC EVENT: “Gentrification, Strangership, and Social Mix” with Mervyn Horgan	T. Slater, “Gentrification in Canada’s Cities: From Social Mix to Social Tectonics” Gentrification Summary sheet
November 10	*PUBLIC EVENT: “A Local Response to Gentrification: Community Land Trusts and Urban Agriculture in Parkdale” with representatives from the <i>Parkdale Neighbourhood Land Trust</i>	J.E. Davis, “Common Ground Community--Led Development on Community--Owned Land” “How One Boston Neighborhood Stopped Gentrification in Its Tracks by Penn Loh — YES! Magazine.
November 17	*PUBLIC EVENT: “Gentrification, Housing, and Community Finance” with Emma and Graham Cubitt of <i>Indwell, Hamilton</i>	D. Ley, “Artists, Aestheticization and the Field of Gentrification” “Why Local Nyc Artists Are Fighting ‘artwashing’ Read.” I-D.
November 24	Gentrification, Hospitality, and The Church	R. Lupton , “Toward a Theology of Gentrification”
December 1	Toward a Spiritual Practice of Hospitality *Special Guest: <i>Making Room Community Arts</i>	J. Chittister, Wisdom Distilled from the Daily, 121-132 H. Nouwen, Reaching Out, 63-110
December 8	Conclusion	Project Proposals Due