

Senior Seminar
Interdisciplinary Studies
Dr. Gregory Bruce

Possible Senior Projects: “Work to be done in the city”

Preliminaries: Why the focus on the city?

- Catch the twin cultural waves of A) the urban ministries movement and B) the more general urban revitalization movement (the concept of social justice is part of both movements and provides a “common denominator” for the whole Zeitgeist).
- Grasp the logic of the argument that “as the city goes, so goes the culture.”
- Understand the link between the city and globalization (the larger “urban field”).
- Find WORK—ministry and career (IDS majors do not seek mere “jobs”).

Some Issues/Topics:

1. URBAN WALKABOUTS

- relate, historically, to prayer walks or pilgrimages
- reading and writing the city (the literary city, the city as a text)
- *bricolage* and mythopoesis
- mapping (cognitive, physical, community)
- psychogeography and the Situationists
- the symbol system
- further applications (churches, schools, urban planning, etc.)
- Project Atlanta (Sub-Urban Group)
- Project Asheville

2. ORAL NARRATIVE

- documentary and community
- story and renewal
- narrative therapy
- narrative and identity
- narrative and empathy (seeing the world through the eyes of another)
- orality versus visuality (or literacy)
- narrative and technology (collecting stories, enhancing stories.
- continue Sterling Project, downtown Greenville (archive stories from senior community; “Griots and Grits” Project)
- Project with involving Greenville Cultural Exchange
- Project Atlanta (Sub-Urban Group, South Atlanta History, “Storm Stories”)

3. LITERACY AND EDUCATION

- Pen-Pal project (rethink)
 - Sterling Hope Center, Greenville (proposals, strategies, the school)
 - orality, literacy, and electracy (multi-modal literacies)
4. homelessness, housing, gentrification (Charis Housing in Atlanta)
 5. the science of emergence and the city
 6. Jane Jacobs
 7. cosmicity and urban design (beyond mere “greening”)
 8. art and the city (the role of public art, statues and monuments versus abstract art, graffiti and performance art)
 9. logo culture (semiotics and the city, consumer culture, *flanerie*)
 10. urban legends
 11. the charrette and urban development (the civic realm)
 12. sex trafficking (prostitution, vulnerable women, Sisters in Service, Sub-Urban Group)
 13. urban ministries (Hispanic services, emergence, church plants, the New Monasticism)
 14. the “Hispanicization” of the American city (and the suburbs)
 15. the city and culture (the media, the monastery)
 16. the Greenville area and the history of the “Dark Corner.”