DM2040W  Soulful Community Work Practice

Offered: 2016: Semester 1

This unit will explore the nexus of Christian spirituality, community work and the dynamics of personal and social transformation through weekly participation in Urban Seed’s community work practice. It is designed to enable participants to reflect theologically upon practice and context in order to develop the frameworks and approaches needed to work alongside local communities.

Upon successful completion of this unit, it is expected that students will be able to:
1. Describe and evaluate the reciprocal relationships between community work practice and Christian community work’s long soulful tradition of reflective dialogue and intentional hospitality
2. Describe the influence of Christian spirituality and caritas in community work practice;
3. Develop, facilitate and critically review conversation as a means of animating group work;
4. Integrate aspects of Biblical scholarship, critical theory, dialogics and Freire’s pedagogy in relationship to community work;

Prerequisites: Nil

Class Time: Four hours per week plus 100 practice hours in community work with Urban Seed

Assessment: Personal learning journal based upon Participation (3,000 words) (50%)
Group presentation task (1,000 words) (25%)
Facilitating and documenting peer supervision Session (1,000 words) (25%)

Faculty: Greg Gow and David Wilson

Recommended Reading:
* = set texts recommended for purchase

Duncan, M. 2013, Alongsiders: Sitting with Those Who Sit Alone, UNOH: Dandenong