

**TRIN 2802HS - Winter 2016**  
**Beyond Homelessness:**  
**Theology in a Postmodern World**

How does it feel  
To be on your own  
With no direction home  
Like a complete unknown  
Like a rolling stone?  
[Bob Dylan, "Like a Rolling Stone"]

I've got a dream and I'm not alone  
darkness dead and gone  
all the people marching home  
kissing the rush of dawn  
[Bruce Cockburn, "Santiago Dawn"]

Whoever it was that brought me here,  
will have to take me home  
[Martyn Joseph, "Whoever it was ..."]

**Instructor:** Dr. Brian Walsh, Wycliffe College  
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**Times:** Tuesday, 7.00-9.00PM

**Class site:** Chaplain's office, Wycliffe College (and various off campus sites)

**Description:**

A study of the nature of postmodern homelessness in the light of a theological and phenomenological analysis of homecoming and homemaking. Biblical themes such as creation, exodus, covenant, land and kingdom will be interpreted in the context of present experiences of socio-economic homelessness, geo-political violence, disconnectedness to the earth and an overwhelming sense of being nomads without roots in any place or community.

**Requirements:**

**1. Class Participation (25%)**

Students will be asked to come to each class with at least one question, comment, critique or observation based upon the readings for that day. This class will be conducted as a seminar, therefore, close reading of the assigned texts is essential.

**2. Written Work (75%)**

**a) Book Review** Students will choose one book from the "Book Fair" list (and they are welcome to make suggestions from beyond the list) that they will review and promote at one of two "Book Fairs" that we will have as a class on **Feb. 9** and **Mar 8** (25%)

**b) Essay** One major essay (15-20 pages) addressing any theme of homelessness from an interdisciplinary and biblical perspective. Essay proposals (including a title, a paragraph description and at least five books, articles beyond the course readings that will serve as the beginning bibliography).

Proposals Due: **Mar. 1**

Papers Due: **April 12** [Note that this is one week after the last class. I hope that giving this extra week will limit the number of requests for extensions.]

**Note regarding essays and reviews:** All work is to be submitted on double sided paper (either printing on both sides or using clean backs). Electronic submissions are discouraged.

**Required Texts:** [available at Crux Books, Wycliffe College]

Steven Bouma-Prediger and Brian J. Walsh. *Beyond Homelessness: Christian Faith in a Culture of Displacement*. Eerdmans, 2008.

Mark Gornik. *To Live in Peace: Biblical Faith and the Changing Inner City*. Eerdmans, 2002.

For further resources consult the extensive bibliography in *Beyond Homelessness*.

## Course Outline

### Jan. 12 **Beyond Homelessness: what are the issues?**

- an introductory session

Supplementary Reading: Steven Bouma-Prediger and "Education for Homelessness or Homemaking? The Christian College in a Postmodern Culture." *Christian Scholar's Review* 32.3 (Spring, 2003). As well as the follow up conversation/debate: Robin Klay and John Lunn, "Reflection: Linking Education to Upward Mobility and Environmental Stewardship? A Response from Economists," and Steve Bouma-Prediger and Brian Walsh, "Response: If it Ain't Broke, don't fix it: A reply to Robin Klay and John Lunn," *Christian Scholar's Review* 33.4 (Summer 2004). {available from the professor}

### Jan. 19 **There's No Place Like Home:**

Reading: Bouma-Prediger/Walsh, ch. 1&2

### Jan. 26 **Homemaking with Refugees and Immigrants: An Evening with Romero House**

Reading: tba

### Feb. 2 **Socio-Economic Homelessness, Housing and Homemaking**

Reading: Reading: Bouma-Prediger/Walsh, ch 3 & 4; Gornik, Intro, chs 1&5

### Feb. 9: **Book Fair #1**

Feb. 16 no class – TST reading week

### Feb. 23 **An Evening at the CRC in Regent Park** (40 Oak St.) <http://www.tcrc.ca>

Reading: <http://www.research.utoronto.ca/the-new-regent-park-will-it-work/> and, <http://tcrc.ca/wp-content/uploads/2013/03/Regent-Park-a-story-of-collective-impact.pdf>

### Mar. 1 **From Ecological Homelessness to Shalom**

Reading: Bouma-Prediger/Walsh, ch. 5 & 6

**Note: Major paper proposals are due today**

### Mar. 8 **Book Fair #2**

### Mar. 15 **"Home ... hard to know what it is, if you've never had one"**

**An evening at Sanctuary** <http://www.sanctuarytoronto.ca/> (25 Charles East) Details to be announced.

Reading: Gornik, chs. 2,3&4

### Mar. 22 **Postmodern Homelessness and The Indwelling God**

Reading: Bouma-Prediger/Walsh, ch. 7.

### Mar. 29 **Hope, Scripture and the God of Homefulness**

Reading: Bouma-Prediger/Walsh, chs. 8&9. Gornik, ch. 6 and "Not in Vain"

### April 5 **A Celebration of Learning**

**Note: Major essays are due on April 12**

## Book Fair List

Berry, Wendell. *Citizenship Papers*. Washington, D.C.: Shoemaker & Hoard, 2003. (essays)  
Berry, Wendell. *Home Economics*. New York: North Point, 1987. (essays)  
Berry, Wendell. *Jaybar Crow*. Washington: Counterpoint, 2000. (novel)  
Berry, Wendell. *Remembering*. San Francisco: North Point Press, 1988. (short novel)  
Berry, Wendell. *Sex, Economy, Freedom, and Community*. New York: Pantheon, 1993. (essays)  
**Note:** Any collection of Wendell Berry's poems (there are many) would also be welcome.

Brueggemann, Walter. *Cadences of Home*. Louisville: Westminster/John Knox, 1997. (biblical)  
Brueggemann, Walter. *The Land: Place as Gift, Promise, and Challenge in Biblical Faith*. Philadelphia: Fortress, 1977. (biblical)

Buechner, Frederick. *The Longing for Home*. San Francisco: HarperCollins, 1996. (reflection/memoir)

Dillard, Annie. *Pilgrim at Tinker Creek*. New York: Perennial Classics, 1998. (creative non-fiction)

Fuller, Millard. *A Simple, Decent Place to Live: The Building Realization of Habitat for Humanity*. Dallas: Word, 1995. (the story of Habitat for Humanity)

Hayes, Shannon. *Radical Homemakers: Reclaiming Domesticity from a Consumer Culture* (Richmondville: Left to Write Press, 2010). (non-fiction)

hooks, bell. *Belonging: A Culture of Place*. New York and London: Routledge, 2009. (memoir, cultural criticism, womanist perspective)

Jacobsen, Eric O. *Sidewalks in the Kingdom: New Urbanism and Christian Faith*. Grand Rapids: Brazos Press, 2003. (new urbanism)

Jackson, Wes. *Becoming Native to this Place*. Washington, DC: Counterpoint, 1996. (essays)

Kingsolver, *Animal Dreams*. New York: Harper Collins, 1990. (novel)

**Note:** Any book, fiction or non-fiction, by Kingsolver would be appropriate for the book fair. They are all, by her own admission, about home.

Kirn, Walter. *Up in the Air*. New York: Doubleday, 2001. (novel)

Kunstler, James Howard. *The Geography of Nowhere: The Rise and Decline of America's Man-made Landscape*. New York: Simon and Schuster, 1993. (cultural criticism)

Kunstler, James Howard. *Home from Nowhere: Remaking Our Everyday World for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*. New York: Simon and Schuster, 1996. (cultural criticism)

Leach, William. *Country of Exiles: The Destruction of Place in American Life*. New York: Pantheon, 1999. (non-fiction)

Lewis, C. S. *The Magician's Nephew*. New York: Macmillan, 1978. (novel)

Nouwen, Henri. *The Return of the Prodigal: A Story of Homecoming*. New York: Image Doubleday, 1994. (spirituality, scripture and art)

Orr, David. *The Nature of Design: Ecology, Culture and Human Intention*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2002. (essays)

Orr, David. *Earth In Mind: On Education, Environment, and the Human Prospect*. Washington, DC: Island Press, 1994. (essays)

Paul, Greg. *God in the Alleys: Being and Seeing Jesus in a Broken World*. Random House, 2004. (creative non-fiction/memoir)

Paul, Greg. *Twenty Piece Shuffle: How the Rich and the Poor Lead Each Other Home*. Toronto: David C. Cook, 2008. (creative non-fiction/memoir)

Pohl, Christine. *Making Room: Recovering Hospitality as a Christian Tradition*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1999. (historical)

Sanders, Scott Russell. *Staying Put: Making a Home in a Restless World*. Boston: Beacon, 1993. (cultural analysis)

Smith, Christopher and Pattison, John. *Slow Church: Cultivating Community in the Patient Way of Jesus*. (Downers Grove, Ill.: InterVarsity Press, 2014. (place based church planting)

Sparks, Paul, Tim Soerens and Dwight Friesen. *The New Parish*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 2014. (place based church planting)

Terpstra, John. *Falling into Place*. Gaspereu Press, 2002. (creative non-fiction)

Vanier, Jean. *Our Journey Home: Recovering a Common Humanity Beyond Our Differences*. Maryknoll: Orbis, 1996. (spirituality)

Weil, Simone. *The Need for Roots*. London: Routledge and Kegan Paul, 1952. (non-fiction)

Wolterstorff, Nicholas. *Lament for a Son*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1987. (memoir)