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
Whoever it was that brought me here,
darkness dead and gone
will have to take me home
all the people marching home
[Martyn Joseph, “Whoever it was …”]
kissing the rush of dawn
[Bruce Cockburn, “Santiago Dawn”]

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]


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

### Course Outline

**Jan. 12**  **Beyond Homelessness: what are the issues?**
- an introductory session


**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](http://www.tcrc.ca)

**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/](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**

**Note**: Any collection of Wendell Berry’s poems (there are many) would also be welcome.


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


**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.


