

**Note:**

**COURSE CONTENT MAY BE CHANGED, TERM TO TERM, WITHOUT NOTICE. THE INFORMATION BELOW IS PROVIDED AS A GUIDE FOR COURSE SELECTION AND IS NOT BINDING IN ANY FORM.**

# MOODY DISTANCE LEARNING

## Course Number, Name, and Credit Hours

PS-4410 The Church and the Community, 3 credit hours

## Course Description

This course will provide students with a framework for engaging the community. Students will learn principles and strategies for church and individual community involvement and development. Students will also acquire skills for grant writing and community networking.

## Course Goals

In this course the learners will:

- Understand that the way Jesus ministered is the way His body, the church, should today
- Study the biblical commands and the examples of showing love in action to the world around the church
- Appreciate the attitude of love and concern a church should have for the people and ministries in its area
- Learn methods and activities a church can use to serve and love people and meet needs in their geographic area
- Learn how to discover needs in the community
- Understand grant writing processes to secure funding for community projects

## Course Objectives

After completing the course, you should be able to:

1. Say what the Bible says about the church ministering to the world around it
2. Tell how to become aware of particular needs of people in an area
3. Know how a church can envision and organize ministries to their community
4. Be a catalyst for agape ministry to outside needs for a church, to see missions work as clearly local as well as global
5. Recognize the best way to enlist volunteers for a significant community ministry
6. Trace steps other churches have taken to serve their communities
7. Complete a grant proposal inquiry letter

## Course Textbook(s) and/or Supplemental Information

Required textbooks for all Moody Online classes can be found on the [Required Textbooks](#) section of the Moody website.

Bible Verses: Please read all these several times during Week 1 in student's preferred Bible version).

### *Care for the needy*

- Deuteronomy 10:17, 18 God cares for needy
- Deuteronomy 24:19-21 Leave food for aliens
- Ezekiel 22:13, 29, 31 Anger toward injustice
- Matthew 25: 34, 35 Care

### *Care for justice*

- Deuteronomy 24:14, 15 Fair play!
- Psalm 68:5 God cares for needy
- Jeremiah 7:2-5 God hates injustice
- Jeremiah 22:3 Call to justice
- Habakkuk 2:1-20 God's woes on injustice

*Woes on injustice*

- James 2:1-19 Favoritism and actions of faith

*Love includes service*

- Acts 4:32-35 Caring for needs
- Acts 6:1-4 People in need
- Romans 12:1-21 Dedicated life servers
- 1 Corinthians 13 Actions of love

*Care for the poor*

- Exodus 23: 6 Do not deny justice
- Proverbs 31:9 Defend them!
- Isaiah 58:6-11 Help for the oppressed
- Jeremiah 5:28 Help the poor
- Jeremiah 22:16 When know God, kind
- Jeremiah 50:33, 34 God's care for oppressed
- Matthew 19:16-21 Help the poor, not yourself
- Luke 4:40 Jesus healed many
- Luke 6:35, 36 Kind to ungrateful
- Romans 15:26 Care for poor
- Galatians 2:10 Care for remembered poor
- 1 John 3:17 see need

*The church responds*

- Isaiah 1:17 Seek justice
- Acts 9:36 Example of Dorcas
- Acts 11:27-30 The generous church
- Acts 20:15 Help the weak
- 2 Corinthians 1:3-7 Comfort others
- 2 Corinthians 8:1-4 The grace of churches
- James 1:27 Look after orphans and widows
- James 2:12, 13 Show mercy

## Assignments Overview

You will be graded on your completion of the following assignments. All course requirements and assignments must be completed to pass this course. Refer to the **Schedule & Assignments** folder within the **Assignments** section of the Blackboard course for greater details on these assignments.

### Course Requirements:

1. **READING:** Reading is very important in this course. You are required to read each week's Bible passage and the textbooks of Fuder, Keller, and Watkins according to the Course Schedule. You should read the textbooks sections before beginning any assignments for the week. You will report the amount of reading you completed each week through Blackboard.
2. **DISCUSSION BOARDS:** You must maintain a significant presence in the weekly discussion boards by posting substantive online posts for each discussion and participating in peer response to at least two peer posts. Your initial posts must be completed by mid-week (Friday by 11:59pm CST) so that you and your fellow classmates can complete response posts by the end of the assigned week (Monday by 11:59pm CST). Refer to the **Discussion Board Grading Rubric** chart located in the **Course Resources** section of this course for more information on how your participation in the discussion boards will be assessed.
3. **QUIZZES:** Complete quizzes on each of the four (4) videos according to the Course Schedule.

4. **FINAL TEST:** Complete the short essay questions that are part of the final test for this course. Use only your Bible, your convictions, and your memories from the class to complete your answers.

**Assignments:**

**ASSIGNMENT 1: THEOLOGICAL FOUNDATIONS; Due Week 2**

At the conclusion of Watkins, chapter 4 “Theological Foundations for Christian Social Ministries,” answer on paper # 2, 4, 5, & 7.

**ASSIGNMENT 2: MINISTRY PLAN; Due Week 3**

Write out a brief plan to develop a ministry in your church for some unmet need in your area of residence; or to partner with an existing agency or para-church group already serving the community.

**ASSIGNMENT 3: INTERVIEW; Due Week 6**

Question a pastor, director, or ministry manager of community efforts of a church that has multiple organized ministries directed outside the walls of their church and to their local community. Write a summary of the interview.

**ASSIGNMENT 4: DETAILED OUTLINE; Due Week 7**

Write a detailed outline with points and sub-points that could be used for a ten (10) minute talk on ministering to people outside the walls of your church.

**ASSIGNMENT 5: GRANT WRITING SKILLS; Due Week 6**

Write a 2-3 page preliminary proposal inquiry letter seeking grant funding to help your church open a Day Care Center based on your review of Orlich's textbook and information from the Non-Profit Guides site ([www.npguides.org](http://www.npguides.org)).

**ASSIGNMENT 6: ESSAY; Due Week 8**

Write an essay, after your reading assignments are completed, analyzing in two-four (2-4) pages, double-spaced this statement: *The church must stay with the verbal declaration of the gospel of our Lord. We deal with eternal not temporal issues.*

**Assessments:**

Your grade for this course will consist of:

Reading	5%
Discussion Boards	10%
Assignment 1: Theological Foundations	10%
Assignment 2: Ministry Plan	10%
Assignment 3: Interview	10%
Assignment 4: Detailed Outline	10%
Assignment 5: Grant Writing Skills	5%
Assignment 6: Essay	20%
Quizzes	10%
Final Test	10%
	100%

Letter grades are determined by the following scale:

Letter Grade	Percentage Equivalent	Letter Grade	Percentage Equivalent
A	96% or higher	C	73 - 76.9%
A-	90 - 95.9%	C-	70 - 72.9%
B+	87 - 89.9%	D+	67 - 69.9%
B	83 - 86.9%	D	63 - 66.9%
B-	80 - 82.9%	D-	60 - 62.9%
C+	77 - 79.9%	F	Below 60%

### Course Resources

Online students have access to the Moody Library. Though students may wish to check out books via inter-library loan, the online database has a number of articles and reviews available for download. You can access the online database by logging into your account at [my.moody.edu](http://my.moody.edu). If you have not previously accessed the library database you may wish to complete the database tutorial at <http://library.moody.edu>.

Another resource that deserves mention here is iTunes University. Apple has developed a platform for colleges and universities to post audio and video content. There are a number of lectures available on iTunes U. Various schools such as Dallas Theological Seminary, Seattle Pacific University, Covenant Theological Seminary, Reformed Theological Seminary, Duke, and Yale have posted content related to biblical and theological studies.

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### Course Bibliography

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Gordon, Wayne L. *Real Hope in Chicago*. (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1995).

Lupton, Robert D. *Compassion, Justice, & The Christian Life: Rethinking Ministry to the Poor*. (Ventura, CA: Regal Books, 2007).

Sider, Ronald J., John Perkins, Wayne Gordon and Albert Tizon. *Linking Arms, Linking Lives: How Urban-Suburban Partnerships Can Transform Communities*. (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 2008).

Van Gelder, Craig. *Ministry of the Missional Church: A Community Led by the Spirit*. (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 2007)