Objective:
ECB 271 Selected Topics in Urban Economics and Business is designed to teach about how economics and business in the urban Marketplace influence the lives of the urban citizens through the discussion of the Christian response to selected urban topics poverty, predatory lending, crime, technology and entrepreneurship. ECB 271 will teach basic economic and business theory and will introduce students to various practitioners from the Boston area. Through presentations by panels and individuals, students will be exposed to practitioners in various capacities in the Metro-Boston vicinity. This exposure is expected to leave the students with rich learning experiences and some contacts that may serve them well as they pursue their education at Gordon.

Text Books:
- **American Nightmare**: Predatory Lending and the Foreclosure of the American Dream – Lord, Richard
- **The Boston Renaissance**: Race, Space, and Economic Change in an American Metropolis – Bluestone, Barry and Stevenson, Mary Huff
- **House by House, Block by Block**: The Rebirth of America Urban Neighborhoods – Alexander Von Hoffman
- **Nonprofits in Urban America**: Meeting human needs today a Biblical challenge to Christians – Hula, Richard C. and Jackson-Elmore, Cynthia

Requirements:
- **Class Attendance and Participation** is particularly critical for this course because of the heavy participation by guests lectures and field trips
- **Assigned Readings**: Students will be responsible to complete assigned readings before each class
- **Reading Reflections**: Students will write a two page minimum paper summarizing and critiquing assigned readings due at the start of each class.
- **Final Research Paper – Due at the beginning of class April 27th**: Students will write a 10 page research paper on one of the following topics:
  - “Develop a plan that addresses Federal Stimulus package for home foreclosures in Boston”
“Develop a plan that addresses Federal Stimulus package for job creation in Boston

Final Research Paper should include the following outline:

a) Review the current problem of the economic collapse in America
b) Research current data on the impact of the national economic collapse on Boston’s urban poor
c) Research and summarize current Federal Stimulus package foreclosure or job creation programs in Boston
d) Compare and contrast current Federal Stimulus package foreclosure or stimulus job creation programs in Boston
e) Develop a Plan to address Federal Stimulus package foreclosure or stimulus job creation programs in Boston

Final Group Presentation on May 4th: Students will team up with other students and share their plan to address Federal Stimulus package foreclosure or stimulus job creation programs in Boston and develop a 45 minute classroom presentation combining the best of their individual plans.

Grading Rubric

Reading Reflection:

Grade A – An excellent one page summary of the each assigned reading and a outstanding one page reflection and critique of the assigned reading.

Grade B – A thorough one page summary of the each assigned reading and a thoughtful one page reflection and critique of the assigned reading.

Grade C - An average one page summary of the each assigned reading and an average one page reflection and critique of the assigned reading.

Grade D - A minimum summary less than one page of the each assigned reading and minimum summary less than one page reflection and critique of the assigned reading.

Class Project:

Grade A – An excellent 10 page research paper that includes the current problem, research data, compare models dealing with foreclosure or job creation, propose plan to resolve the issue.

Grade B – A thorough 10 page research paper that includes the current problem, research data, compare models dealing with foreclosure or job creation, propose plan to resolve the issue.

Grade C – An average 10 page research paper that includes the current problem, research data, compare models dealing with foreclosure or job creation, propose plan to resolve the issue.

Grade D - A minimum 10 page research paper that includes the current problem, research data, compare models dealing with foreclosure or job creation, propose plan to resolve the issue.
Final Group Presentation

Grade A – An excellent presentation that demonstrates equal participation of all members that includes the current problem, research data, compare models dealing with foreclosure or job creation, propose plan to resolve the issue.

Grade B – A thorough presentation that demonstrates equal participation of all members that includes the current problem, research data, compare models dealing with foreclosure or job creation, propose plan to resolve the issue.

Grade C – An average presentation that demonstrates equal participation of all members that includes the current problem, research data, compare models dealing with foreclosure or job creation, propose plan to resolve the issue.

Grade D - A minimum presentation that demonstrates equal participation of all members that includes the current problem, research data, compare models dealing with foreclosure or job creation, propose plan to resolve the issue.

Grading:
- 25% Reading Reflections and
- 25% Critique Papers
- 30% Final Paper
- 20% Final Group Presentation

Course Accommodation:
Gordon College is committed to assisting students with documented disabilities (See Academic Catalog Appendix C for documentation guidelines). A student with a disability who may need academic accommodations should follow this procedure:

A. Meet with a staff person from the Academic Support Center (Jenks 412, X4746) to:
   a) Make sure documentation of your disability is on file in the ASC,
   b) Discuss the accommodations for which you are eligible,
   c) Discuss the procedures for obtaining the accommodations, and
   d) Obtain a Faculty Notification Form.

B. Deliver a Faculty Notification Form to each course professor within the first full week of the semester; at that time make an appointment to discuss your needs with each professor.

Failure to register in time with your professor may compromise our ability to provide the accommodations. Questions or disputes about accommodations should be immediately referred to the Academic Support Center. See Grievance Procedures available from the ASC.

Course Schedule:  Disclaimer: Guest Speakers are subject to change.
Session 1  The use of non-profits in urban setting
(01/19/2010)

Introduction to the Course
Visit: Codman Square Neighborhood Development Corporation
Classroom Lecture “Review of current US Economy and the Federal Stimulus Package
READ: *American Nightmare*, pages 1-60

Session 2  Economic Collapse and Housing Foreclosures
(01/26/2010)

Discussion of Readings
Visit: Private Industry Council
Classroom Lecture: “Federal Stimulus Package on Home Foreclosures”
READ: *American Nightmare* pages, pages 61-120 & Articles Federal Stimulus Package

Session 3  Economic Relief: Stimulus Package
(02/02/2010)

Discussion of Readings
Visit: Boston Redevelopment Authority
Classroom Lecture “Federal Stimulus Package on Job Creation”
READ: *House by House, Block by Block*, chapters 1-3

Session 4  The “Digital Divide”
(02/09/2010)

Discussion of Readings
Visit: TechMission – Christian Community Computer Center in Codman Square
Classroom Lecture “How technology affected urban communities (R. O’Bryant)?”
READ: *House by House, Block by Block*, chapters 4-6

Session 5  Website Design for Urban businesses
(02/16/2010)

Discussion of Readings
Guest Lecturer: *eworkstyle*, Paul Deare, President/Founder
Classroom Lecture “City Empowerment Zones”
READ: *The Boston Renaissance*, pages 1-100

Session 6  The role of the church in urban business and economic development
(02/23/2010)

Discussion of Readings
Visit: Jubilee-Dudley Building – Pastor Mathew Thompson
Classroom Lecture “Churches involved in Business”
READ: *The Boston Renaissance*, pages 101-200

Session 7  Entrepreneurship
(03/02/2010)

Discussion of Readings
Visit: Host Jet-A-Way Owner - Jesse Jeter
Classroom Lecture “Entrepreneurship”
READ: Articles on Financial Alternatives

*NO CLASS on March 9th – Spring Break - March 4-14th*
Session 8  Building investment institutions to break the cycle of poverty.  
(03/16/2010)  
**Discussion of Readings**  
Visit: A Guest Panel to share the credit union project in Dudley Square  
**Classroom Lecture** “Financial Alternatives”  
**READ:** Articles on technology

Session 9  Examine how technology fight poverty  
(03/23/2010)  
**Discussion of Readings**  
Visit: Beth Williams, Roxbury Technology Corporation  
**Classroom Lecture:** Fighting poverty through the use of Technology  
**READ:** Articles on CORI & Articles on urban crime’s impact on business development

Session 10  How does the CORI and crime impact urban businesses and economics?  
(03/30/2010)  
**Discussion of Readings**  
Guest Lecturer: CORI policy and Urban Business, Mark Conrad - MA State Parole Board  
**Classroom Lecture** “Crime in Urban America”  
**READ:** Articles on Boston’s Unemployment

Session 11  How does unemployment effects urban communities?  
(04/6/2010)  
**Discussion of Readings**  
Visit: Darnell Williams, Urban League of Eastern Massachusetts  
**Classroom Lecture** “Understanding the Urban Community”  
**Video Discussion:** STRIVE Employment Services  
**READ:** Nonprofits in Urban America, pages 1-124

Session 12  Establishing a Nonprofit  
(04/13/2010)  
**Discussion of Readings**  
Visit/Guest Lecturer: Teresa Santalucia, Attorney – Klein Horning LLP  
**Classroom Lecture**  
**READ:** Nonprofits in Urban America, pages 125-148

Session 13  Fund Raising  
(04/20/2010)  
**Discussion of Readings**  
**Classroom Lecture** “Fund Raising” & “Understanding the Urban Community”

Session 14  Final Paper Due Beginning of Class  
(04/27/2010)  
Visit: Dunkin Donuts Franchise Owner - Clayton Turnbull (move – input lecture)

Session 15  Students’ Group Presentations on Foreclosure and the Stimulus Package  
(05/04/2010)
Suggested Additional Reading

**And Who is My Neighbor?: Poverty, Privilege, and the Gospel of Christ** Schlabach, Gerald W, and Perkins, John M, Dr. (Designer)

**Beyond Charity: The Call to Christian Community Development** – Perkins, John M. Dr.

**Rebuilding Urban Neighborhoods: Achievements, Opportunities, and Limits** – Keating, William D., Krumholz, Norman

**Restoring At-Risk Communities: Doing It Together & Doing It Right** – Dr. John M. Perkins

**The Hidden Cost of being African American: How Wealth Perpetuates Inequality** – Shapiro, Thomas M.

**The Inner City: Urban Poverty and Economic Development in the Next Century** – Brown, Thomas, and Ross, Catherine Laverne

**To Achieve The American Dream** – Fountain, Ernest M.

**Victims of Development: Resistance and Alternatives** – Seabrook, Jeremy