



IS152
INTEGRATION OF MINISTRY AND LOCAL THEOLOGIES
United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities

SPRING 2011

Thursdays, 8:15-11:30 a.m.
Zion Lutheran Church, 128 W. 33rd Street, Minneapolis, in the Lyndale Neighborhood
and UTS in Room A

Professors:

Carolyn Pressler 651.255.6132
cpressler@unitedseminary.edu

Richard Bohannon
RBohannon@CSBSJU.edu

Lyndale Neighborhood Association: 612.824.9402, ext. 16
<http://www.lyndale.org>
Executive Director: Mark Hinds

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION, METHODOLOGY, AND GOALS

Integrative Ministry and Local Theologies is the second integrative course for all M.DIV. and MARL students. This course bridges IS151 with the required Contextual Studies courses at UTS. This course is a context-focused course, employing asset-based, social, contextual, and narrative analysis methods. This course engages its participants in self and systemic analysis of the internalized and social constructions of structures of domination, particularly race and gender. Students will engage in theological reflection to discern vocational and spiritual dimensions of ministry and religious leadership.

Methodology:

Unlike other praxis methodologies that begin with an analysis of needs/problems, we will use a method that first originates in community asset and relationship identification/development. Instead of beginning with only “What is the problem here?”, contextual leadership begins first with “What are the gifts/assets here?” Ministry leadership as community asset and relationship development includes five characteristics:

- Its primary resources are assumed to be resident within the local community
- Its praxis is that of discerning gifts and relationships for addressing issues of ministry within a given context
- Its intended outcome is releasing the power of local resources and people
- Its participants are individuals, associations and organizations, and institutions
- Theological issues are present in every context; our task is to discern God’s presence rather than bring God to that setting.

Course Learning Objectives:

Students who successfully complete this course will be able to:

- a) Critically analyze the contexts in which their ministry occurs [Assessed through papers on “Assets” and “Dynamics of Race,” group presentation, and class discussions]
- b) Theologically interpret and reflect on these contexts and the student’s experience of ministry [Assessed through papers on Dynamics of Race, Narrative Theology, group presentation, and especially final presentation]
- c) Integrate sociological and theological reflections on a specific issue [Assessed through class discussion]
- d) Integrate theological and sociological readings with contextual experience [Assessed through all three papers, group presentation, and class discussion]

Course Format:

Class time will include worship, large and small group theological reflection on readings and experiences, as well as learning from people of the neighborhood whom we invite to the class.

II. REQUIRED AND RECOMMENDED COURSE READINGS AND OTHER TEXTS

Required Reading and Resource Material:

Bender, Courtney. *Heaven’s Kitchen: Living Religion at God’s Love We Deliver*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2003. Chapters 3 and 4 (**ON RESERVE**)

Grant, Jacquelyn. “The Sin of Servanthood and the Deliverance of Discipleship,” In *A Troubling in my Soul: Womanist Perspectives on Evil and Suffering*. Emilie Townes. Bishop Henry McNeal Turner Studies in North American Black Religion. Volume 8. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis, 1993, 199 – 218. (**BOOK ON RESERVE**)

Law, Eric H.F. *The Bush was Blazing but not Consumed*. St. Louis: Chalice Press, 1996.

Mathews, Rosita de Ann. “Using Power from the Periphery.” In *A Troubling in my Soul: Womanist Perspectives on Evil and Suffering*. Emilie Townes. Bishop Henry McNeal Turner Studies in North American Black Religion. Volume 8. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis, 1993, 92 – 108. (**BOOK ON RESERVE**)

- Neumark, Heidi B, *Breathing Space: A Spiritual Journey in the South Bronx*. Boston, MA: Beacon Press, 2003.
- Pastor, Manuel, Robert D. Bullard, James K. Boyce, Alice Fothergill, Rachel Morello-Frosch, and Beverly Wright. "In the Wake of the Storm: Environment, Disaster and Race after Katrina." New York: Russell Sage Foundation, 2006. ([Link On Moodle](#))
- Sedmak, Clemens. *Doing Local Theology: A Guide for Artisans of a New Humanity*. Maryknoll, NY.: Orbis Books, 2002.
- Snow, Luther K. *The Power of Assent Mapping: How Your Congregation can Act on its Gifts*, chapter 3. Alban Institute, 2004. (**BOOK ON RESERVE**)

III. REQUIRED CLASS WORK

- ◆ February 10—Due: Self-Disclosure Forms
 - ◆ February 24—Due at end of Class: IS152 Integrative Placement Form
 - ◆ **A ministry setting/site assigned by the instructors: five (5) hours/week in setting is required; one (1) additional hour/week in neighborhood (grocery shopping, eating at a restaurant) is recommended.**
- N.B.** According to school policy, withdrawals from the course are permitted before the eighth class session on a prorated basis. **However, because of the contractual relationships in the field setting, anyone withdrawing at anytime should make certain to communicate with all parties involved before discontinuing neighborhood responsibilities.**
- ◆ Class attendance and full participation in discussions. **(Students who miss three (3) class sessions or who fail to complete 55 hours of site visits will jeopardize their ability to pass the course.)**
 - ◆ Co-lead the class in a 10-12 minute opening worship. Worship may be designed using scripture and other spiritual readings and poetry, the arts, a particular dynamic and experience in your setting/neighborhood, and/or the assigned reading material. You will sign up for opening worship during the second week of class.
 - ◆ Three two-to-three-page theological papers
March 10—Due: "Assets." Identify the assets in your site context and the neighborhood to which it relates, and the assets that you bring to your ministry in that context. What do these assets say about the nature of God and/or God's activity in your site, your neighborhood, and your ministry there?

March 17—Due: Reflections on Dynamics of Race at your ministry site and its neighborhood

April 14—Due: Theological Reflection on a story from your context:
 - Describe an experience you have had or story you have heard as you minister at your site.
 - What theological questions or issues does it raise?

- What are your theological reflections on these questions and issues? Put the experience, story (etc) in dialogue with a passage, metaphor, or theme from scriptures or tradition as you do this.
- ◆ March 31 — Group presentation. Students participating in the same ministry context will identify and reflect theologically on the assets and issues that they see in that context. Each group will have 5-7 minutes for this presentation.
- ◆ Completion of mid-term evaluation and final evaluation; these are ungraded but required
- ◆ One summary 'presentation' to the class on vocational and ministerial discernment at the end of the semester: April 28 or May 12
- ◆ Participate in celebration and presentation to supervisors during the last class session, May 19. How this will be done is to be initiated and designed by the students. You will be given time to plan the celebration and presentation the two previous class sessions.

N.B.

All papers are to be **DOUBLE-SPACED**, 11 or 12 point, 1-inch margins, and are to reflect integration of reading materials and site ministry. Two hard copies of assigned papers are to be turned in at the beginning of the class session on the day they are due.

- Papers, if citing other resources, need to include proper, academic style footnotes and bibliography.
- Style: Either *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*, by Kate L. Turabian, 7th Edition) or APA is accepted
- Accurate use of academic style notations is expected and used in grade evaluation.

*******PLEASE PUT YOUR BOX NUMBER ON ALL PAPERS*******

N.B.

Because of the participatory, conversational character of the course, timely submissions of assignments are very important.

We cannot accept late papers or projects during the semester, except in very extraordinary circumstance.

Extensions beyond the last day of class will be granted only in cases of extreme, extenuating circumstances—and will not be graded until JUNE. Requests for extensions must be filed with the registrar's office with consent of the professors before the last day of the class (May 11, 2011). See UTS policy on extensions (Masters Student Handbook, p.46).

In addition, all work in this class is expected to follow all policies and statements in the Masters Student Handbook, including:

- **Copyright Compliance Policy** (pp. 98-99)
 - **Academic Integrity Policy** (p. 49-50)
 - **Inclusive Language Policy** (p. 109)
 - **Policy Regarding Confidentiality and Disclosure within Small Group Settings** (pp. 119-120)
 - **Statement on Boundaries** in the Masters Student Handbook (110-112)
-

Evaluation Criteria: This course is **Pass/No Credit** for all members of the class. Criteria for passing the course will be based on the following:

- ◆ Attendance and full participation in class sessions and discussions. Absences will be considered in the final evaluation. A student's ability to pass the course will be jeopardized with more than two excused absences from class, unless the absences are due to extreme circumstances. (Extreme circumstances are extended severe illness of the student or those persons dependent upon the student, or a death among those close to the student. Instructors need to be notified for all absences from class. If you need to be absent from your contextual learning site, you need to notify your supervisor.)
- ◆ Satisfactory and timely completion of reading material, neighborhood involvement, presentations and written assignments
- ◆ Overall quality of ability to translate course material and site experiences into self-reflective, self-critical written and dialogical communication with others
- ◆ Ability to reflect theologically on a context of ministry and make appropriate ministerial decisions
- ◆ Clarity and depth of your papers

Evaluation will be weighted with the following values: (75% is Passing)

- ◆ Class Attendance and Participation in Discussions – 25%
- ◆ Accountability to contextual site, neighborhood, & professional demeanor – 40%
- ◆ Written and Presentation Assignments – 35%

V. CLASS SCHEDULE

February 10

I. INTRODUCTION TO COURSE; Assignment of Ministry Setting

Location: Zion Lutheran Church, 128 W. 33rd Street
8:15-11:30 a.m.

Due: Self-Disclosure Forms

Opening Worship
Introductions
Review of Course and Syllabus
Presentations by Neighborhood Providers/Sites
Site Choices and meet with supervisors.
Turn in **signed** Integrative Placement Form

February 17

II. ENTERING A CONTEXT FOR MINISTRY: Meeting the "Other" as Equal and Expert

Location: United Theological Seminary, Classroom A

Readings: Neumark Preface; Chapter 1
Sedmak, Forward, Introduction, and Chapters 1 and 4 (See also Appendix, 162 ff., FYI)
Law, Chapter 10, especially pp. 86-87; (See also Appendix C, FYI).

Expectation: Begin working some hours at your setting or be introduced to your responsibilities.

Due: IS152 Integrative Placement Form

Opening Worship
How to Enter a Ministerial Context: Engaging those in the context as equals and experts—Prof. Trish Greeves, Guest Instructor
Small/Large Group Discussion and Theological Reflection

February 24

III. ENTERING A CONTEXT FOR MINISTRY: the Lyndale Neighborhood

Location: Zion Lutheran Church, 128 S. 33rd Street
Readings: Sedmak, Chapters 2 and 3
Due: **IS152 Integrative Placement Form—last chance!**

Opening Worship
Panel on History of Lyndale Neighborhood (Lyndale Neighborhood Association)
Small/Large Group Discussions

March 3

IV. ENTERING A CONTEXT FOR MINISTRY: Integration of Community Assets-based Mapping

Location: Zion Lutheran Church, 128 S. 33rd Street
Readings: Sedmak, Chapters 5-6
Snow, *Power of Asset Mapping*, 1, Chapter 3 (**BOOK ON RESERVE**)

Opening Worship
Shake Your Assets Workshop by LNA Staff
Small Group asset identification work

March 10

V. READING A MINISTRY CONTEXT: The Dynamics of Racism, Part 1

Location: United, Room A
Readings: Law, Chapters 1-8
Pastor, et al. “In the Wake of the Storm” (Link on Moodle)

Due: Two-to-Three-page paper: “Assets.” Identify the assets in your site context and the neighborhood to which it relates, and the assets that you bring to your ministry in that context. What do these assets say about the nature of God and/or God’s activity in your site, your neighborhood, and your ministry there? (You will have an opportunity to revise your assessment of the assets in your site context and its neighborhood during your group presentation on March 31; you are encouraged to revise and expand your description of the assets you bring to your ministry during your vocational and ministerial discernment at the end of the semester: April 28 and May 12.)

Opening Worship
What is race? What is racism?
Small/Large Group Discussion

March 17

VI. READING A MINISTRY CONTEXT: The Dynamics of Racism, Part II

Location: United, Room A
Readings: Law, Chapters 9-13 (Ch.10 will be review)
Grant, “The Sin of Servanthood” (on reserve)
Mathews, “Using Power from the Periphery.” (on reserve)

Due: Two-to-Three-page paper: Discuss the dynamics of race in your ministry site context and its neighborhood. Where do you see racism at work? Be as specific as possible. Where do you see racism being combated? Again, be as specific as possible. Reflect theologically on the events or dynamics that you have described.

Opening Worship
Race and Gender
Small/Large Group Discussion

March 24 **READING WEEK**—Class Does Not Meet

March 31

VII. READING A MINISTRY CONTEXT THEOLOGICALLY, Part 1

Location: United, Room A
Readings: Neumark, Part 1
Due: Mid-Term Evaluation (Not graded but required)
Due: Group Presentation

Opening Worship
Mid-term Group Presentations: What's Going On—and What's God Got to Do With It?
Assets and Issues
Scripture and tradition as Lens and Language

April 7

VIII. READING A MINISTRY CONTEXT THEOLOGICALLY, Part 2

Location: United, Classroom A
Readings: Neumark, Part 2 and Epilogue

Worship
Breathing Space as Contextual Theology
Small Group Discussions—Our Contextual Theologies

April 14

IX. READING A MINISTRY CONTEXT: Integration of Social Issues and Theology—Housing

Location: Zion Lutheran Church, 128 S. 33rd Street
6:00-9:15 p.m.
Readings: Bender, *Heaven's Kitchens*, chapters 3-4 (on reserve)
Audio File: *After the Projects: The Uncertain Future of Public Housing* (MP3 on Moodle)

Due: Two-to-Three page of theological reflections on an experience, event, relationships or story from your ministry site:

- Describe an experience, event, or relational encounter you have had or story you have heard as you minister at your site.
- What theological questions or issues does it raise?
- What are your theological reflections on these questions and issues? Put the experience, story (etc) in dialogue with a passage, metaphor, or theme from scriptures or tradition as you do this.

Opening Worship

Panel on Housing and Homelessness
Large/Small Group Discussion

April 21

X. LEAVING A MINISTRY CONTEXT

Location: United, Room A

Readings: Sedmak, Epilogue

Opening Worship
Framework for Leaving a Context—Trish Greeves, Guest Instructor
Small/Large Group Discussion and Theological Reflection

April 28

XI THEOLOGICALLY INTEGRATION OF VOCATION AND MINISTRY

Location: United, Room A

Readings: Sedmak, 50 Theses for Doing Local Theology

Due: Presentations on vocational and ministerial discernment

Opening Worship
Presentations and Responses
Planning final celebration and presentations for site supervisors

May 5 — CONVOCATION—Class Does Not Meet

May 12

XII THEOLOGICALLY INTEGRATION OF VOCATION AND MINISTRY, CONTINUED

Location: United, Room A

Due: Class members speak about vocational and ministerial discernment

Opening Worship
Presentations and Responses
Finish plans for presentations for final celebration and presentations for site supervisors

May 19

XIII EXITING A MINISTRY CONTEXT

Location: Zion Lutheran Church, 128 S. 33rd Street

Closing Worship
Student Presentations to Supervisors
Reception for Supervisors

