

KNOX COLLEGE
THEOLOGY AND PRACTICE OF MINISTRY
KNP1601HS
Winter 2018 - Thursday 9-11am

Instructor: Rev. Esther E. Acolatse, Ph. D

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Course Description: Explores various aspects of ministry, in particular the theology and practice of ordained ministry within the Reformed traditions. Topics include understandings of ministry, the call, functions and roles in ministry, challenges and contexts for ministry today and in the future, leadership and authority, and spiritual practices. Various methods of learning will be used (small group, lecture, discussion, mentorship experience).

Theological and Practical Curricular Outcomes By successfully completing this course a student will meet the following outcomes:

Religious Heritage

- Identify theology and practices of ministry related to central functions of ministry;
- Describe the distinctive theology and practices of Reformed understandings of ministry within the larger Christian tradition;
- Name and describe spiritual practices within Christian traditions;
- Demonstrate basic knowledge of various theological disciplines and how these intersect with the practice of ministry.

Cultural Context

- Identify theology and practices of ministry that demonstrate respect for difference - cultural, ethnic, gender and physical ability diversity, etc.;
- Demonstrate willingness to engage the diversity of the church;
- Demonstrate basic understanding of contextual issues (societal, ecclesial, global) and an emerging awareness of how these factors impact what it means to be a pastor today in a particular context.

Personal Spiritual Formation

- Articulate one's own emerging self-understanding in ministry;
- Demonstrate piety congruent with the Christian & denominational tradition;
- Ability to articulate an emerging sense of call to ministry;
- Ability and willingness to act in a principled, ethical fashion;
- Demonstrate an ability to identify assumptions;
- Show willingness to conduct one's life out of confessed Christian faith;
- Display willingness to engage in prayer, Bible study, worship, discipleship and growth in the fruit of the Spirit.

Capacity for Ministry

- Show care for others and act in a compassionate manner towards others, including people of different backgrounds, ages, and perspectives;
- Ability to articulate one's emerging pastoral identity and emerging theology of ministry in relation to the Reformed traditions.

Course Requirements and Evaluative Criteria

COURSE POLICIES

Policies for courses are contained in the TST Basic Degree Handbook and the Knox Student Handbook. In particular note:

Cell Phones: Cell phones can be disruptive to the classroom experience. Students, therefore, should turn off or set their phones to silent and refrain from using them while in class. Cell phone use is permitted only for medical professionals who are on call and for students who need to be in constant contact with ill family members or minors. Students who meet either of these requirements should inform the professor prior to class.

Use of Technology: Laptops and other computing devices may be used in the classroom for note taking purposes only. The use of the internet is not permitted while class is in session unless it is part of a specific class activity. Students wishing to text message, search for images, fact check etc. should do so during the break or outside of class. Much of the learning that goes on in the classroom is founded upon mutual disclosure that takes place between the instructor and the student and between students. Parties outside of that learning community have not committed themselves to this relationship of trust. For this and other reasons, permission to record lectures in audio format is granted for use by registered students only. Video recording is not permitted without the written permission of the instructor. Recordings and notes of class lectures may not be electronically reproduced, posted or distributed without the written permission of the instructor.

Late Policy: one grade (4 marks) deducted per week late.

Completion of Course work:

All course work must be completed by the due date of final paper (**April 5, 2018**). Only in the case of illness (with a note from a doctor), bereavement or other unusual circumstances will an SDF extension be considered and this must be authorized by the Faculty. A request for a SDF extension must be submitted in writing by the last day of the class to the Registrar or the Director of Academic Programs who will refer the matter with a recommendation, to the Faculty for final decision.

Attendance and lateness: Consistent and timely attendance is required. If a student is unable to attend a class the professor is to be informed by email. More than 2 absences will result in failure to pass the course. Habitual lateness will be regarded as absence.

Email correspondence: Papers and assignments are accepted in hard copy only. Communication by email can ONLY take place through UTOR email accounts.

Plagiarism Policy: See TST Basic Degree Handbook and the Knox Student Handbook.

ASSIGNMENTS:

1. Reflection Paper - Exploring my Faith Journey and sense of Call – Include discussion of class/readings content regarding call and how this related to your own spiritual journey and discernment. (approx. 4-6 pages) **Due February 8th, 2018. 20%**

2. Identifying Theological Diversity in the context of Ministry 35%

- **15-hour Mentorship By January 25th** – submit **proposal by email** for approval of mentorship plan including, name, contact information, mentor's position and plan for use of hours and what you hope to learn.

- **Fifteen-Hour Mentorship Experience** - Over a 3-5 week period you will spend a minimum of 15 hours with a mentor for ministry. The 15 hours will include individual conversations about ministry exploring the mentor's experiences and reflections on ministry, being present with the mentor in ministry experiences (worship, pastoral visiting, congregational/community events, social justice/mission experiences, etc.) and having an opportunity to discuss the experiences toward the end of the mentoring time.

- **March 29th Paper** Reflect on the 15-hour mentorship experience – Describe your mentorship setting. What did you learn about ministry? What questions and surprises emerged? How did it help you reflect on the contexts of the church's ministry today? How did it help you to reflect on yourself in ministry and about your own gifts and challenges in ministry?

...OR...

- In the time period that this course is being offered you will attend three worship services other than at your home church. These services are to reflect a broad diversity within the Christian faith.

- By **January 25th** you will advise the instructor by email of your choice of churches seeking approval for the diversity of your choices.

- During the service you will note practices that are different than those you experience in your own church and denomination. Such difference may include matters of liturgy, practices of communion, participation by the congregation, the place and content of the sermon. etc

- You will ask the celebrant if he/she will meet with you to discuss the service you attended at which time you may discuss with him/her the theology underlying various aspects of the service.

- **Reflection Paper:** Submit by **March 29th 2018** a reflection paper of your experiences within the three settings. This paper will explore the theological differences in practice from your normal church experiences indicating the conversations with the celebrants of the other churches.

3. Final Integrative Paper – 35%

Write a 10- page integrative paper focusing on the theology and practice of ministry as explored through a pastoral image (or story/metaphor/scripture passage). The paper will draw on class lectures, discussions, Scripture and texts (required and recommended). The paper will describe a pastoral image (scripture passage/story/ metaphor) that can function as an integrative focus for one's theology and practice of ministry. The pastoral image (story/metaphor/passage) will be considered theologically (how it expresses a theology of ministry), contextually (how it engages the North American contexts of ministry) and personally (how it intersects with one's faith journey, sense of call). Further, the pastoral image (story/metaphor/passage) will be explored through the theology and practice of the different functions of ministry (pastoral, priestly, prophetic, preaching, teaching, etc. functions) discussed throughout the course. The assignment must include a thorough exploration of a pastoral image (story/metaphor/passage) and how it relates, at this point, to the student's discernment process and to their understanding of the theology and practice of ministry. **Due April 5th 2018.**

3. Participation – Students are expected to read the course material, participate in classroom discussion which demonstrates knowledge of the readings and participate in small group activity 10%

RESOURCE MATERIAL

Required Texts:

- Pamela & Michael Cooper-White, *Exploring Practices of Ministry* (Fortress, 2014)
- William H. Willimon, *Pastor: The Theology and Practice of Ordained Ministry* (Abingdon Press: Nashville, 2002).
- Oden, Thomas C, *Pastoral Theology: Essentials in Ministry*, (New York, NY: Harper Collins Publishers, 1982.
- Henri Nouwen, *In the Name of Jesus: Reflections on Christian Leadership* (New York: Crossroad Pub. Co, 1989);
- For PCC students: "Together in Ministry: The Theology and Practice of Ministry in the Presbyterian Church in Canada"– download from [www. Presbyterian.ca](http://www.Presbyterian.ca).
- Links/handouts as distributed/forwarded.

Recommended Readings:

- Kathleen A. Cahalan, *Introducing the Practice of Ministry* (Liturgical Press, 2010)
- Howard Rice, *The Pastor as Spiritual Guide* (Nashville: Upper Rooms Books, 1998).
- For non-PCC students: Together in Ministry: The Theology and Practice of Ministry in the Presbyterian Church in Canada – download from [www. Presbyterian.ca](http://www.Presbyterian.ca).
- Douglas John Hall, *The End of Christendom and the Future of Christianity* (Pennsylvania: Trinity Press, 1997)

Auto/Biographical Sketches and Books on Ministry

- Achtemeier, Elizabeth, *Not Till I Have Done: A Personal Testimony* (Westminster, John Knox 1999).
- Applegate, Debby, *The Most Famous Man in America: the Biography of Henry Ward Beecher* (Three Leaves Press Doubleday: New York, 2006).
- Augustine of Hippo, *The Confessions*
- Beuchner, Frederick, *The Eyes of the Heart: A Memoir of the Lost and Found*, (Harper, San Francisco 1999).
- Bonhoeffer, Dietrich, *Letters and Papers from Prison; o Life Together*
- Boers, Arthur Paul, *The Way is Made by Walking: A Pilgrimage Along the Camino De*

Santiago (USA: Intervarsity Press, 2007)

- Barclay, William, *A Spiritual Autobiography*, William B Eerdman's Pub. Co., 1975.
- Coffin, William Sloane, *Credo* (Westminster John Knox, 2003).
- Cole, Hugh Allan Jr., ed. *From Midterms to Ministry: Practical Theologians on Pastoral Beginnings* (Eerdmans, 2008).
- Cottret, Bernard, *Calvin: A Biography* (Eerdmans, 2000).
- Day, Dorothy, *The Long Loneliness*
- Dawn, Marva and Eugene Peterson, *The Unnecessary Pastor* (Eerdmans, 2000)
- Ferm, Robert L., *Jonathan Edwards The Younger 1745-1801: A Colonial Pastor* (William B. Eerdmans Publishing Co. 1976).

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- Hall, Douglas John, *Bound and Free: A Theologian's Journey* (Minn: Fortress Press, 2005) or *The Messenger* (Wipf & Stock, 2011)
- Harder, Gary, *Dancing Through Thistles in Bare Feet: A Pastoral Journey* (Herald Press, 2007)
- Jinkins, Michael, *Letters to New Pastors* (Grand Rapids: Eerdman's Pub. Co., 2006)
- Lueking, F. Dean, *The Grace of it All: Reflections on the Art of Ministry* (The Alban Institute, 2006)
- MacPherson, D. Neal, *Church at a Crossroads: Being the Church after Christendom* (Wipf & Stock Publishers)
- Niebuhr, Reinhold, *Pages from the Notebook of a Tamed Cynic*
- Nouwen, Henri, *Return of the Prodigal Son on The Genesee Diary* or *The Road to Daybreak: A Spiritual Journey* (New York: Doubleday Pub., 1988)
- Peterson, Eugene H., *The Pastor: A Memoir* (Harper Collins, 2001). or *The Contemplative Pastor* (Eerdmans, 1989)
- Root, Andrew. *The Relational Pastor* (IVP Books, 2013)
- Rutherford, Samuel, *Letters of Samuel Rutherford*.
- Schweitzer, Albert, *My Life and Thought*
- Teresa, Mother, *Come Be My Light: The Private Writings of the "Saint of Calcutta,"* Brian Kolodiejchuk, ed., (New York: Doubleday, 2007)
- Weems, Renita J., *Listening for God: A Minister's Journey through Silence and Doubt* (New York, Simon and Schuster Pub., 1999)
- Taylor, Barbara Brown, *Leaving Church: A Memoir of Faith* (Harper, 2006) and *The Preaching Life* (Cowley Pub. 1993)
- Vais, Chris, *For Words: A Journal of Hope and Healing*
- Whyte, Alexander, *The Life of Alexander Whyte*.

Novels

- Shusaku Endo, *Silence*
- o *The Samurai*
- Tony Hendra, *Father Joe: The Man Who Saved my Soul* (New York: Random House, 2004)

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- Marilynne Robinson, *Gilead: A Novel* (New York: Farrar, Strauss Giroux, 2004) o *Home: A Novel* (Toronto, HarperCollins Pub. Ltd, 2008)
- Georges Bernanos, *Diary of a Country Priest*
- Fyodor Dostoyevsky, *The Brothers Karamazov*.
- John Updike, *In the Beauty of the Lillies: A Novel*

Suggested Films

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| ✓ Priest (not the horror movie) | ✓ Romero |
| ✓ Dead Man Walking | ✓ Les Miserables |
| ✓ The Mission | ✓ Gran Torino |