

**Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago
Course Profile Fall 2008**

T/C-C/T-473

**Identity & Difference: The Intersection of Race/Ethnicity,
Gender, Class, and Sexuality
Professor Linda E. Thomas, Instructor**

Wednesdays 1:30 to 4 p.m.

Course Overview

The purpose of this course is to critically investigate the concept of identity by reading primary sources on the categories of race, gender, sexuality and class. Primary texts include written matter as well as personal experiences that are conscious (remembered) as well as unconscious (embedded). We will enter into a conversation with these texts and with each other. In the process we will investigate methods, sources, and hermeneutics around the categories of race/ethnicity, gender, class and sexuality. We will also investigate the commonalities and divergences among the written texts and the text of our lives which are full, dynamic, and fluent converging interactions between and among the categories of race/ethnicity, gender, class, and sexuality. In sum, we shall explore the ways the scholars we read and we ourselves address contemporary challenges of racism, sexism, classism, and heterosexism/homophobia. This course will also focus on the paradigmatic value of people of faith developing alternative models for transformation of religious institutions for witness in the world. As such the course aims to provide both theologically sound and practical theories, models and skills that are necessary for moving religious communities toward greater inclusion.