

Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago

Course Profile J Term 2008

M 425 NEBRASKA SYNOD RURAL IMMERSION

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

The reality of rural communities is constantly changing and challenging; the impact results in celebrations and struggles. Meet the people who make it happen during the Nebraska Synod (ELCA) Rural Immersion, January 7-25, 2008. The immersion (January 11-21) will include tours and a taste of rural living in the Nebraska Panhandle and Biblical/theological reflection. This course will focus primarily on rural and agricultural issues with the intention of raising issues and challenging perspectives. "Ministry" will be reflected only in a general way during the immersion. The question "How does this apply to ministry?" will be left for students to explore in follow up integrations and projects/papers.

Required Texts (before immersion):

Discovering Hope: Building Vitality in Rural Congregations, Poling-Goldenne/Jung. Augsburg, 2001, 124 pages.

Rural Evangelism: Catching the Vision, Ruffcorn. Augsburg, 1994, 127 pages.

Recommended Texts:

Local Wonders, Ted Koozer. Bison Books, 2002.

(Nebraskan, recent US Poet Laureate.

This is prose; subtitled *Seasons in the Bohemian Alps*.)

Dakota: A Spiritual Geography, Norris. Ticknor and Fields, 1993.

Fields Without Dreams, Hanson. Simon and Schuster, 1996.

Prayer for the Prairie, Nickel. Five Penny Press, 2003.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. **Keep a journal** while in Nebraska.
2. Active participation in class discussion, beginning January 7 at LSTC.
2. **A paper/project** with approval of faculty. Copies will be shared with LSTC Faculty and NE Synod Rural Ministry Task Force. These are due for presentation January 24 and 25, 2008.