

LUTHERAN SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY AT CHICAGO
Spring 2008

T 450: Constructive Theology

Dr. Linda E. Thomas
Wednesdays, 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.

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Office Hours: By appointment – email is the best way to reach me

Course Description

An integrative course dealing with the role of theology in pastoral formation and functioning and based on experiences encountered on internship. Prerequisite: Internship or equivalent.

Objectives

The students taking this course have taken two years of coursework and served a one-year internship. The intent of this course is to provide students with an opportunity to construct theology that takes seriously the experiences of graduate coursework and “real-world” internship. This course is also designed to provide tools that students may use in their placement after graduation.

Course Goals:

- To discuss various ways that theologies are developed in concrete situations
- To highlight the importance of language and imagery in the contextual expression of theology
- To examine contemporary narratives in various media for their theological themes, messages and implications
- To develop students’ articulation and expression of their own theological positions vis a vis Christian traditions and their personal experiences in ministry

Expected Educational Outcomes:

Students completing this course will be able to:

- Describe the theological milieu of their ministry contexts
- Analyze the theological assumptions of their ministry contexts
- Identify theological issues surrounding a particular challenge in ministry
- Explain theological implications in contemporary narratives
- Relate the development and expression of theology from contemporary narratives to their own practices in ministry
- Articulate their theological perspectives in concrete ministry context

- Interpret the effect of internship on own their theological perspectives
- Adapt instruction and sensitivity to the theological issues of an unfamiliar setting
- Synthesize their own theological perspectives and experiences in internship into a useful model of ministry

Required books:

- Baker-Fletcher, Karen. Dancing with God: The Trinity from a Womanist Perspective. Chalice Press, 2006.
- Elizondo, Virgilio. Galilean Journey: The Mexican-American Promise. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Press, 1983.
- Goss, Robert E. and Mona West. Take Back the Word: A Queer Reading of the Bible. Cleveland: Pilgrim Press, 2000.
- Joh, Wonhee Anne. Heart of the Cross: A Postcolonial Christology. Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2006.
- Jones, Serene and Paul Lakeland, eds. Constructive Theology: A Contemporary Approach to Classical Themes. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2005.
- Jones, W. Paul. Theological Worlds: Understanding the Alternative Rhythms of Christian Belief. Nashville: Abingdon, 1989.
- Kidwell, Clara Sue, Homer Noley, and George E. “Tink” Tinker. A Native American Theology. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Press, 2001.
- Elizondo, Virgilio. Galilean Journey: The Mexican-American Promise. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Press, 2001.
- Thomas, Linda E., ed. Living Stones in the Household of God: The Legacy and Future of Black Theology. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2004.

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