

Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago

Course Profile – Spring Term 2009

T 450: Constructive Theology

Instructor: Lea F. Schweitz

Statement of Goals:

This course aims to integrate theological considerations with the challenges and opportunities found in pastoral formation and functioning. This course provides students an opportunity to do theological work by drawing intentionally on their graduate coursework and their experiences in a recent ministry context or on internship.

Prerequisites:

Systematic Theology I and II; Internship or equivalent.

Outline and Content of the Course:

1. Introductions.
2. Theological Approaches/Models.
3. Theology in Context.
4. Vocation.

Required Work for the Course will include:

- Reading (carefully and critically) all assigned readings.
- Attending and participating in all class meetings.
- Leading a class discussion.
- Completing a “Constructive Doctrine in Practice” project.
- Writing one of each of the following: Theological portrait (4-5 pages), Letter to a young seminarian (2-3 pages), and Final paper (12-15 pages).
- Presenting final paper.
- Highly recommended work will include daily/weekly journaling.

Bibliography will (likely) include:

- Baker-Fletcher, Karen. *Dancing with God: The Trinity from a Womanist Perspective*. St. Louis, MO: Chalice Press, 2006.
- Gregersen, Niels Henrik, Bo Holm, Ted Peters, and Peter Widman. *The Gift of Grace: The Future of Lutheran Theology*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2005.
- Joh, Wonhee Anne. *Heart of the Cross: A Postcolonial Christology*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2006.
- Jones, W. Paul. *Theological Worlds: Understanding the Alternative Rhythms of Christian Belief*. Nashville: Abingdon, 1989.
- Jones, Serene and Paul Lakeland, eds. *Constructive Theology: A Contemporary Approach to Classical Themes*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2005.
- McFague, Sallie. *Models of God: Theology for an Ecological, Nuclear Age*. Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1987.
- Parker, Palmer. *Let Your Life Speak: Listening for the Voice of Vocation*. New York: John Wiley and Sons, 1999.
- Peacocke, Arthur and Ann Pederson. *The Music of Creation*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2005.
- Rhoads, David, ed. *Earth and Word: Classic Sermons on Saving the Planet*. New York:

Continuum, 2007.

Weems, Renita J. *Listening for God: A Minister's Journey through Silence and Doubt*.
New York: Simon and Schuster, 1999.

Note: Course profiles provide only a preliminary snapshot of the course offered. It does not take the place of the course syllabus which will be provided by the course instructor.

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