Course Profile

Course # and Title  
ML508 Pastoral Ministry with Women and Femmes

Instructor:  
Kathleen D. (Kadi) Billman  
Semester/Year:  
Spring 2018

Course Rationale and Description
(Why do we offer this course? Which of LSTC’s degree program learning outcomes does it address?):

The description of an “exemplary” level of ministerial leadership competency (2017-18 Masters Programs Manual, M7) includes the capacity to “articulate and model embodiment of the gospel in ways that are culturally sensitive, inclusive, and responsive to the personal and public dimensions of people’s sorrows and hopes.” Ministry competence at the exemplary level is also envisioned as the ability to “equip people to convey God’s great work in bringing the world to abundant life.”

This course invites learners to investigate the intersection of the personal and public dimensions of the lives of women and femmes through key life cycle transition. Each changing season from birth to death brings developmental turning points as well as unexpected crises that have historically impacted women’s/LGBTQA+ lives (e.g., the horrific statistics on sexual and domestic violence).

The danger in broad terms like “women” and “femmes” lies in their vulnerability to being used as false generics not attuned to the various dimensions of social location that make lives within the “generics” very different. Our readings will seek to address life cycle issues through the lenses that come from different social locations, in order to gather and develop theologically and culturally informed resources and practices for teaching, worship leadership, and pastoral care in congregations and other ministry settings.

This 500 level course presupposes that learners have had supervised ministry experience of some sort (e.g., CPE, supervised ministry experience in a parish or other professional setting) and have had the opportunity to develop foundational skills in listening for understanding and engaging diverse perspectives with interest and respect. The course is offered with the expectation that all who enroll in it are committed to engaging in ministry that is welcoming of and seeks to learn from the diverse gendered life experiences of women and femmes (physiological, socio-cultural/political, psychological, spiritual) and that the wisdom gained will enrich practices of pastoral and spiritual care, ritual, preaching, and educational ministries across the generations.

Course Learning Outcomes (Learners will be able to):
(What difference will this course make to students’ knowledge, skills, attitudes, and practices?)

1. Speak knowledgeably about gender identity and expression in ways accessible to both adults and children. Use that knowledge in reflecting about/planning ministry at various junctures in the lives of girls, women, and femmes: childhood, puberty, partnering, vocation, childbirth, adoption, aging, dying.
2. Examine and evaluate models of pastoral and congregational responses to crises that disproportionately impact the lives of women and femmes at all ages, with special attention to sexual abuse and domestic violence.
3. Develop and present a particular resource to be used in future ministry with women and femmes (may be aimed at a particular age group), e.g., educational program or curriculum,
liturgical resources for various life turning points (puberty, vocational discernment, menopause) or unexpected crises (infertility, anorexia/bulimia, miscarriage/stillbirth, healing from experience of abuse/violence). Collectively, these resources will be compiled as a book of resources members may take with them to their future ministries.

4. Cultivate/deepen the capacity for “meta-reflection” on the experience of being a group committed to twelve weeks of serious engagement on these subjects, and the implications of this semester’s work for our future ministries.

**Strategies for Learning:**
(How shall we go about achieving these outcomes?)

*These are linked to the four outcomes above.*

1. Actively participating in a “Gender 101” workshop. For those who have already participated in such a workshop, this will not only be an opportunity for review but an opportunity for active leadership in class conversations. For all who desire to immediately begin imagining how this awareness might shape religious education, liturgy, and care, this will be a collaborative jumping off place.

2. Composing an intellectual journal that contains weekly class session preparation (e.g., responses to each week’s readings and identified questions for discussion; connections made with previous class sessions and unfolding conversations), which is submitted to the instructor at three points during the semester.

3. Develop and present a ministry resource for a particular area of interest in promoting life-giving ministry for women and femmes (curriculum, liturgy, pastoral care plan and resource document). The presentation is accompanied by an annotated bibliography of sources consulted, a reflection on the process of creating the resource and the considerations that helped you to shape it (e.g., theological, scriptural, cultural, psychological, physiological, spiritual).

**Assessment:**
(How shall we know if we—students and instructors—have been successful in achieving the outcomes?)

Feedback from peers and instructor, responding to assessment rubrics provided. Instructor feedback sought at mid-term and at the conclusion of the course.

**Bibliography:**

Most of the readings for this course will be found on the ML508 course site. We will be reading from a variety of sources, including *The Sacred Hoop: Recovering the Feminine in American Indian Traditions*, by Paula Gunn Allen; *Sister Outsider*, by Audre Lorde; Chapbook Femme (“Street Tax” and “Promise Me” by Alok Vaid-Menon will be sent prior to the course), and chapters from *A Queer and Pleasant Danger* by Kate Bornstein, and *Transparently* by Lisa Salazar.

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<th>Text Title</th>
<th>Author</th>
<th>ISBN# (Required)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pastoral Counseling with Women: A Narrative, Pastoral Approach</td>
<td>Christie Cozad Neuger</td>
<td>9780800634223</td>
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<tr>
<td>Or: The Cry of Tamar: Violence Against</td>
<td>Pamela Cooper-White</td>
<td>978-0-8006-9734-1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Women and the Church’s Response Or: A Womanist Pastoral Theology Against Intimate and Cultural Violence</td>
<td>Stephanie M. Crumpton</td>
<td>978-1-137-37813</td>
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Additional information:

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