Course Profile

Course # and Title  RHTH/CC 422: Love and Enemies: U.S. Christian Racial Reconciliation
Instructor:  Marvin Wickware  Semester/Year:  Fall 2019

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

Ongoing failures of racial reconciliation work represent an enduring challenge to the credibility and integrity of Christian faith in the United States. In part, these failures are due to the frustrating and exhausting nature of racial reconciliation work, which regularly drains participants without bearing much fruit. The challenge of racial reconciliation work can be confronted constructively, however, if we take seriously the call to love our enemies.

Much racial reconciliation work proceeds by attempting to minimize our awareness of the enemy relations that persist between people of different races. Such a framework does not provide participants with the analytical and emotional resources necessary to understand and endure the frustration and exhaustion that are necessarily part of racial reconciliation work. In this course, then, we will work toward an understanding of racial enemy relations, an appreciation of their significance, and an imagination capable of grasping the possibilities of love within those enemy relations.

This course addresses the following learning outcomes for each degree program.
MDiv/MAM learning competencies:
  1) Conveys a developed sense of being a person created and called to live ethically in community;
     (ELCA) Conveys a developed sense of being created and called to give witness to Jesus Christ, Trinitarian faith, care for creation, and community with human neighbors.
  3) Draws the wisdom of our forebears in the faith in history and theology into active engagement with emerging challenges.
  4) Guides and supports communities that discern and develop the gifts of all people.
  5) Manifests the ability to know, interpret, and affect particular situations, values, and meanings through methodologically grounded historical, socio-cultural, ethical readings/analysis of one’s own denomination and broadly cultural-historical traditions within and around each of these competencies.

MATS learning competencies:
  1) Conveys a developed sense of being a person created and called to live ethically in community.
  3) Draws the wisdom of our forebears in the faith in history and theology into active engagement with emerging challenges.
  4) Manifests the ability to know, interpret, and affect particular situations, values, and meanings through methodologically grounded historical, socio-cultural, ethical readings/analysis of one’s own denomination and broadly cultural-historical traditions within and around each of these competencies.
Th.M./Ph.D. learning objectives:

3) That students enhance their ability to formulate productive questions and to pursue research about significant issues or themes and grow in general in capacities for carrying out the scholarly task.

4) That students integrate their specialization with their overall competence in theology and other academic disciplines.

5) That students grow in those qualities essential for the practice of scholarly ministry, such as emotional maturity, faith and integrity, and concern for justice.

6) That students develop an ability to engage in critical scholarly discussions with professors and peers.

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

Learners will be able to:

1) articulate a nuanced and historically grounded account of race, as it has been constructed in the United States.
2) critique a traditional black/white binary in thinking about race and racial reconciliation.
3) draw on a range of theological and theoretical accounts of enemy relations in connection with racial reconciliation work.
4) draw on a range of theological and theoretical accounts of love in connection with racial reconciliation work.
5) articulate their own challenges in loving their enemies, in relation to their racial identity and life experiences.
6) engage in productive conversations on race and racial reconciliation without relying on technical and theoretical language.
7) formulate an account of love of the enemy as pertains to racial reconciliation work in U.S. American churches.

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

- Course readings
- Lectures
- Small group discussions
- Students will lead ongoing conversations with people who are not in the class, providing them with the opportunity to develop their ability to communicate course concepts in accessible language. In each class session, we will devote some time to processing these conversations, focusing on the intellectual and emotional challenges and insights that arise from them.
- Students will submit personal reflections tied to class topics on most weeks. These reflections will be focused on students’ personal histories and self-understanding in relation to course topics.
- As a final project, students will develop an account of love of the enemy in relation to racial reconciliation, drawing on course readings and discussions.
Assessment:
(How shall we know if we—students and instructors—have been successful in achieving the outcomes?)

• Written feedback on students’ personal reflections and final project
• Class discussions
• Feedback sessions: Throughout the semester, the instructor will meet with groups of students to solicit feedback on the course.

Bibliography:

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<tr>
<th>Text Title</th>
<th>Author</th>
<th>ISBN# (Required)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><em>White Fragility</em></td>
<td>DiAngelo, Robin</td>
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<td><em>Dear White Christians</em></td>
<td>Harvey, Jennifer</td>
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<td><em>Red, White, and Black</em></td>
<td>Wilderson, Frank</td>
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Additional information:

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