Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago

RHTH 503: Constructive Theology
Dr. Linda E. Thomas

Course Rational and Description

This is an integrative course dealing with the role of theology in pastoral formation. Its intent is to provide students returning from internship or proceeding directly to internship post-graduation 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 Learning 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 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

Strategies for Learning

The format of the course will primarily be lecture and discussion. Learning activities will include lectures by the professor, small group exercises, and student presentations.

Assessment:
Class presentation during one week and regular class participation (15%)
Each week students will write an intellectual journal reflecting on course readings (15%)
Write a five to seven (5-7) page theological portrait of her or his internship context (15%)
Write a theological worlds paper based on required text (15%)
Take Intercultural Developmental Inventory
Final Constructive Theology Paper (15 – 20 pages) (40%).

Required Books: