

COS 524 Theological Reflection on the Practice of Ministry

Summer 2016

June 27-July 5, 2016

8:30-11:30 a.m.

Claremont School of Theology

Claremont, CA

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Course Description

This course is a capstone to the student's basic course of study. Its focus is the integration of the biblical, theological, and practical aspects of ministry.

Student Learning Outcomes

Student will be able to:

1. Articulate a Trinitarian theology for the practice of ministry.
2. State clearly the nature and mission of the Church and its relation to pastoral ministry.
3. Demonstrate the ability to reflect theologically.
4. Develop a plan for lifelong theological reading, reflection, and growth.

Suggested Textbooks:

Patricia O'Connell Killen and John de Beer, *The Art of Theological Reflection*

Howard W. Stone and James O. Duke, *How To Think Theologically*

Charles Wood and Ellen Blue, *Attentive to God: Thinking Theologically in Ministry*

Supplementary Textbooks:

Kathleen Cahalan, *Introducing the Practice of Ministry*

Fred Benning Craddock, *Reflections on My Call to Preach: Connecting the Dots*

James D. Whitehead and Evelyn Eaton Whitehead, *Method in Ministry: Theological Reflection and Christian Ministry*

Pedagogy

The course will assume we are all religious leaders, and that every person in every situation has an impact, for better or worse, on the people and situations that are present. As is the case with all adult education, students are responsible for their own learning. Theologically, this means that all member of the class are part of the theological process, and are responsible to the larger community.

Daily Class Schedule

8:30-11:00 a.m.

1. Each class session will begin and end with a centering exercise. This could be a prayer, a song, a poem, etc. Come prepared with something to share.
2. Please read the Suggested Texts before the first day of class.
3. Near the end of the course each student will be responsible for presenting a case for theological reflection.

Monday, June 2 *How To Think Theologically* (Stone and Duke) (Chapters 1 – 4)

Tuesday, June 28 *How To Think Theologically* (Stone and Duke) (Chapters 5 – 7)

Presentation and Discussion – Writing, Reading and Processing a Case

Wednesday, June 29 *The Art of Theological Reflection* (Killen and de Beer) – “Tradition, Culture, Action, Position”

Thursday, June 30 “Finding God Experientially in the Tradition: Theological Reflection as Spiritual Formation” – Article by Kathleen T. Talvacchia

Attentive to God (Wood and Blue) – “Why Theological Reflection is Crucial to Who You Are and What You Do”

Friday, July 1 Class Presentations: Practicing Theological Reflection

Monday, July 4 Class Presentations: Practicing Theological Reflection

Tuesday, July 5 Class Presentations: Practicing Theological Reflection