



NEW COURSES FALL 2009

Revised 3-20-09

SM2013

Senior Seminar – Vocation and the Public Good (Fall 2009) / Attention (Spring 2010)

Instructors:

David Sawyer / Scott Williamson

Brad Wigger/Claudio Carvalhaes

Attention Rising M.Div. Seniors: ***Senior Integration Experience***

[Graduating Marriage and Family Therapy students can ONLY register for Statement of Faith]

To complete the requirements of the M.Div. degree program, students in their final year must participate in a Senior Integration Experience. They may *either*:

1. Take for (3-hour) credit and successfully complete a Senior Seminar, *or*
2. Prepare and defend a Statement of Faith and Ministry. (This is a non-credit-bearing requirement. See the description on pp. 13-14 of the Catalogue.)

During Spring registration in their middler year, students will choose between these options, by:

- registering for the Fall offering or the Spring offering of the Senior Seminar,
or
- registering for the Statement of Faith and Ministry.

The Senior Seminar will be led in Fall 2009 by Professors Sawyer and Williamson, and in Spring 2010 by Professors Carvalhaes and Wigger. Each seminar focuses on a particular theme that will help to organize students' integrating work. See the descriptions that follow.

The topic for Fall 2009 is "Vocation and the Public Good." Women and men come to ministry by way of a vocation. However, vocation is not a once and for all experience. Each person continues to discern a path for ministry in each new situation and facing major new dilemmas. Both vocation and ethics carry an edge of ambiguity. This course is designed to help students recognize both vocational directions and the public vocation of Christian Ethics. Students will evaluate vocation as an instrument of change for the public good. The key is to gain skill in integrating faith traditions, using both Biblical and theological knowledge, into reflection and action on vocation directions that aspire to social justice.

The topic for Spring 2010 is "Attention." Theologians and scholars across disciplines affirm the importance of paying attention. It is intrinsic to the way we communicate and experience care, to praying and learning, to artistic endeavors and the sciences. We are created to tend and attend to the created world. In this seminar we will explore the role of attention across various realms and contexts of ministry – for example, attending to people and situations, to biblical and theological texts, to cultural knowledge and political conditions, and attending to the presence of the Holy. Along the way, aesthetic and ethical dimensions of attention will be important, that is, the relationship between



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attention and what or who is valued. Who is rendered invisible? What is beautiful? What matters to the body of Christ? In all we will be considering the ways in which faith itself may be a kind of attention giving rise to ways of attending in the life of faith.

TH3433 Ecumenical Movement (*Cliff Kirkpatrick*)

We are living through a period in ecumenical life that promises to substantially reshape the character of ministry, especially in mainline churches, for years to come. Viewed through a perspective that is both Reformed and ecumenical, this course will begin with an overview of the history and theology of the ecumenical movement, then examine in some depth four contemporary developments and their underlying themes: reclaiming the legacy of Calvin for the renewal of ministry in the 21st century, understanding the changing context and enduring gospel values for mission, shaping our witness for social justice and peace, and moving us forward in more positive relationships with neighbors of other faiths. This course will also provide students with an opportunity to experience the life and worship of a Christian community other than their own or one of another faith and to share with one another what they learn from that encounter and what perspectives they might develop in their own ministry for relating ecumenically and with people of other faiths. This course is designed to share the fresh insights from the ecumenical movement and current ecumenical developments, to understand their implications for the ministry of our congregations, and also to give visible expression to Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary's newly adopted Quality Enhancement Plan, whose purpose is to "prepare men and women for ministry in a religiously diverse world."

TH2463 Grace, Freewill and Predestination in the Early Church (*Alex Hwang*)

This course will introduce you to the first debate over the Christian understanding of grace and its related issues—e.g. original sin, free will, freedom, foreknowledge, predestination, and election. The importance of the Church's initial struggle to define the doctrine of grace cannot be overstated. This debate produced various theological formulations that shaped subsequent articulations and debates concerning grace—e.g. the Carolingian double-predestination controversy, scholastic theology, John Huss, John Wycliff, the Reformation and Counter-Reformation debates, the Wesley and Whitefield conflict, Jonathan Edwards, Karl Rahner, and Karl Barth. We will look closely at the historical context of the debate, and the major figures and their writings. Although this course will focus on the first debate, students will have opportunities in class discussions and in the writing assignments to begin to reflect on their own theology of grace.

Prerequisite: History of Christian Experience



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CE 308-3 **Teaching the Bible: Wisdom Literature** (*David Hester / Trisha Tull*)
OT 305-3

This is an interdisciplinary course concerned with the practice of teaching Bible in the congregation, particularly involving skills of biblical exegesis, interpretation methods, and teaching designs. Particular biblical texts for focus will be determined at the time of scheduling. Past texts have included the Book of Jeremiah and Job. *This course fulfills the Teaching Ministry requirement for the Master of Divinity degree program or the Area A Biblical elective requirement. Prerequisite: Scripture 1.*