



NEW COURSES FALL 2011

Revised 3-21-11

SM2013 Senior Seminar – Faith and Violence (Fall 2011) / Attention (Spring 2012)
Instructors: Debra Mumford / Amy Pauw Carol Cook / Brad Wigger

Attention Rising M.Div. Seniors: Senior Integration Experience

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 2011 by Professors Mumford and Pauw, and in Spring 2012 by Professors Cook 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 2011 is "Faith and Violence." Violence in our contemporary world has many stimuli and manifestations. It impacts the lives of people of diverse ethnicities, cultures, geographical, economic and social realities. Though the causes and manifestations are diverse, the results for many people are the same - violence results in pain and suffering for many of the parties involved. As leaders of faith communities, students will be called upon to respond to violence in various forms throughout their ministries. In this course, students will grapple with violence in the bible and in contemporary life, and study a variety of constructive Christian responses to violence, in order to develop strategies for addressing violence in their own contexts.

The topic for Spring 2012 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 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.