

Syllabus for DM 250, 2010

TO: D.Min. Seminar 2 Participants – *DM250 Theological Reflection and Methodology*

FROM: Seminar Leader: Jean Morris Trumbauer, United Theological Seminary, 651-255-6127 or dmin@unitedseminary.edu

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Date: Monday, April 19 – Friday, April 23, 2010

Time: 1:00 p.m. first day through noon last day

Place: United Theological Seminary, Small Dining Room
3000 – 5th St. NW, New Brighton, MN 55112

Focus of Module Two:

Module 2 focuses on students' development of advanced skills in pastoral analysis, theological reflection, and methodology. This seminar focuses on skill enhancement.

Learning Objectives of DM250 Are To:

- 1) Learn to describe and analyze particular contexts of ministry using relevant theological, cultural and social scientific disciplines;
2. Develop a congregational profile of a particular ministry context as well as a case study of a particular ministry issue in that context;
3. Effectively engage several models of doing theological reflection;
4. Become familiar with various methodologies including biblical interpretation, historical analysis, social analysis, ethnographic research, case studies, appropriate interview and survey techniques and analysis, content analysis, narrative approaches, and so forth;
5. Practice using remote library access to support research;
6. Learn how to develop and implement model of ministry, research, work of art, and theological construction project proposals and reports;
7. Develop papers using correct style for D.Min. academic papers (margins, numbering, headings, bibliographic and footnote/endnote styles. **Consult *Turabian Manual of Style*, 7th edition.**
8. Engage in mutual support and challenge within a cohort community of learners.



Expectations for Seminar Two:

- 1) Read and reflect on the content of the books that are assigned for the seminar;
- 2) Write reflections that integrate the assigned texts with the context of your ministry;
- 3) Engage actively in theological reflection and conversation with D.Min. colleagues to begin to refine your reflections about the readings and your ministry;
- 4) Complete a "Project Proposal", implement the proposal once it is approved by the instructor, and finally complete a "Project Report";
- 5) Organize your writing in a clear and relevant manner;
- 6) In all written assignments use the guidelines listed for proper academic style.

Timetable of Due Dates:

- 1) All reading and writing assignments are **due by the evening of April 12, 2010** (7 days before the Seminar starts on April 19, 2010. Because of the substance of these papers it is critical that we all get your papers on time so that all can prepare for the seminar time.
- 2) All student papers must have been read **by the start of the Seminar on April 19, 2010.**
- 3) A "Project Proposal" is due to the instructor **not earlier than May 15 nor later than June 10, 2010.** She will need to approve or ask for revisions in your proposal. Once your proposal is approved, you may e-mail it to your seminar colleagues so they know what you will be doing as a project.
- 4) A "Final Project Report" is due to the instructor **not later than October 15, 2008.** The project report should be sent first to Jean for her feedback and then the final report should be sent to your other D.Min. seminar colleagues.

REQUIRED READINGS FOR DM250 SEMINAR PORTION (** indicates most critical books)



Ammerman, Nancy Tatom and Arthur Emery Farnsley. *Congregation and Community*. Piscataway, NJ: Rutgers University Press, 1997. (We used this book last term. Just review the methodological design of it in pages 40-62 and some of the appendices.)

**Ammerman, Nancy T. and Jackson W. Carroll, et. al. *Studying Congregations: A New Handbook*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1998. (253 pgs)

**Killen, Patricia O'Connell and John deBeer. *The Art of Theological Reflection*. New York: Crossroads, 1994. (145 pgs)

**Mahan, Jeffrey H., Barbara B. Troxell, and Carol J. Allen. *Shared Wisdom: A Guide to Case Study Reflection in Ministry*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1993. (139 pgs)

**Sedmak, Clemens and Robert J. Schreiter. *Doing Local Theology: A Guide for Artisans of a New Humanity*. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books, 2002. (168 pgs)

Stone, Howard W. and James O. Duke. *How to Think Theologically*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1996. (126 pgs)

**Whitehead, James D. and Evelyn Eaton Whitehead. *Method in Ministry: Theological Reflection and Christian Ministry*. Rev. and updated ed. Lanham, MD: Sheed and Ward, 1995. (151 pgs)

**Pat Taylor Ellison, "Research Approaches and the Assumptions of Ethnography," *Church Innovations Institute (1977) 1-4*. (Enclosed)

Total Number of pages to read: @ 1,190

All books are available through the Cokesbury (UTS) Bookstore. To have books mailed to you, call: Cokesbury (651-638-1960). Cokesbury Bookstore near our meeting room will be open when you are on campus for DM150, Part 2. All these books are in the bookstore and also on Spencer Library Loan on the reserve shelves.

ASSIGNMENTS BEFORE THE SEMINAR MEETS

1. Post on the Moodle D.Min. Seminar site for DM250 under the "Discussion Group" and comment on another student's post every two weeks.

By February 13, 2010. *Share some of your thoughts and experience or concerns as you approach this seminar on "Theological Reflection and Methodology." Comment on another student's post.*

By February 27, 2010: *Reflect on and share how you have usually done theological reflection in the past. What particular theology (e.g. process, liberation, creation, feminist, black, asian, neo-orthodox, reform, for example. Have you in the past used a particular type of model of theological reflection? Comment on another student's post.*

By March 13, 2010: *Share a couple of your major learnings about theological reflection since you started your reading for this seminar. Comment on another student's post.*

By March 27, 2010: *Holy Week and Easter are approaching. Share a bit about your congregation or ministry context's plans for this important Christian season. Comment on another student's post.*

By April 10, 2010: *Share your reactions to the handout "Theological Reflection" which Jean handed out in January. [This is the one that shows resources in 1) The Tradition, 2) Cultural Resources, and 3) Experience. It is also available online. Comment on another student's post*

Additional posts to do between May 1 and October 15 are detailed on pages 5 and 6 of this syllabus.



2. **Write a 3-4 page case study about some situation or issue in your ministry and your ministry context.** This will require you to use the case study methodology described in *Shared Wisdom*. Select a case that is provocative and engaging, and avoid a case study that simply reports what you have already done. A quality case study brings all of the readers on board and challenges them to personal reflection and emotional investment. The writing instructions were on pages **115-117 of *Shared Wisdom***. Omit line numbers in the left margin. Confidentiality applies as we share these papers. I suggest that you change the names of those involved and perhaps even the name of your congregation.
3. **Write a 3-4 page congregational/ministry profile** about the congregation in which you are employed or another ministry context in which you are engaged – such as a school. This profile should follow the structure suggested in *Studying Congregations*: (Chapter 1) Theology in the Congregation; (Chapter 2) Ecology; (Chapter 3) Culture and Identity; (Chapter 4) Process. Again, confidentiality applies. We suggest the names of those involved, and perhaps also the name of your institution, be changed.
4. **Write two Theological Reflections:** Choose a current issue with which you are wrestling in your ministry. Write a paragraph or two description of this issue in your ministry. Then reflect upon that incident theologically and write a **4-5 page** theological reflection about it using first the model of Killen and DeBeer and then in a **second paper of the same length** use the Whitehead and Whitehead theological reflection model on the same issue.) Central concepts to keep in mind in theological reflection are the processes of both **CONVERSATION** with your resources as well as some original theological **CONSTRUCTION** from you. Both of the above mentioned models of theological reflection call on you to integrate scripture, tradition, cultural resources and personal and/or communal experience. We will use the issue you deal with in our Group Theological Reflection at the Seminar. Confidentiality also applies in these papers.

Send: Copies of your assigned seminar papers to all seminar participants, including Jean Morris Trumbauer, by the evening of April 12, 2010. This will allow us all time to read and reflect upon your papers before the Seminar starts. Such “ahead-of-time” reading is essential for this seminar.

Your papers for this course should either be sent as attached files to e-mail or mailed through the US Mail.

ASSIGNMENTS AT THE SEMINAR:



1. Theological Reflection Group Model: each student will participate engaging in 4 different group roles: 1) Presenter; 2) Facilitator; 3) Group process evaluator; 4) Group member. You will serve once as presenter, once as facilitator, once as group process evaluator, and probably 3-4 times as group participant. It is essential to read carefully the *Theological Reflection Group Model* **before** you come to class.

2) Listen carefully and raise questions in discussion with several different UTS faculty members as they come, one by one, to make a presentation on one or several related methods of methodology they have used in their own work.

ASSIGNMENTS AFTER THE SEMINAR: **The Project.**

NOTE: DM250 is a 6 credit course. The seminar and its preparation reflects 3 of those credits; the project proposal and final project report represent the other 3 of those credits. This work starts after the seminar session and continues until you turn in a final project report on or before October 15, 2008. (Continue on next page)



Read these “project” resources:

- 1) **Four kinds of project “types”.** Find on the Mercury/Moodle website under “D.Min. Resources”. It is in the “Project section” of that webpage.
- 2) **“Basic Instructions”:** You will find this resource under the same web section as above.
- 3) **“Sample Project Proposals”:** You will find this resource under the same web section as above. Unfortunately we do not have samples yet available of every type.

Assignments related to the Project portion of this course:

- 1) Write a six-page (Plus working bibliography) Project Proposal following the guidelines for one of the “Project Types” and submit to instructor for approval.
- 2) Implement the Project following the design in your approved Project Proposal and time-line.
- 3) Submit a Final Project Report to the instructor not later than October 15, 2010. See length guidelines below.

Posting topics:

By May 1, 2010: *Share a bit about the project you are planning to do. Also, is it a research project, a model of ministry, a work of art, or a theological construction project.*

By June 1, 2010: *Share a few of your thoughts and feelings as you approach implementing your first D.Min. project.*

By July 1, 2010: *Briefly update your colleagues on any challenges you are facing as you attend to the implementation stage of your project*

By August 15, 2010: **What are you discovering as you are implementing your project.**

By September 20, 2010: *What challenges are you facing or insights are you gaining as you write up your final Project Report?*

Follow these instructions:

- 1) **Brainstorm some possible projects** you might do between May and mid-October in your ministry context.
- 2) **Select one of these project ideas** which you believe might be most helpful to you and to your congregation or school. If you are uncertain, feel free to consult with the instructor.
- 3) **Review the 4 available “types” of projects** on the webpage. (See above.) “Mixed Types” are not acceptable. Theological Construction projects must receive special approval from the Director of the D.Min.
- 4) **Determine which of the 4 project types best fits** your project idea. Theological Construction projects must receive special approval from the Director of the D.Min. Appendices can be added to the proposal.
- 5) **Follow the guidelines for that type project when writing your project proposal.** You will need a section of your proposal for each of the sections outlined in the type guidelines.
- 6) A project **proposal should be about 6 pages long plus a working bibliography.** Make sure that the bibliography includes some fairly contemporary resources. (Classical resources are very good too but not sufficient on their own.)
- 7) **Submit your project proposal to the instructor** not earlier than May 10 nor later than June 10, 2010.
- 8) The **instructor will either approve** your project proposal outright or ask you to make revisions. In the latter case you must then resubmit a revised proposal in not later than 2 weeks from the first submittal.

- 9) **Once your proposal is accepted by the instructor**, you may e-mail it to your other seminar colleagues so they can see what you are going to be doing.
- 10) **Implement your project.**
- 11) When implementation is complete, **write a final project report** following the same guidelines as the proposal. (You will find that you can likely cut and paste into your report the background and value sections of your proposal. You will be expected however, to considerably expand your theological reflection section as well as several other sections depending upon the type of project you are doing.) Probably best if each of you consults with the instructor about what sections the final project report should include because this is based on type and type determines how you should approach reporting your process and results. A project report should be not fewer than 25 double spaced pages nor more than 35 double-spaced pages. Following academic writing style and including description, analysis, and conceptualization as well as an appropriate data analysis (if you are doing research type) and evaluation (if you are doing model of ministry type or work of art type.) If you are doing a *Work of Art project* or a *Theological Construction project*, you must consult with the instructor before doing so.
- 12) **The instructor will provide you a detailed evaluation of your project.** Since this is a skill-enhancement effort, if the instructor deems important revisions or additions need to be made to the project report, she will ask you to take an extension of DM250 in order to make such revisions.
- 13) **Once the instructor has approved your final project report, e-mail** it to your seminar colleagues as a resource for them.

GRADING FOR DM250:

An unofficial preliminary grade and comments on papers and seminar participation will be sent to students in May, 2010.

A final grade for DM250 will be sent to students and to the UTS Registrar only after the final project report has been approved in the fall of 2010.

The seminar portion and relevant papers = 50% of final grade
[5% posting; 23% classroom participation; 22% written assignments]
The project portion = 50% of final grade.

SUPPLEMENTARY BOOKS: (Suggested but not required)

BeFriender Ministry. *BeFriender Ministry Coordinator Manual*. Updated ed. St. Paul, Minn.: University of St. Thomas, 1997. (Especially sections on Ministry Reflection and Faith Reflection.)

Berry, Ralph. *The Research Project: How to Write It*. 4th ed. New York City: Routledge, 1966.

****Bevans, Stephen. *Models of Contextual Theology: Faith and Cultures*. Rev. and expanded ed. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books, 2002.**

Booth, Wayne C., Gregory G. Colomb, and Joseph M. Williams. *The Craft of Research*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1995. (270 pgs)

Denzin, Norman K. and Yvonna S. Lincoln, eds. *Handbook of Qualitative Research*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications, 1994.

Kinast, Robert L. *Let Ministry Teach: A Guide to Theological Reflection*. Collegeville, Minn.: Liturgical Press, 1996.

Leedy, Paul D. *Practical Research: Planning and Design*. 5th ed. New York: MacMillan Publishing Co., 1993.

Luck, Donald G. *Why Study Theology?* St. Louis: Chalice Press, 1999.

Myerhoff, Barbara. *Number Our Days*. New York: Simon and Schuster, 1978.