PTPC 95253: Pastoral Theological Methods in Context

(3 credit hours)

Instructor: Barbara J. McClure, Ph.D.

Prerequisites: none

Course Description:

This course explores the unique character of pastoral theology and its contributions to understanding persons, communities, and the Divine. In particular we will explore methods that have helped define the field, as well as the relationships between religion and the social sciences that inform pastoral theological reflection. Students will be expected to develop a constructive pastoral theological project that will be engaged in the spring semester course, “Methods in Constructive Pastoral Theology.”

Requirements:

*Participation: Your prepared, thoughtful, informed participation is required in the course.

*Class leadership: Each student will take leadership responsibilities for two or three class periods over the course of the semester. You will make a 20 minute presentation that will have two parts: 1) briefly summarize what the author(s) is/are saying, highlighting key points and relating them to previous weeks’ readings, and 2) make a critical analysis.

*Final Paper: This 15 pp paper has two parts: 1) each student shall choose a practical or pastoral theological institutional study or ethnography (ideally it would be a possible model for your own future project) and analyze it using the various lenses we have explored over the course of the semester, noting the methodological choices the author made as well as their strengths/limitations (10pp) 2) In a second, 5pp section, suggest a project you would like to explore in second half of the course, which will be taught spring, 2014. Pose a research question, the context in which you might explore that question, a brief methodology, and a brief literature review.

Grading:

Participation 25%
Class leadership 25%
Final paper 50%
Texts:

Ammerman, Nancy et. al., *Studying Congregations* (Abingdon, 1998) 978-0687006519 $15


Cook, Judith et. al., *Beyond Methodology: Feminist Scholarship as Lived Research* (Indiana: Indiana University Press, 1991) 978-0253206299 $8


Pears, Angie, *Doing Contextual Theology* (Routledge, 2009) 978-0415417051 $30

Excerpts (chapters available on Pearson):
Additional essays and chapters will be available on Pearson

Bass, Dorothy C., ed. *Practicing Our Faith: A Way of Life for a Searching People*

Berger, Peter. *The Sacred Canopy* (methodological appendix)

Creswell, John W. *Qualitative Inquiry and Research Design*

Hummel, Leonard, et. al., *Pastoral Bearings: Lived Religion and Pastoral Theology*

Hunter, Rodney, general editor, *The Dictionary of Pastoral Care and Counseling*

Miller-McLemore, Bonnie. *Christian Theology in Practice: Discovering a Discipline.*

Miller-McLemore, Bonnie and Gill-Austern, Brita, *Feminist and Womanist Pastoral Theology*

Nanko-Fernandez, Carmen. *Theologizing en Espanghish: Context, Community and Ministry*
Strauss, Anselm L. and Juliet Corbin, *Basics of Qualitative Research: Techniques and Procedures for developing grounded theory* (2nd ed)