Instructor: David R. Brockman, Ph.D.

Prerequisites:
• Th.M, D.Min., Ph.D.: Admission to program

Description of Content:
This course explores the interrelation between religion, politics, and theological reflection. How do Christians reflect theologically on political issues? How does the political influence the religious? How might religion (and theology) already be present in the political sphere? What place, if any, should religion have in politics? How might theological reflection inform political activity without violating church-state separation? In addition to exploring the history and development of Christian political theology, this course allows students to reflect theologically on critical issues facing society and the church today, including gender, sexuality, environmental concerns, and economic problems. Students will listen deeply to voices across the political spectrum, reflect theologically upon them, and develop their own theological-political positions.

Class Procedures:
Lectures, discussions, and student presentations.

Requirements:
1. Attendance and informed participation in the class sessions
2. Pre-Course Book Reports
3. Brief written summaries and oral presentations on assigned readings (70XXX only) –or- Preparing and teaching some assigned content (80XXX/90XXX only).
4. Deep Listening Research Paper - due after last class session: Students will identify a political position different from their own, thoroughly research that position, and, in a paper of 15-20 pp. (for 70XXX; 20-25 pp. for 80XXX/90XXX), develop their own theological argument for opposing it. The paper must demonstrate that the author understands the reasoning underlying their opponents’ position as well as her own.

Texts:

Other readings (including the required text *Dialectical Democracy through Christian Thought: Individualism, Relationalism, and American Politics*) will be available online or on reserve in the Mary Couts Burnett Library.

**Grading Procedures:**
- Class Participation: 20%
- Pre-Course Book Reports: 25%
- Written Summaries & Oral Presentations: 20%
- Deep Listening Paper: 35%