

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. Primarily designed for doctoral students (but open to other advanced students), 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” should they take that course (required of doctoral students in pastoral theology).

Requirements:

Course Requirements and Grading:

Attendance and Participation: Your prepared, thoughtful, informed participation is required in the course. Notes on the reading for the week are highly recommended, as well as your reflections, as we will be referring to particular pages in the reading in our discussion.

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) set the text and author in context, 2) briefly summarize what the author(s) is/are saying, highlighting key points and relating them to previous weeks’ readings, and 3) pose a process by which the class will engage the text(s) for the week (i.e. pose questions, etc.) 4) make a critical analysis.

Two brief papers: 1) For the first 7 pp paper, students will choose one text (that they have not read before, of interest to them, from any discipline outside pastoral or practical theology) that puts religion and psychology in dialogue. In the paper students will analyze the approach to the subject and the method using course resources to date (proper citations are required). Students will also include a discussion of the advantages and limitations of such a method for that particular subject. Together we will generate the questions one might answer in this paper such as: What information did the chosen method not allow to emerge? What questions would you have liked the author to explore that they did not? 2) For the second 7pp paper, students will choose one text (that they have not read before, of interest to them, from the disciplines of practical or pastoral theology, care and counseling) that uses qualitative research methods. In the paper students will analyze the approach to the subject and the method (proper citations are required). Students will also include a discussion of the advantages and limitations of such a

method for that particular subject. Together we will generate the questions one might answer in this paper such as: What information did the chosen method not allow to emerge?

**Final Paper:* In this 10-12 pp paper students will suggest a project they might like to explore in second half of the course, which will be taught Spring, 2020. Propose a research area and the rationale for it. Describe what you hope to learn. Suggest different questions you might pose to the project the context in which you might explore those questions. Offer a brief methodology, and a brief literature review (i.e. what will your project offer that others have not?)

Grading:

Participation 25%

Class leadership 15%

Two brief papers 20% ea

Final paper 20%

Required Texts:

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

Creswell, John W. *Qualitative Inquiry and Research Design: Choosing Among Five Approaches* (Thousand Oaks: SAGE Publications, 2013) 978-1412965576 \$7

Glesne, Corrine. *Becoming Qualitative Researchers: An Introduction* 4th ed. (New York: Allyn & Bacon, 2010) 978-0205458387 \$80 (*this text will be used for both semesters, Methods I and II. You may choose to buy it for this semester or wait until next semester when there are fewer books to purchase*)

Jonte-Pace, Diane and Parsons, William B. eds., *Religion and Psychology: Mapping the Terrain* (NJ: Routledge, 2000) 978-0415206181 \$22

Miller-McClemore, Bonnie. *The Wiley-Blackwell Companion to Practical Theology* (Malden, MA: Wiley-Blackwell, 2014) 978-1118724095 \$40

Pears, Angie. *Doing Contextual Theology* (New York: Routledge, 2009) 978-0415417051 \$30

Ramazanoglu, Caroline and Holland, Janet. *Feminist Methodology* (Thousand Oaks, CA: SAGE Publications, 2002) 978-0761951230 \$14

Additional Resources: Optional texts and excerpts (chapters available on Brightspace):

Andrews, Dale. *Practical Theology for Black Churches: Bridging black theology and African American folk religion* (Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2002) 978-0664224295 \$15

Becker, Howard S. "The Epistemology of Qualitative Research" in *Ethnography and Human Development: Context and meanings in social inquiry*, R. Jessor, A. Colby, R. Shweder, eds. (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1996)

Berger, Peter. "Appendix II: Sociological and theological perspectives" in *The Sacred Canopy: Elements of a sociological theory of religion* (New York: Random House, 1967, 1990)

Browning, Don S., ed. *Practical Theology: The emerging field in theology, church and world* (San Francisco: Harper & Row, 1983) 978-0060611538 \$2

Davidman, Lynn. *Tradition in a Rootless World: Women turn to orthodox Judaism* (Berkeley, CA: University of California Press, 1993) 978-0520075450 \$31

Denzin, Norman, and Lincoln, Yvonna. "Introduction: The discipline and practice of qualitative research," in *The SAGE Handbook of Qualitative Research*, 4th ed. Denzin, N. and Lincoln, Y. eds. (Thousand Oaks: SAGE, 2011)

Dunlap, Susan. *Caring Cultures: How congregations respond to the sick* (Waco TX: Baylor University Press, 2009) 978-1932792874 \$25

Fonow, Mary and Cook, Judith, eds. *Beyond Methodology: Feminist scholarship as lived research* (Indiana: Indiana University Press, 1991) 978-0253206299 \$8

Frederick, Marla. *Between Sundays: Black women and everyday struggles of faith* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 2003) 978-0520233942 \$8

Hunter, Rodney, ed. *Dictionary of Pastoral Care and Counseling* (Nashville: Abingdon, 1990)

Graham, Elaine; Walton, Heather; Ward, Frankie. *Theological Reflection: Methods* (London, UK: SCM Press, 2005) 978-0334029762 \$22

Luhrman, T.M. *When God Talks Back: Understanding the American evangelical relationship with God* (New York: Vintage Books, 2012) 978-0307277275 \$2

McClintock Fulkerson, Mary. *Places of Redemption: Theology for a worldly church* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2010) 978-0199591503 \$25

Miller-McLemore, Bonnie. *Christian Theology in Practice: Discovering a Discipline* (Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans, 2012) 978-0802865342 \$18

Nanko-Fernandez, Carmen. *Theologizing en EspanGLISH: Context, Community and Ministry* (MaryKnoll, NY: Orbis Books, 2010) 978-1570758645 \$20

Ramsay, Nancy, ed. *Pastoral Care and Counseling: Redefining the Paradigms* (Abingdon, 2004)

Smith, Robert L. *From Strength to Strength: Shaping a black practical theology for the 21st century* (UK, Peter Lang: 2007) 978-0820495187 75\$

Swinton, John and Mowat, Harriet. *Practical Theology and Qualitative Research* (London, UK: SCM Press, 2006) 978-0334029809 \$6

Wolfeich, Claire. *Navigating New Terrain: Work and women's spiritual Lives* (New York: Paulist Press, 2003) 978-0809141487 \$5