



MPS 339b/STP 470b – Field Education: Theological Reflection Seminar

FALL 2022

Course Outline

Class Start Date & End Date

September 13-Dec. 6th 2022

Class Meeting Time, Location, and Room

Tuesday 1:15 - 4:05 p.m. St. Marguerite Bourgeoys Room NTC

Instructor: Bob McKeon Ph.D>

Office: Newman Theological College 2-07

Office Hours: By appointment

Telephone: 780.-242-4395

Email: bob.mckeon@newman.edu

Course Description

An introductory practicum consisting of a ministry placement under individual supervision, related classes, and theological reflection in groups on the experience gained. Students who enrolled in STP 470 P who took a full pastoral internship year at the parish with supervision (STP 470P) enroll in a Theological Reflection Seminar STP470b the following Fall semester.

Course Objectives

M.DIV. Program Students

- a) **Intellectual Formation** - The program shall foster sound knowledge of the revelation of God in creation, in Israel, and in the person of Jesus Christ as witnessed to by Scripture and the Church's Tradition.
- b) **Cultural Context** - The program shall foster an evangelical discernment of the 'signs of the times' to engage with the reality of cultural diversity in the Church and world.
- c) **Personal and Spiritual Formation** - The program shall foster growth in terms of human and Christian maturity, as a personal response to being a disciple of Jesus Christ and as a dimension of public witness.
- d) **Capacity for Ministerial Leadership** - The program shall foster theological reflection on and education for the practice of ministerial leadership in the Church and world.

Course Learning Goals:

This is a required course taken in the final stage of the BTh and MDiv degree program. Through the use of adult learning techniques, the students will:

- a) Utilize principles and methods involved in theological reflection (Intellectual, Pastoral and Human Formation)
- b) Review the pastoral experiences in light of Christian theology and put this experience into genuine dialogue with one's faith Tradition (Ministerial/Pastoral/Human/Spiritual Formation)
- c) To practice theological reflection and develop a methodology and expertise for doing theological reflection in future ministry (Ministerial/Pastoral/Human/Social Formation)

Course Assignments and Evaluation

1. Two theological reflections/case studies (five-six pages double-spaced) typed and presented according to the outline provided in class. **(30% each=60% of final grade)**
2. Analysis of two case studies presented by colleagues. These will be two pages double-spaced and presented following the outline presented in class. **(10% each=20% of final grade)**
3. Personal Theological Reflection paper (3-5 pages double spaced) and discussion. Submitted prior to the final interview with the instructor. **(20% of final grade)**

Because of the nature of the discussion, it is very important not to carry the content of pastoral conversations beyond the classroom walls and to make special efforts to disguise the identity of people when discussing pastoral concerns and experiences. Much of the learning that goes on in a classroom is founded upon trust in the mutual discourse between the student, student peers and the instructor.

Textbooks

1. Patricia O'Connell Killen and John de Beer, *The Art of Theological Reflection* (Crossroads: New York, 1995).
2. Robert Kinast. *Making Faith Sense: Theological Reflections in Everyday Life* (Collegeville MN: The Liturgical Press, 1999)

Recommended Reading

1. Barbara Blodgett and Matthew Floding (eds.), *Brimming with God: Reflecting Theologically on Cases in Ministry* (Wipf and Stock Publishers: Eugene, OR, 2015).
2. Robert Kinast, *Let Ministry Teach: A Guide to Theological Reflection* (Collegeville: The Liturgical Press, 1996).
3. James Whitehead and Evelyn Whitehead. *Method in Ministry: Theological Reflection and Christian Ministry* (Kansas: Sheed and Ward, 1995)

Course Requirements

All students must attend all classes, complete the assignments and participate in class discussions. Habitual lateness will be regarded as absence. Thoughtful class participation includes the ability to listen to others. Cell phone use is prohibited. The use of laptops and other devices is for note-taking purposes only. If a student is unable to attend a class, please notify the instructor in advance. Consistent with the policy of Newman College, students are allowed no more than two absences.

Late Submission Policy.

The penalty for late submission will be 10% per day. Extensions may be granted for exceptional circumstances such as family or medical emergencies, however, in all but the most grave emergencies, please contact me before the due date of the assignment.

Course Structure:

There will be two class groups taking this course this semester

- 1) Students, having completed a seminary pastoral internship or CPE, engage in a one semester theological reflection seminar.
- 2) Students taking a two semester course including both a two semester supervised field placement and a concurrent theological reflection seminar.

For some class sessions we will divide the available class time and, these two class groups will meet separately. For other class sessions, the two groups will meet and work together.

Course Schedule

Sept. 13

Review of Course Outline. Sharing learnings from internships
Introduction to Theological Reflection Use of case studies

Sept. 20:

Reflecting on ministry experiences. Starting on theological reflection.
Sign up for presentations and written responses
Read: Killen and de Beer Chapter 1, Kinast, Chapters 1 and 2

Sept. 27

Writing case Studies. Preparing responses. Group supervision.
A method for theological reflection
Read: Kinast Chapters 3 and 4,

Oct. 4: Verbatim _____ Response _____

Oct. 11 Verbatim _____ Response _____

Verbatim _____ Response _____

Oct. 18: Verbatim _____ Response _____

Verbatim _____ Response _____

Oct. 25: Going Deeper into Theological Reflection

Read Killen and de Beer Chapters 2 and 3

Nov. 1 Verbatim _____ Response _____

Verbatim _____ Response _____

Nov. 8 No Class Reading Week

Nov. 15 Verbatim _____ Response _____

Verbatim _____ Response _____

Verbatim _____ Response _____

Nov. 22 Verbatim _____ Response _____

Verbatim _____ Response _____

Nov. 29 Verbatim _____ Response _____
 Verbatim _____ Response _____

Dec. 6 Personal and group theological reflection
 Personal Reflection paper due

Exam Week Individual meeting with the professor.

General Academic Information

Course Attendance

No credit will be given for a course if the student has been absent, for any reason whatever, from one-third or more of the lectures and/or seminars scheduled for the term. Likewise, no credit will be given if term assignments or other assignments are or remain incomplete.

Leave of Absence and Policy for Incompletes

Extensions to an incomplete grade may be granted in extenuating circumstances, but may not exceed 16 weeks following the end of the course. Students who fail to complete course work by the agreed deadline will have a grade assigned which is based on work completed.

Academic Integrity

Acts of academic dishonesty (plagiarism, cheating, etc.) are subject to an appropriate penalty. The grade "F" may be assigned to a student guilty of such acts by the professor of the course in which the infraction occurred. A second offense against academic integrity renders the student liable to automatic dismissal from NTC. Further details are available in the Academic Calendar in the Academic Misconduct Policy.

Academic Grievances

Students may appeal grades received; the procedure is outlined in the Academic Calendar in the Grade Appeal Policy. For other grievances, students will refer to the Student Grievances Policy also outlined in the Academic Calendar.

NOTE: The GPA is computed on the basis of cumulative grade point (letter) values, not percentage values. All courses are included in this calculation except those exceeding degree requirements and/or received as transfer credits from other recognized institutions.

Grading System

Undergraduate Studies		
Grade Meaning	Grade	Grade Point
Excellent	A+	4.0
	A	4.0
	A-	3.7
Good	B+	3.3
	B	3.0
	B-	2.7
Adequate	C+	2.3
	C	2.0
	C-	1.7
Marginal	D+	1.3
	D	1.0
Fail	F	0.0

Graduate Studies		
Grade Meaning	Grade	Grade Point
Excellent	A+	4.0
	A	4.0
	A-	3.7
Good	B+	3.3
	B	3.0
	B-	2.7
Adequate	C+	2.3
	C	2.0
	C-	1.7
Fail	D+	1.3
	D	1.0
	F	0.0

Written Assignments - Style and Format

Newman Theological College requires that all written work be submitted in acceptable academic format and style. Please note the following regulations:

Regulations

Research papers, book reports, article summaries, reflection papers, and essays should be double-spaced, printed on one side only, and submitted on white, 8.5" x 11" paper.

A standard type style, such as Times New Roman, with a 12-point font size, must be used. The instructor will specify the most recent edition of the style manual to be used:

1. Kate Turabian, "A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations" (Chicago: University of Chicago Press).
2. Joseph Gibaldi & William Ahters, eds., "MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers" (New York: Modern Language Association of America).

3. American Psychological Association “Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association” (Washington: APA Publications).

Copies of these standard references may be purchased in the NTC bookstore.

Ignorance of standard form is not considered an acceptable excuse for deviation from required standards of format and style.

Academic Regulations

The following Academic Regulations are located in the Academic Calendar for your reference:

- Changes in Registration: Add/Drop/Withdraw Notice
- Course Work
- Final Examination Schedule
- Incomplete Grade Policy
- Inclusive Language

Related Academic Matters

The following Related Academic Matters are located in the Academic Calendar for your reference:

- Grade Reports & Posting
- Glossary of Academic Terms

Other Related Policies

The following policies are located in the Academic Calendar for your reference:

- Academic Misconduct Policy
- Grade Appeal Policy

Recording of Lectures

Audio or video recording of lectures, seminars or any other teaching environment by students is allowed only with the prior consent of the instructor. Recorded material is to be used solely for personal study, and is not to be used or distributed for any other purpose without prior written consent from the content author(s).

Student Accessibility Services:

A student with special needs that could affect their performance in class should contact their professor during the first week of the term so that appropriate arrangements can be made. They should also register with Student Services by contacting the Dean of Students, Lorraine Spenrath at 780-392-2450; email lorraine.spenrath@newman.edu