

**Seattle University**  
**School of Theology and Ministry**  
**STMM 548 Theological Reflection in Ministry**  
**Winter 2013**

**FACULTY**

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**COURSE SCHEDULE**

Session 1	Saturday	12 January 2013	9:00 am – 4:00 pm
Session 2	Sunday	13 January 2013	9:00 am – 4:00 pm
Session 3	Friday	15 February 2013	6:00 pm – 9:00 pm
Session 4	Saturday	16 February 2013	9:00 am – 4:00 pm
Session 5	Sunday	17 February 2013	9:00 am – 4:00 pm

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

Utilizing an interdisciplinary conceptual framework, this class serves both as an introductory course for newer students and a synthesis for those about to complete their program of studies. Through creative presentations and small group processes participants will: (a) provide a “thick description” of their ministerial-leadership context/s; (b) explore feelings, images, and insights grounded in pastoral practice; (c) critically engage with various cultural resources and Christian traditions; and (d) propose a reimagined or reframed praxis for transformation. We will participate actively as adult teacher-learners in a collaborative teaching and learning experience using multiple intelligences.

Participants will explore the correlation of their gifts for and experience in service/leadership within a particular ecclesial/congregational/spiritual tradition. This reflection process will work toward different images of oneself as minister-leader-in relationship with a community of faith or “spiritual belonging.”

**LEARNING OUTCOMES**

Student learning outcomes will be achieved through critical engagement/reflection, participatory and constructive feedback (both formative and summative), and strategies for leading change toward justice. In this course, participants will:

- articulate and practice the authentically human movement toward insight
- claim the received wisdom of tradition/Tradition
- study the historical correlations of tradition, culture, and experience
- explore Christian doctrines and their implications for ministry
- develop a working image/metaphor of oneself in ministry
- learn and apply methods of theological reflection

Students in the MAPS degree program will demonstrate the ability to:

- reflect theologically on the central themes of the Christian Tradition
- articulate and live from an understanding of self as human, minister, and leader
- be a responsive, discerning listener who can enter another’s worldview

## REQUIRED BOOKS

Bergant, Dianne, Faustino Cruz, Kathleen Dorsey-Bellow, Bernard Lee, and Maureen O'Brien. *Theological Reflection for Transformation*. Chicago: Center for the Study of Religious Life, 2004. (Available on ANGEL)

Gula, Richard. *Just Ministry: Professional Ethics for Pastoral Ministers*. New York/Mahwah, NJ: Paulist Press, 2010.

Killen, Patricia O'Connell and John de Beer. *The Art of Theological Reflection*. New York: Crossroad, 1994.

Kinast, Robert L. *What Are They Saying About Theological Reflection?* New York/Mahwah, NJ: Paulist Press, 2000.

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

Palmer, Parker. *Let Your Life Speak: Listening for the Voice of Vocation*. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass, 2000.

## ASSESSMENT AND EVALUATION

Assessment of student learning outcomes is an integral part of life-long teaching and learning. It promotes a culture of on-going reflection and effective practice. Participants will be evaluated on the basis of their (a) active and deliberate participation in class sessions, (b) creative and instructive public presentations/engagement, and (c) timely submission of clear and cogent written assignments. They will look at "self" as agent of teaching and learning, reflect on their own practice of ministerial leadership, and contribute to the holistic formation of the group.

A straight grading scale will be used to evaluate course work:

95 – 100 (A)    90 – 94            (A-)    87 – 89 (B+)    83 – 86 (B)...

- Attendance, collaborative presence, and active participation (50%)
- Satisfactory completion of reading and written assignments (50%)

The course instructor retains the final decision on grades and incorporates the student's self-reflection in the process of assessment and evaluation. **By Friday, 8 March, please send instructor an email to (a) indicate your successful completion of all required course readings and (b) assess or describe briefly your over-all participation in the class.**

## TENTATIVE COURSE PLAN

*Course content and delivery may be amended at the discretion of the instructor to address the teaching and learning needs of the group.*

### **Session 1      Ministry as Vocation and Profession**

Required Reading:

- *Let Your Life Speak* (Palmer)
- *Just Ministry* (Gula), Introduction to chapter 4.

Written Assignment: **(5 pages, double-spaced, and carefully edited. Email attachment due by 9:00 am on Saturday, January 12)**

- Identify key concepts or ideas from each of the assigned readings (*Let Your Life Speak* and selected chapters in *Just Ministry*) that have caught your interest or

imagination. Engage with the texts, explaining your points of agreement or disagreement with the authors. What questions do you draw from the text?

- In conversation with Parker Palmer and Rich Gula, articulate your personal understanding and vision of ministry as vocation and profession.

**Session 2**     **Minister as Reflective Practitioner**

Required Reading:

- *The Art of Theological Reflection* (Killen and de Beer), Introduction to Chapter 3

<b>Assignments between Weekends: Email attachment due by 5:00 pm, Monday 4 February</b>
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Read <i>Shared Wisdom</i> (Mahan et al)</li><li>• Write a case study reflection (refer to p.115 of <i>Shared Wisdom</i>)</li></ul> |
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**Session 3**     **Engaging Critically with Ministry as Praxis**

Required Reading:

- *The Art of Theological Reflection* (Killen and de Beer), Chapters 4 to 7
- *What Are They Saying About Theological Reflection* (Kinast)

Written Assignment:

- Choose one (1) of the nine processes of personal theological reflection presented in chapter four of Killen and de Beer's book. Write a narrative of your reflection (**Email attachment due by 6:00 pm on Friday, 15 Feb**).

**Session 4**     **Commitments in a Changing World for a Common Good**

Required Reading:

- *Just Ministry* (Gula), Chapters 5 to 8

**Session 5**     **Vision and Integration**

Reading Assignments:

- *Theological Reflection for Transformation* by Bergant, Cruz, Dorsey-Bellow, Lee, and O'Brien (available on ANGEL)

Writing Assignment:

- Theological Reflection Synthesis Project (**designed by each participant in consultation with instructor, details to be discussed in class. Due by Monday, 4 March**).

## ACADEMIC POLICIES

**Academic Honesty**

The School of Theology and Ministry strictly adheres to the Academic Policy concerning Academic Honesty as published in the Seattle University Student Handbook (see website)

**Students with Disabilities**

If you have, or think you may have, a disability (including an "invisible disability" such as a learning disability, a chronic health problem, or a mental health condition) that interferes with your performance as a student in this course, you are encouraged to discuss your needs and arrange support services and/or accommodations through Disabilities Services staff in the Learning Center, Loyola 100 (Phone 206. 296. 5740)

**Attendance**

Attendance is expected of students and faculty. Appropriate reduction in grade will be considered if students are absent or tardy to class sessions, online discussions, or class assignments.

**Deadlines**

Deadlines are extremely important and critical in completion of this course. The published deadlines must be adhered to. Failure to meet them will result in a reduction of the grade.