

STMA 582 COMMUNITY, JUSTICE AND MISSION: COMMUNAL LEARNING AND CARE FOR EARTH

Course Description:

A praxis-based course in which the class, as a community, engages in a common rhythm of worship, study, fellowship, and active care for the environmental and social dimensions of our world. In addition to exploring issues of community life, environmental care, and social justice, the class will reflect on the dynamics of learning which arise from communal action and practice. Possibilities for envisioning the educational ministry of the church from within this paradigm will be pursued.

Texts:

Required:

0-8006-2646-X	Walter Wink	<i>Engaging the Powers</i>	Fortress Press
0-8203-2305-5	C.A. Bowers	<i>Educating for Eco-Justice and Community</i>	University of Georgia Press

Recommended:

0-88344-462-3	Joe Holland & Peter Henriot	<i>Social Analysis</i>	Orbis Books
0-89390-206-3	Albert Fritsch	<i>Eco-Church</i>	Resource Publications

Pre-Assignment:

Each student is asked to read Walter Wink's *Engaging the Powers* then write a 3-5 page reflection paper applying Wink's analysis to a specific issue of social justice or environmental wounding as chosen by the student. The paper should describe Wink's understating of four topics:

1. His understating of domination systems and how they conspire to perpetuate social and environmental wounds,
2. His understanding of the new charter of reality Jesus invites us to envision,
3. His understating of and case for non-violence as the most politically effective and spiritually authentic choice of action available to us,
4. The spiritual challenges that emerge when people engage the powers redemptively.

After summarizing these four topics, the student is to apply all four of them concretely to a specific issue of the student's choosing (e.g. poverty, global warming, homelessness, deforestation, child abuse, etc.)

1. What domination systems conspire to perpetuate this issue?
2. What vision embodying Jesus' new charter of reality motivates a redemptive response to this issue?
3. How might persons respond to this issue non-violently?
4. What spiritual challenges emerge as persons respond redemptively to this issue?

We will work on these issues in more detail in class but the student is asked to begin reflecting on them through this paper that they bring to the first day of class.