School of Theology and Ministry **Seattle University** 901 12th Avenue, PO Box 222000 Seattle, WA 98122-1090

Winter Quarter 2014

COURSE INFORMATION STMA 579 UUA Polity

Thursdays, 1:30pm-4:20pm Classroom: HUNT 160 Prerequisites: none

INSTRUCTOR

Rev. Jon Luopa MDiv Cellphone: 206.427.4523

Office Phone: 206.525.8400x7712 Email: jon.luopa@uuchurch.org

Texts and Materials

- Peter Raible, ed. POLITY AMONG THE UNITARIANS AND UNIVERSALISTS, 1992 available through instructor at cost of reproduction.
- Conrad Wright, CONGREGATIONAL POLITY: AN HISTORICAL SURVEY OF UNITARIAN AND UNIVERSALIST PRACTICE, Skinner House, 1997. Downloadable from www.books.google.com
- Walter P. Herz, ed. REDEEMING TIME: ENDOWING YOUR CHURCH WITH THE POWER OF COVENANT, Skinner House, 1999. Downloadable from www.books.google.com
- Conrad Wright, WALKING TOGETHER, Skinner House, 1989. Downloadable from www.uuhs.org/recommended-books/walking-together

Course Description

This course will examine the development of governance structures, and the theology underpinning them, for the Unitarian Universalist association (UUA). It includes consideration of polity issues in its European beginnings, colonial polity in New England, Universalist and Unitarian polity in America, and merger issues. We shall also consider polity development as linked to civil governance in the U.S. Students will examine their own experience in light of this history and will address meaning in relationship to their ministries.

Learning Outcomes addressed in this course include:

- Knowledge of the interaction of religious/spiritual experience and culture in their ecumenical and multicultural dimensions.
- Ability to articulate a personal and ecclesial theology of ministry.
- Ability to inform ecclesial leadership with theology.
- Ability to guide and direct a Christian (UU) community (i.e. a congregation, parish, pastoral care unity, etc.) in its mission.

Course Requirements

- Students should attend all classes and participate frequently in discussion.
- Each student will make a class presentation on a discussion topic related to polity. The list of discussion topics will be distributed in the first class. The presentation is to be 30 minutes in length. The student will then facilitate conversation and feedback for at least fifteen minutes.
- Each student will write a paper (10 to 12 pages) on a polity issue as negotiated with the instructor. Papers are due no later than March 17

Grading Weight and Scale

Participation in class will account for 25% of grade.

- Class presentation will account for 25% of grade.
- Paper will account for 50% of grade.

Schedule of Course Activities

- January 9 Instructor's introduction to course, discussion of issues, introduction of participants, logistics, questions. Introduction to Polity.
- January 16 Polity issues in European Unitarian beginnings,; colonial polity in New England.
- January 23 North American Unitarianism: 1800 to Civil War
- January 30 North American Unitarianism: Civil War to 1927
- February 6 Universalist Polity in America
- February 13 Unitarian Polity: 1927-1961
- February 20 Unitarian Universalist Polity since merger (1961)
- February 27, March 6 and 13 Student presentations.

Reading assignments will be distributed at the first class. For that first class on January 9, however, please read Conrad Wright, CONGREGATIONAL POLITY, pages 1 to 65.

Policies

- Attendance, late arrival to class, and participation policies
- Policies concerning missed assignments and student failure to meet deadlines
- Academic Honesty (including plagiarism): The School of Theology and Ministry strictly adheres to the academic policy regarding Academic Integrity as indicated on the Seattle University Registrar website, as noted in the box below.
- Disability: 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 class, please see related note in the box below.

University Resources and Policies

Academic Resources

- Library and Learning Commons (http://www.seattleu.edu/learningcommons/)
 - o (This includes: Learning Assistance Programs, Research [Library] Services, Writing Center, Math Lab)
- Academic Integrity Tutorial (found on Angel and SU Online)

Academic Policies on Registrar website (https://www.seattleu.edu/registrar/academics/performance/)

- Academic Integrity Policy
- Academic Grading Grievance Policy
- Professional Conduct Policy (only for those professional programs to which it applies)

Notice for students concerning 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 class, you are encouraged to arrange support services and/or accommodations through Disabilities Services staff located in Loyola 100, (206) 296-5740. Disability-based adjustments to course expectations can be arranged only through this process.