COURSE: THEO 510 INTEGRATIVE COLLOQUIUM
DATES: Tuesdays, July 18, 25; Aug. 1, 8, 15, 22
TIME: 5:30 - 8:30 p.m.
LOCATION: Mulva Room 315

INSTRUCTOR: Howard Ebert, Ph. D.
EMAIL: howard.ebert@snc.edu
PHONE: 403-3956 (office), 639-5254 (cell)
OFFICE: Boyle 417

COURSE DESCRIPTION
The colloquium engages students in a learning experience that fosters a fruitful, and critical, interaction between theology and the practice of Church ministry (i.e., religious education, liturgy, pastoral ministry, parish administration, spirituality, or youth ministry). Focused discussions, exercises and written work are used to analyze various contemporary theological approaches and Christian practices in order to develop a process of theological engagement that promotes critical theological reflection, collaborative models of work, and intellectual as well as personal self-criticism.

REQUIRED COURSE TEXTS


COURSE OBJECTIVES:

- To articulate the impact of the program on their understanding of the Christian faith and theology.
- To identify and relate the essential components involved in theological reflection.
- To be able to articulate the necessity and relationship between theology and Christian practices.
- To integrate the knowledge gained from the courses with their respective areas of specialization.
- To demonstrate their ability to integrate the resources of scripture, the Christian tradition and contemporary experience in a coherent and credible fashion.
- To present an area of research utilizing a practical theological paradigm.
To identify the key ethical responsibilities of ministry and the essential moral & religious traits of the Christian minister.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:
Class Attendance and Participation
The seminar nature of the course requires regular attendance. Active participation (e.g. raising questions, contributing to class discussions, etc.) in all discussions is also expected. The necessary prerequisite for a fruitful discussion is a careful, critical reading of the assigned texts by all class members. It is simply assumed that all participants of this course will be honest, open, and respectful of diverse beliefs.

Class preparation
Careful, reflective, critical reading of assigned texts is essential.

Papers
Four papers are required. The first paper is a reflection paper (2 to 4 pages) on the MTS program. Details for this paper are included at the end of the syllabus. Two papers (2 to 3 pages) are reaction papers on the assigned readings from two of the texts. The structure of the reaction paper is to highlight two or three key ideas in the assigned reading, to state why the ideas are important, to identify issues that may need further clarification, and to raise questions for discussion. In addition, the papers should address how the ideas in the specific reading are contextualized by the overall content and methodological concerns presented in the MTS program. The final paper is a preliminary thesis proposal. The proposal consists of three elements: (1) Statement of the issue, the significance of the issue, and the individual’s motivation and competency to address the topic; (2) Draft of an outline for the thesis project incorporating the major components presented in “Project Outline;” (3) Working Bibliography.

EVALUATIONS AND GRADING:

Class participation……………………………………………………………………………….. 20%
Reaction papers (2)……………………………………………………………………………….. 30%
Reflection Paper………………………………………………………………………………….. 20%
Thesis proposal ( thesis statement, rationale, working outline, working bibliography)… 30%

Grade Equivalents


ACADEMIC HONOR CODE
The learning process proceeds only when Students perform honestly on assignments and examinations. All students are expected to abide by the Academic Honor code. It defines academic dishonesty and sets forth the responsibilities of faculty and students in the event of alleged dishonesty. Possible penalties for dishonesty include reduction of a grade, failure in the course, failure and suspension, or failure and dismissal. Please refer to the current St. Norbert College Student Handbook for the text of the Academic Honor Code.
SERVICES FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES
In keeping with the St. Norbert College mission to help students develop their full potential, and compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, the College provides supportive services to students with disabilities. For inquiries and further details, please visit the Academic Support Services Office located in Todd Wehr Hall, Room 211, call at 403-1321, or visit the website www.snc.edu/academicsupport/disabilities.html.

COURSE SCHEDULE:
July 18       Review of Program
             Foley (F) pp.1-64
             Yaghjian (Y) pp. 3-39
July 25       Y pp. 39-65
             F pp. 65-123
August 1      Y pp. 67 - 161
August 8      Y pp. 229-267
             Gula (G) pp. 117-155 (Chapter 5: Power)
August 15     Y pp. 269-292
             G pp. 189-217 (Chapter 7: Confidentiality)
August 22     Draft of Thesis Project Proposal Due and Presentation of it in class
             Y pp. 293-346; 381-427
             G pp. 218-239 (Chapter 8: Pastoral Care)
August 25     Thesis project proposal due

Reflection Paper Assignment:

Write a two-four page (typed, double spaced, on inch margins) reflection paper focusing on the following questions:
   a. How has your understanding of the Christian faith changed during your participation in the Master’s Program here at St. Norbert College?
   b. How has your understanding of ministry & vocation changed over the time of your participation in the program?
   c. What do you see as the greatest strength of the MTS Program?
   d. What do you see as the greatest weakness of the MTS Program?

You may also include in this short reflection paper any events or anecdotes that you think were formative for your intellectual and spiritual life during participation in the program.