

TS 533 Advanced Seminar in Pastoral Theology and Practice
Meadville Lombard Theological School
January 10 –14, 2011
9 am – 5 pm

This seminar is designed for D. Min. students, post internship M. Div. students, and students at large who serve in ministry. This seminar presumes that the participants will bring the richness of their experiences in ministry to the theological and clinical frames to be explored. The seminar is restricted to fifteen participants.

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Introduction:

Pastoral practice is rooted within the secular disciplines of the humanistic and clinical sciences as well as within the history and practice of religious traditions. This seminar draws upon selected contemporary clinical theories as well as the communal and ecclesial dimensions of liberal religious practice. The assumptive worlds of liberal religion contain heuristic theories about how change happens (individually, interpersonally and institutionally), the nature of community and communal interaction, and the relationship of religious communities and their members to each other and to the larger society.

This seminar focuses on the operative frames of understanding implicit in the dynamics of pastoral practice. Pastoral practice (whether in the guise of pastoral care or more focused pastoral counseling) requires facility with psychological theory, experiential acumen, as well as an awareness of cultural dynamics, ethical understandings, and the complexities of human interaction in the making of meaningful lives. It requires reflective awareness of the manner in which religious practices and traditions shape human selfhood and community. The seminar will combine conversations with guest theologians, discussions of selected liberal religious resources as well as psychodynamic readings in a seminar format. **It is expected that each participant will be engaged in independent research approved by the instructor prior to the beginning of class.**

Seminar Requirements:

- Class attendance
- Active participation in class activities
- Completion of assigned readings and written assignments
- Completion of research project (**Confirm focus and timeline with instructor before beginning of seminar**)
- Bring to the seminar two case studies (3-5 pages) which describe situations of your choosing. Each vignette should describe a recently encountered leadership challenge. Preferably one more interpersonal in nature and the other more system/corporate in nature.. give a brief description of the situation, the players, the dynamics and context. Be sure that you have addressed the following points:
 - A leadership challenge in the recent past
 - What tools did you use to address it
 - What were the values at stake
 - What were the psychological dynamics at work
 - What was the outcome

- One sermon which works with the social and communal dimensions of faith and/or spirituality, in light of the seminar. Or, choose a theme growing out the preparation for this seminar which presented an “ah ha.” Due the Friday, January 14, 2011.

Grading:

Learning in this seminar derives from your engagement with the readings, class sessions, written assignments, personal reflections, interaction with guest theologians, course participants, and instructor. Fifty percent of the final grade will be based upon completion of assigned readings, written assignments and seminar discussions. Fifty percent of final grade will be based upon timely submission of final research project. The final project is due by the end of January 2011. If a later date is needed, please confirm with instructor before January 14, 2011.

Communication:

This seminar will use “google docs” as the online vehicle for distribution of seminar material and information. This will also be the site to which you will post your final projects. The web address is: <http://docs.google.com>. At the ID/email address prompt enter “pastoralseminar.” At the password prompt enter “theorypractice”. This site will be active by September 15, 2011.

Required Readings:

Required Texts: (In order of discussion)

Morton Shane et al. *Intimate Attachments: Towards a new Self Psychology* (New York: Guilford Press, 1997), (pp 1- 156)

Jerome A. Stone. *The Minimalist Vision of Transcendence: A naturalist Philosophy of Religion*. (Albany: State University of New York, 1992)

Robert C. Solomon. *Spirituality for the Skeptic: the Thoughtful Love of Life*. (London: Oxford University Press, 2002)

Charles Taylor. *The Ethics of Authenticity* (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1991)

(An extensive supplemental bibliography as well as **required articles listed below** will be available at <http://docs.google.com>)

Readings are listed in the order in which they will be discussed:

Tentative Schedule:

Monday AM (Jan 10):

Peter Marris. “The Social Construction of Uncertainty,” in *Attachment Across the Life Circle*. ed. Colin Murry Parkes et. al.. (New York: Routledge, 1991), pp77- 89. .

Daniel J. Siegel. Attachment and Self-Understanding: Parenting with the Brain in Mind,” in *Attachment and Human Survival*. ed. Marci Green et al (London: Karnac Books, 2003).

Supplemental Readings:

Joan Woodward. “Introduction to Attachment Theory” in *Attachment and Human Survival*. ed. Marci Green, et al. (London: Karnac Books, 2003)

Marci Green, et al. “Education for what? Attachment, Culture and Society.” in *Attachment and Human Survival*. ed. Marci Green, et al. (London: Karnac Books, 2003).

Peter Marris. "Attachment and Social Policy" in *Attachment and Human Survival* ed. Marci Green et al (London: Karnac Books, 2003)

Peter Marris. "Attachment and Loss of Community" in *Risking Human Security* ed. Marci Green. (London: Karnac Books, 2008)

Jennifer Leaning. "Human Security and Conflict" in *Risking Human Security* ed Marci Green (London: Karnac Books, 2003)

Monday PM (Jan 10):

Morton Shane, et.al. *Intimate Attachments: Towards a New Self Psychology*.(New York: Guilford Press, 1997).

Tuesday AM (Jan 11):

Guest Theologian: Rev. Jerome Stone Ph.D.

Reading: Jerome Stone. *The Minimalist Vision of Transcendence: A Naturalist Philosophy of Religion*. (Albany: State University Press of New York, 1992).

Wednesday AM (Jan 12):

Robert C. Solomon. *Spirituality for the Skeptic: The Thoughtful Love of Life*. (London: Oxford University Press, 2002).

Wednesday PM (Jan 12):

Guest Theologian: Thomas Byrnes Ph. D.

Reading: Tom Byrnes. "Contributions of the Hand to Constructive Theology." Available at <http://docs.google.com>.

Thursday AM (Jan 13)

Charles Taylor. *The Ethics of Authenticity*. (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 1991).

Friday AM (Jan 14)

H.Richard Niebuhr. *Faith on Earth* ed. Richard Niebuhr (chapters one, three, four) Available on <http://docs.google.com>.