**Community Studies: Spring 2018**

**Faculty: Dr. Mike Hogue, Dr. Sharon Welch**

**Spring Semester Overview**

The semester’s objective is to integrate last semester’s learning about colonialism, white supremacy, social analysis and social ethics into theological, political and vocational identities. This objective is reflected in the semester’s explorations of questions related to the forms and expressions of power, varieties of theological expression, political theology, and vocational identity.

The logistical and pedagogical structure of the course remains the same as the fall semester. Faculty collaborate weekly to provide assignments for you to work on individually and in your Dialogue Groups. Rotating Dialogue Groups will be assigned to lead and respond to the Discussion Board. As usual, and in keeping with the pedagogical and theological principles of this course, your site work remains your primary text. As with last semester, the faculty will prepare Jaminars/Podcasts regularly.

**Saturday Teleconference Dates**

March 10, April 14, May 5

**Bibliography**

Eric Liu and Nic Hanauer, *Gardens of Democracy* (purchase or borrow)

Joanna Macy and Chris Johnstone, *Active Hope* (purchase or borrow)

Additional chapters and articles will be posted to Populi.

**Evaluations**

In addition to the Final Project [described at end of syllabus], due **April 29**, the instructors for this course understand that deep learning—especially integrated, praxis-based learning—requires richly layered forms of evaluation.

To this end, you will receive Final Evaluations from the multiple partners you have been working with through the year: from your Teaching Pastor / Mentor and your Site Supervisor. You will need to remind your TP/TM and Site Supervisors to fill out these documents, which are included in their Handbooks. Once they complete the evaluations, you will need to upload them to Populi in the appropriate assignment link via **SigDocs - Com: Signature Documents - Community Studies.**

You will also receive a Final Faculty evaluation before the beginning of Fall 2018

Semester.

**Statement Regarding Accommodation**

Meadville Lombard is committed to making reasonable accommodations to assist individuals with disabilities in reaching their academic potential. If a student has a disability that qualifies under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and requires accommodations, they should contact the Vice President for Enrollment Management and Student Affairs, Ken McHugh (kmchugh@meadville.edu) (312) 735 2919. Please note that classroom accommodations cannot be provided without an approved Accommodations Form.

**\*\*\*\*Lessons and Discussions: See Populi.**

**FINAL PROJECT**

The FINAL Project for this course is due April 29. This project provides an opportunity for you to collect your thoughts, gather your hearts, and think about what you’ve learned through the whole of this course. Consider this assignment as an imaginative synthesis of the insights, wisdom, testimonies, and the heart-breaking and heart-blessing experiences you've had this past year. How can you represent what you've learned and felt and thought? Please use the following question as a prompt for your work: “What are you grateful to have experienced and to have been challenged by this past year?”

We give you multi-media freedom here. You could write an 8-page paper that narrates your learning. You could write a series of poems. You could submit a photo-documentary. You could create a multi-media mosaic. These are just some ideas. Please approach this assignment as a gift to your classmates.

*Please submit your final assignment to Populi no later than April 29 and send by email to the members of your Saturday small groups.* Then, during the week of April 30 leading up to our final Saturday conference call May 5, please review the final assignments submitted by your Saturday small-group peers.