

Course Description and Readings

Practical Theology (DM9380)

Summer 2017

Rev. Dr. Jeanne Stevenson-Moessner

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It is not uncommon to hear the question: What is practical theology? This course examines that question by looking at various issues in practical theology. Practical theology will be presented as an interdisciplinary enterprise, interrelated with other theological disciplines such as dogmatics or Biblical studies. Practical theology was described as the “crown” of theological study by Friedrich Schleiermacher in 1811. The meaning of this depiction will be explored, through discussion, readings, videos, cases. There are many aspects of practical theology: education, spirituality, political activism, worship, ethics, cultural sensitivity, administration, homiletics. These aspects and the issues that surround them will form the core of our class discussions.

Goal: Through documentaries (Howard Thurman, Mother Teresa of Calcutta), lectures, readings, individual research, group discussions, and personal reflection, students will gain an understanding of the discipline of practical theology and the varied issues that are involved. D. Min. students will gain insight into the impact of practical theology in their ministries, their research, and their own spirituality.

Required Texts including articles:

Texts:

Jeanne Stevenson-Moessner, Overture to Practical Theology: The Music of Religious Inquiry (Eugene, Oregon: Cascade Books, 2016), ISBN 978-1-4982-8302-1

Howard Thurman, Jesus and the Disinherited (Boston: Beacon Press, 1976), ISBN 0-8070-1029-4.

Mother Teresa: Essential Writings, ed. Jean Maalouf (Maryknoll: Orbis Press, 2005), ISBN 1-57075-379-2.

Harold J. Recinos, Long Way Home (Moorpark: Floricanto Press and Berkeley Press, 2016), ISBN 9781888205626.

Required Articles:

Susanne Johnson, “Remembering the Poor: Transforming Christian Practice,” chapter 7 in Dana Wright and John Kuentzel, editors, in Redemptive Transformation in Practical Theology (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2004). On Reserve in Bridwell.

Dale P. Andrews and Robert London Smith, "Prophetic Praxis for Black Practical Theology, in **Black Practical Theology for Black Churches: Bridging Black Theology and African American Folk Religion**, eds. Dale P. Andrews and Robert London Smith, jr. (Waco: Baylor University Press, 2015),pp.3-18. ISBN 978-1-60258-435-8 On Reserve in Bridwell.

Jeanne Stevenson-Moessner, "'So I Lost Africa': Personhood, dignity, and multiple identity politics," in **Practicing Ubuntu: Practical Theological Perspectives on Injustice, Personhood and Human Dignity**, eds. Jaco Dreyer, Yolanda Dreyer, Edward Foley, Malan Nel (Zurich: LIT Verlag, 2017), pp.239-247. ISBN 978-3-643-90848-3. On Reserve in Bridwell.

Bonnie Miller-McLemore, "The Theory-Practice Binary and the Politics of Practical Knowledge", in **Conundrums in Practical Theology**, eds. Joyce Ann Mercer and Bonnie Miller-McLemore. Leiden: Brill, 2016, pp. 190-218. ISBN 978-90-04-32423-7. On Reserve in Bridwell.