FIFTH YEAR
Pre-Class Written Assignment
PERKINS COURSE OF STUDY SCHOOL – 2013

(512) CONTEMPORARY THEOLOGY

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This course will trace the theological development of the Christian people in the contemporary era. You will be invited to reflect critically on key individuals, trends in theological thought, and movements and events since 1900. In preparation for this course, you are also asked to spend time exploring how you interact theologically with the context in which you are in ministry.

Readings:

--Shane Claiborne, *The Irresistible Revolution: Living as an Ordinary Radical*, (Zondervan, 2006; ISBN 978-0310266303)

--Daniel Mark Epstein, *Sister Aimee: The Life of Aimee Semple McPherson* (Harcourt Brace, 1993; ISBN 0-15-600093-8)

--Justo González, *Mañana: Christian Theology from a Hispanic Perspective* (Abingdon Press, 1990; ISBN 0687230675)

--Stanley Hauerwas & William Willimon, *Resident Aliens: Life in the Christian Colony* (Abingdon Press, 1989; ISBN 0-687-36159-1)

--Daniel L. Migliore, *Faith Seeking Understanding: An Introduction to Christian Theology* (Eerdmans, 1991; ISBN 0-8028-0601-5)

Pre-Class Assignment:

Write a paper of no less than 16 and no more than 20 pages in total length responding to the following questions. You will need to have read all the books above to answer the questions adequately.

1. What vision of the Church do Hauerwas and Willimon present in *Resident Aliens*? How does it relate to the presentations on the church in Migliore, especially in chapter 10? What would your local church look like if you lived more like the resident aliens that Hauerwas and Willimon suggest Christians should be?

2. Questions on *Mañana*:

a) Justo González begins his book with a call for "*fuenteovejuna*" theology. What does this mean to you and what does it suggest about the way theology has been and can be done?

b) How has the Hispanic experience of history affected the way theology is approached in a Hispanic context?

c) As people doing ministry in areas with a growing Hispanic/Latino presence, what insights from this book seem most relevant to you?

3. Shane Claiborne offers a critique of the church based on themes of suffering and liberation. Drawing on his book, what would you say are the sources (biblical, experiential, etc.) that

inform his theology? Where does he feel that the contemporary Christian community is failing to live up to its calling? Where do you find him in agreement with Gonzalez? What sort of conversation can you imagine with Claiborne based on your experience?

1. *Sister Aimee* offers a portrait of a leader in the Pentecostal tradition. Reflect on the following questions in your paper:
   a. If Aimee Semple McPherson is representative of some major characteristics of Pentecostalism, what would you say that they are?
   b. How does McPherson's ministry reflect your understanding of the work of the Holy Spirit?
   c. In chapter 9 of Migliore, the author sketches a theology of the Holy Spirit. How does McPherson's ministry connect to some of the themes that Migliore lifts up?

   What's Wesleyan about Migliore's theology of the Holy Spirit?

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

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The completed pre-class work for courses 211-514 must be sent to the Course of Study School office **postmarked on or before May 15, 2013** OR submitted electronically through the Locker system (see information below **no later than May 15, 2013 at 11:59.59 p.m**. Pre-class work submitted after May 15 will have grading penalties assessed as follows: (grades are expressed alphabetically from A to F, with F being the lowest grade)

- Submissions dated May 16 - May 31 will receive a one letter grade reduction
- Submissions dated June 1 - June 15 will receive a two letter grade reduction.
- Submissions dated June 16 or later, the student will be dropped from that course registration with no refund (of registration, fees or housing)

A request for an extension requires the following:

- It must be submitted in writing to the director of the Course of Study School. Via e-mail, send to Jeannie Trevino-Teddlie at COSSExt@smu.edu. Via regular mail, send to COSS Extension, P.O. Box 750133, Dallas, TX 75275-0133. By fax, send to 214-768-1042). **Make sure that you notify the COSS office of any transmission.**
- It must be received by May 1
- It must state valid reason(s) for needing an extension
- It must state the course name(s) and number(s) for which the extension(s) is/are requested
- It must state the amount of time being requested (not beyond June 15)

In order for an extension request to be considered, the student must be fully registered (i.e., fees paid, signatures acquired, Release of Liability and Course Registration and Housing forms filled out and submitted). Before a decision can be made regarding an extension, the Director will consult with the student's district superintendent, local pastor registrar and instructor.

Optional Electronic Submission for Pre Class Assignments

Course of Study School Lockers

We are offering an alternate method for the submission of pre-class assignments. The Course of Study School is using a "Locker System", Locker.SMU. This system allows COSS students to submit their pre-class assignments electronically. Please remember that we will continue to accept mailed in paper pre-class assignments. Electronic submissions and the use of Locker.SMU is optional.

A Locker will be assigned to each student for each class they are taking. For example, if you are taking Hebrew Bible I (211) and Formation Discipleship (213) you will be assigned two different Lockers. The instructor for each course will then be able to log in to the Locker System and retrieve your submitted assignments for each particular class.

When your registration is received, the Course of Study School staff will be creating your private Locker(s) and informing you via e-mail when your Locker(s) has been successfully created. In this email, you will receive specific instructions on how to access your Locker(s) and how to upload your assignments.

If you have not registered by May 15th, you will not be guaranteed a locker and you will need to submit your pre-class assignments via postal service.

The Locker System will automatically date and time stamp your submitted assignments to inform the instructor and the Course of Study School staff when the assignment was submitted.
The pre-class assignments should be submitted to the Locker System **ONLY in .doc format.**

When you are ready to submit your pre-class assignments online, but have not received an e-mail with information on how to access your private Locker(s), please contact the Course of Study School staff at COSS@smu.edu with the subject line: Locker Access. The Course of Study School staff will then reply with specific instructions on how to access your Locker(s) and how to upload your assignments.

The completed pre-class work for courses 211-514 must be submitted to the Locker System **no later than May 15th at 11:59:59 p.m.**. Pre-class work submitted to the Locker System after May 15 will incur grading penalties as mentioned above on the grading guidelines. The same deadline restrictions apply whether you are submitting pre-class assignments electronically or via postal service.

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Students should keep a printed copy of each assignment and bring a copy of each assignment to class regardless of how the assignment was submitted.

In addition, students should include a one-page autobiography for each instructor.

Each assignment should be typed, double-spaced, or legibly handwritten, with pagination numbers, and be accompanied by a completed cover sheet. A copy of the cover sheet can be found in the Course of Study School Catalogue and can be photocopied, it will also appear as a preloaded file when you access your locker.

Guidelines for writing pre-class assignments and information on academic dishonesty are provided in the Course of Study School catalog, available on the website. Students are expected to understand what constitutes plagiarism. Students who are found to plagiarize are subject to grading penalties, which may include dismissal from the school.