Course Description and Readings

Practical Theology (DM9380)
Summer 2017
Rev. Dr. Jeanne Stevenson-Moessner
June 12-23, 2017

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:


Required Articles:

