

**DS624 Theology and Doctrine In the United Church of Canada
United Church of Canada Denominational Studies (2.0 credits)**

Instructor: Janet Gear

February 19th 6-9pm; February 20th 9-5 pm

March 18th 6-9pm; March 19th 9-5pm

Spring 2016

Purpose

This course is designed to prepare learned and self-aware church leaders for the ministry of nurturing the living faith of communities in the United Church of Canada. Course material concentrates on theology, doctrine and policy in The United Church of Canada. Participants will work with theologies and doctrines both historic and emerging. Topics include theology as intellectual quest, theology and personal commitment, theology becoming church doctrine, theology and church leadership, and theology toward societal and world issues.

Learning Outcomes

Competencies are approved when you are able to demonstrate...

- a grasp of United Church doctrinal statements (Basis of Union), how they are arrived at, and how they evolve in the changing context and mission of the church.
- an ability to show how commissioned reports (e.g. The Authority and Interpretation of Scripture, Mending the World, etc.) articulate the theology of the church in a timely and contextual way.
- an understanding of the responsibility of the church leader in living one's own theology while teaching the theologies and doctrines of the church.
- an ability to demonstrate the dialectic of engagement and non-attachment in constructing theologically and doctrinally-based arguments with depth and clarity.

Format

The class will meet for two 10hr intensives over two days each.

There will be presentations by the instructor, group work, presentations by participants and class discussion.

This is a required course for United Church MDiv, DipCS, Testamur, and Admissions students.

Prerequisites: Normally students have completed at least one graduate course in Theology or equivalent (Diploma students 500 level; MDiv students 600 level)

Expectations of the student

- 100% attendance
- appropriate preparation for participation in-class activities and discussion
- pre-reading and writing and post-reading and writing assignments as detailed in syllabus

Required Reading

- articles and reports will be posted or linked through Moodle before the start of Term II
- <http://www.united-church.ca/files/beliefs/statements/our-words-of-faith.pdf>

Required Texts

Schweitzer, Don and Derek Simon (eds.) Intersecting Voices: Critical Theologies in a Land of Diversity
MacLean, Catherine F and John H. Young Preaching the Big Questions: Doctrine Isn't Dusty