

DS601: Anglican Polity, Mission and Ministry

Fall, 2024

Syllabus and Assignments

The Ven. Dr. Rob James (rjames@vst.edu)

Times/Dates and Format

Five Monday sessions, 9am-Noon:

September 9, 23, October 7, 28, November 18

One Intensive session:

6-9pm, October 10

9am-5pm, October 11

9am-5pm, October 12

You can join any part in person or online.

If you need to take this course asynchronously, you must let the instructor know before the start of the course. **Note additional requirements for electronic contributions if you taking this course asynchronously (below, under assignments).**

Purpose: People entering into leadership in the Anglican Church need to have an understanding of how things work (or at least how they are supposed to work); they have to know something about the nature and limits of the authority they will be granted and the expectations and responsibilities attached to the roles of Bishop, Priest, Deacon and Laity in the Church. But prior to taking on roles and functions, there is a need to recognize the role of the Holy Spirit calling us into relationship with Christ, giving us a sense of direction and purpose, linking us with the Body of Christ and with the mission of the Body to the world. It is after all the Spirit that creates the Church, and the Spirit that motivates our efforts to serve the world in the name of Christ.

This three-credit course will explore the nature, motivations and practices of ministry and mission in Anglicanism both globally and locally to Canada.

Competence Objectives:

Students completing this course will...

- Successfully demonstrate familiarity with specific aspects of Anglican organization, authority, governance, and modes of ministry.
- Be able to discuss the history, development and current place of mission in the life of the Anglican Church of Canada/The Episcopal Church and Anglicanism more widely.
- Demonstrate an awareness of the importance of canonical guidelines and an aptitude for decision-making in parish situations which require specific canonical parameters.
- Understanding of what it means to interact with and serve the world around them.
- Be able to articulate why we as a church exist and what we uniquely offer.

For MDiv students, active participation in this course will form part of the evidence that the Anglican DDF can use when writing to bishops about their students.

Prerequisites: Since this is a 600-level course, ideally students will have already completed PT500, TH500, and a course in scripture, if these are required in their programs, prior to taking this class.

Key texts:

Paul Avis, *The Anglican Understanding of the Church: An Introduction* (London: SPCK, 2000) Or any other edition of this text.

Susan Lucas (ed.), *God's Church in the World: The Gift of Catholic Mission* (Norwich: Canterbury Press, 2020).

Week by week running order

For reading materials for each session, see Populi.

September 9: Hunting for an Anglican Ecclesiology

September 23: Catholic and Reformed

October 7: The Anglican Communion *(Note: This may swap with the session on Indigenous Anglicans/Episcopalians, depending on guest availability).*

Intensive (October 10-12):

- a. Evening of Oct 10: Orders of Ministry
- b. Morning of Oct 11: Canon Law: History and Theory
- c. Afternoon of Oct 11: Canon Law: Examples from Dioceses/Provinces
- d. Morning of Oct 12: Missio Dei and Incarnational Ministry
- e. Anglican Mission in the World

October 28: Anglicans/Episcopalians today. New things, but still Anglican.

November 18: Indigenous Anglicans/Episcopalians *(Note: This may swap with the session on The Anglican Communion, depending on guest availability).*

Assignments

There are three elements to the assessment of this course: contribution to discussion and two formal assignments.

- **Contribute to in-class and online discussion.**

Everyone is encouraged to contribute online as well as in class.

Those participating **asynchronously** will be **expected** to comment on each sessions in the discussion forum on Populi

- **Two assignments, each of 2500 to 3000 words** (*ISP students are entitled to offer their assignments in an oral format if they would prefer – please notify Rob so that arrangements can be made*).

Assignment 1:

Due date: Friday 11th November 2022

Create the outline of a four, five or six week course for use in a parish focussing on any aspect of Anglican ecclesiology/polity. Use about 1000 words on this and accompany your course outline with a rationale of your thinking, of about 1500 to 2000 words. Treat the rationale as an essay, citing sources and applying usual academic conventions.

Assignment 2:

Due date: Friday 16th December 2022

Write one of the following three essays:

1. What difference have the 94 Call to Action issued by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission made to the Anglican Church of Canada? What difference could they make in the future?
2. What is the role of Canon Law in mission?
3. How do three historic orders of ministry (Deacon, Priest, Bishop) equip the Anglican/Episcopalian Church for Missio Dei today?