

**PT610: Senior Integrative Seminar in Practical Theology and Practice of Ministry** (1.5 credits)

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**Fall 2020** Mondays, 9:00 to 12:00: September 21; October 5; October 19; November 9; November 23.

**PURPOSE:** Situated on the threshold of professional ministry, at the crossroads of theory and practice, the purpose of this senior integrative seminar is to deepen the student's capacity for leadership in faith communities through continued attention to three core issues affecting the practice of ministry: identity, theology, and context. Designed to guide students' preparation of the Integrative Ministry Paper (see Student Handbook), this course will provide opportunity to identify and articulate their integration of academic, spiritual, and practice-based preparation for ministry.

**PREREQUISITE:** Students should register for this senior seminar in the final fall term of the M.Div program after successful completion of all foundational degree courses. Students should register concurrently for PT698 (Integrative Ministry Paper) and stay current with PT698 requirements through the assigned Canvas site.

**COMPETENCE OBJECTIVES:** Integration in ministry is reflected in a capacity to discern, evaluate and act in situations in light of a community's beliefs and practices with an aim to nurture deeper and more faithful forms of Christian life.

Students will be ready to write and defend their Senior Integrative paper at the end of the term.

Reflecting on the main text, students will gain awareness and proficiency in four key tasks of practical and pastoral theology: priestly listening; sagely wisdom; prophetic discernment; servant leadership.

Assignments are designed to enable students to demonstrate a mature spiritual life, authentic and denominationally-grounded pastoral identity, and readiness for public and pastoral leadership.

**TEXTS AND RESERVES:** The assigned text for the class is: Richard R. Osmer, *Practical Theology: An Introduction*. Eerdmans: 2008.

The above required text book is on reserve in the library and has been ordered to the UBC bookstore. **Read at least the Introduction and first chapter of this text in preparation for the first class.** All other assigned reading material will be available through the Canvas site.

(note: for citations in assignments, refer to the print version, as electronic versions often do not align or have page references at all. If you must use an electronic copy exclusively, at least provide chapter and heading references).

**FORMAT AND CONTENT:** This is a 1.5 credit course meeting for this term via Zoom technology (**on a synchronous-only basis**) due to the ongoing threat of the COVID-19 pandemic, unless restrictions are lifted by the Fall term.

9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. September 21; October 5; October 19; November 9; November 23

Note: Due to the ongoing threat of the COVID-19 pandemic, part or all of this course may be conducted via Zoom technology (on a synchronous-only basis).

The seminar is designed to discuss readings from the text as well as other assigned reading, helping students summarize and integrate their learning experience at VST and reflect on how they will apply that in ministry contexts. Directors of Denomination Formation will be present during one class to provide specific denominational guidelines re. the writing of the Integrative Paper. In this senior seminar, students are expected to be prepared to lead and participate in discussion on assigned material, and to exercise leadership and responsibility to the group appropriate to their experience and vocational calling.

## **COURSE POLICIES**

1. **Attendance:** Because of the participatory nature of the seminar, 100% attendance and full participation are necessary. No more than one allowable absence for any reason (and compensatory written work will be assigned/required to cover the material missed). If you must be absent, please inform the Instructor as much in advance as possible so class material for that day may be rearranged. Appearing on time for class is expected as a demonstration of leadership and respect for others.

### **2. Reading and assignments:**

600-level class requirements for 1.5 credit-class as per Student Handbook:

Reading: 450-700 pages

Writing: 1850-3000 words (8-12 pages)

Creation of a comprehensive personal bibliography

In-class assignment (to be assigned first day of class)

An outline of their Integrative paper due on the final class (Nov. 23).

Other in-class assignments depending on class size, etc.

Students are expected to read all required assignments before class and to complete all assignments as outlined in the syllabus within the specified dates of the course and term. **Note the first reading assignment is due on the first day of class.**