

PT502 and TFE I
Practical Foundations for Public and Pastoral Ministry:
Leading in Context
Spring 2023

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Purpose of the Course:

Building on the skills and understanding of *Theological and Spiritual Foundations for Pastoral and Public Leadership* (PT500) and *Leadership Foundations: Self As Leader* (PT501), *Leading In Context* will provide method and opportunity to explore potential practicum sites that combine leadership challenges, ministry possibilities and offer excellent learning opportunities in pastoral and public ministry. To be effective in ministry practice and leadership in the public sphere, it is critical to understand the field and its demands, expectations, and possibilities. Preparation for practice of ministry is not introduced simply as skill development but rather as the formation of leaders who will understand and respond to the continually changing landscape of contemporary ministry and navigate communities in the art of resourced and adaptive change.

PT502 (*Leading in Context*) runs concurrently with Theological Field Education I (TFE I), which is required for all students in the MDiv and MA-PPL degrees. During this Spring Term course, students explore potential field sites where they might follow up on their vocational interests expressed in the work of PT 500. They interview potential mentors, conduct site analysis, consider their learning styles and reflect on the ethical requirements of research with human subjects. The work in PT502 is assessed APPROVED/NOT APPROVED or INCOMPLETE.

At the end of PT502, students prepare a Project Proposal that will be suitable to the requirements of TFE II/The Studio/PT651-652. Successful presentation of the Project Proposal, which contains a description and analysis of the proposed learning sites, an introduction to the proposed mentor and the project proposal, marks the completion of TFE I. This approval admits the student to TFE 2, *The Studio*, which runs alongside PT651 & PT652 in the following year. If the student is not planning to proceed in the following term to TFE 2, it is possible to delay the Proposal Presentation (withdrawing from TFE I) upon approved of the TFE Director. For more information, see the Theological Field Education *Handbook*, pp. 9-12. PT502 is synchronous only.

Prerequisites: PT 500 *Theological and Spiritual Foundations for Pastoral and Public Leadership*
PT 501 *Self As Leader*

Competencies related to Course:

Demonstrated ability in the following:

- **contextual analysis** of church and community contexts (e.g. demographics, socioeconomic realities, history, mission and how it was shaped, ethos, ethnography, beliefs, theological orientation).
- **cross-sectoral analysis:** development of the skills and knowledge necessary to exercise cross-sectoral leadership, including ecclesial/social agency governance and policy issues
- **learning for leading:**
 - **learning styles and self-understanding:** developing and implementing knowledge of one's own preferred style of learning; awareness of personal gifts, charisms, and identity to maximize growth and integration
 - **learning goals and learning opportunities:** the establishment of personal learning goals and discernment of learning opportunities in faith or community organizations as they seek to respond to their context: pandemic, changing church, changing realities and needs in society.
- **research with human subjects:** demonstrated understanding of the requirements of research with human subjects and program implementation
- **theological reflection:** discernment of, and theological reflection upon, the *missio Dei* of potential practicum sites.

Course Organization:

Seminar Format: Five 3-hour seminars plus one final presentation session, during Spring Term exam week. This presentation session will last for an extended time depending on the number of students in the class.

Seminar meeting dates: The following Wednesdays from 2pm-5pm - January 18; February 1 & 15; March 8 & 22; April 12 (Time for student presentations on this date TBD). Attendance at each seminar is required. This course is synchronous only.

Course work will include:

- Direct observation in the field in a variety of contexts
- Interviewing – staff, constituency, parish/agency committees; small groups
- Researching history and tradition and contexts of a community.
- Documentation of site exploration
- Clarification of personal approaches to learning
- Development of Learning Goals and Learning Covenants
- Students will be required to participate in *Research Module E: Human Research* on Wednesday March 8 as a part of the course. Register on Populi for the Module, in addition to PT502.

Assignments:

Evaluation will be based on:

- Three short written assignments.

- Active participation in the seminar.
- A final oral and written TFE II Proposal presentation:
 - At the final seminar date (April 12) students will provide a seven-minute visual presentation based on their exploration process that artfully and passionately communicates to peers and the instructor their site and field proposal.
 - After the final class presentations, based on the feed-back received, students compile and submit a written report which includes the exploration process, site analysis, Power Point/other visuals as presented, project proposal, personal learning goals and proposal of a mentor. The satisfactory approval of this document marks the completion of TFE I. This also becomes the student's application to *The Studio* in September 2022.

The student's evaluation of PT502 will be either *Approved/Not Approved*. Students who receive Approved in PT502, and who successfully present their Proposal will be admitted to *The Studio* and TFE II, pending completion of all documents.

Readings

Students are not required to purchase any texts. Specific brief readings will be assigned on the syllabus, posted on Populi, and will be taken from among these and other sources:

Peter Block. *Community: The Structure of Belonging*. (San Francisco: Barrett-Koehler Publishers, Inc., 2004).

Barbara J. Blodgett. *Becoming the Pastor You Hope to Be: Four Practices for Improving Ministry* (Herndon, VA: Alban, 2011).

Kathleen A. Cahalan. *Introducing the Practice of Ministry* (Collegeville, MN: Liturgical Press, 2010).

Matthew Floding, ed. *Engage: A Theological Field Education Toolkit* (Lanham, MD, 2017).

Henri Nouwen with Michael J. Christensen and Rebecca J. Laird. *Discernment: Reading the Signs of Daily Life* (New York: Harper Collins, 2013).

Parker Palmer. *A Hidden Wholeness: The Journey Toward an Undivided Life* (San Francisco: Jossey Bass, 2004).