

Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary
Biblical and Theological Foundations for Practical Theology (DM703)
FA 2024
Sept 3rd to Dec 11th, 2024 (Asynchronous)

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Office Hours: By appointment

Course Description

This course will assist students in becoming more critically aware of the biblical and theological constructs of faith and practice that undergird the work of ministry in the church and other vocational ministries. This critical awareness invites students to process their experience of the divine in the world in ways that are uplifting, decolonial, and de/reconstructive. By doing so, the course seeks to empower the students to write thorough, sensible, and critically reflective thesis projects.

Course Objectives and Learning Outcomes

Through reading, listening, discussing, reflecting, and writing, students – after successfully completing this course with a final course grade of B or above – will be able to:

- Identify and discuss current biblical and theological issues in regards to one's vocational ministry.
- Comprehend and recognize critical lenses as tools for ministry.
- Critically reflect upon one's biblical and theological perspectives.
- Synthesize self-reflexive arguments on select biblical and theological topics.

Required Reading Materials

- 1) The Bible: Please use your preferred translation.
- 2) All reading materials and links to the video clips are posted on Moodle.

Course Requirements and Assessments

1) Analyzing my Biblical and Theological Foundation(s) (10%)

- **For Session #1**, please introduce yourself by sharing your biblical and theological foundation(s). These “foundation(s)” could be your geographical context(s), church (and/or other communities), influencers, mentors, (positive/negative) experiences, plants/animals/inanimate entities, training/education, and/or other foundations. Your self-introduction could be just on one

foundation or a combination of several. Moreover, please expound on your foundation(s) by engaging Norman Gottwald's article and Chimamanda Adichie's youtube clip (see Moodle).

- Please type your self-introduction in the Moodle's Session One, Forum Post tab. The post should be around **2-3 paragraphs**.

- Then, please respond at least **twice** to each other's posts/comments.

- Grading Rubric:

= Substantial and constructive introduction: **60%**

-> Engagement with Norman Gottwald and Adichie.

-> Concise and focused on expounding upon one's foundation(s).

= At Least **two** Responses to other posts: **20%**

-> Please respond with generosity, understanding, and compassion.

= On-time submission: **20%**

-> Please see late submission/comment policy above. For the submission deadlines, please see the Course Schedule section.

- The self-introduction post is due by **Sept 13, 2024, 11:59pm CST**.

= The two responses are due by **Sept 20, 2024, 11:59pm CST**.

2) **Four Critical Reflection Essays (20% each)** – submitted through **Turnitin** for each session

- Two (2) pages, Times New Roman font, font size 12, single-spaced.

- **For sessions #2 to #5**, please write a critical reflection essay for each session.

- Critical reflection essay **must** engage the topic/session's required materials. Please write this essay in bullet point form by responding to these two inquiries:

= First, please write your thoughts on the required materials. "Your thoughts" is not just "I agree or disagree". Please say why you agree or not. Make connections, or better, find ways how it disrupts the assumed narratives. How is the topic supporting or challenging your biblical and theological assumptions?

-> *Agree or disagree* with some key statement and explain why

-> *Identify* something the author is implying or overlooking

-> *Compare* and *contrast* this author with other ideas/persons

-> *Offer* your own thoughts relative to the subject matter

= Second, please put the required materials in conversation with your context/ministry. What are the struggles, the joys, and/or points of conversation that would arise when you bring this topic up in your context/ministry? How are they helpful or not? What does the topic/reading materials invite you to do/think of?

= Third, in-text citation is enough: for example, Name, page number.

- Grading Rubric:

- = Substantial and construction critical reflection essays: 60%
 - > Substantial means close to the end of (2) pages; constructive means the essay must have the two elements mentioned above.
- = Grammar, syntax, spelling: 20%
 - > No point(s) deducted until the third error. After the third error, one error incurs one point deduction.
- = On-time submission: 20%
 - > Please see late submission policy above. For the submission deadlines, please see the Course Schedule section.

- Quoting Biblical Passages is due by **Sept 27, 2024, 11:59pm CST**.
- Understanding Jewishness is due by **Oct 11, 2024, 11:59pm CST**.
- Dismantling Colonial Reading of the Bible (1) is due by **Oct 25, 2024, 11:59pm CST**.
- Dismantling Colonial Reading of the Bible (2) is due by **Nov 8, 2024, 11:59pm CST**.

* For **extra credit**, please leave a comment on the Q & A forum tab for each session. The comment(s) should demonstrate your engagement with the readings/videos. The comment has to be incisive and relevant in order for it to become extra credit.

3) Engaging the “Difficult Question” Forum Post (10%)

- Please post a reflection on your “difficult” question. Difficult question is a question that you have been struggling recently or for some time. Here, the point of the essay is not to resolve your difficult question. Rather, the intent of the essay is to further reflect upon it and find constructive ways to engage the difficult question in your thesis project. The length of the post should be about 2-3 paragraphs.

- Grading Rubric:

- = Engaging analysis of one’s difficult question: 60%
 - > Engaging analysis means the essay should contain your arguments on why your difficult question has been a struggle to you and/or your context/ministry.
 - > **Please find one resource** that engage your difficult question. Then, please write your thoughts on how your resource helps you further develop/organize your thoughts/arguments. Please write the full citation reference of the resource in your post.
- = **Two** Responses to other posts: 20%
 - > Please respond to other persons’ posts. Please respond at least twice in total. You do not have to respond to every person’s post.
- = On-time submission: 20%
 - > Please see late submission policy above. For the submission deadlines, please see the Course Schedule section.

- The Forum Post is due by **Dec 6, 2024, 11:59pm CST**
- The two responses are due by **Dec 11, 2024, 11:59pm CST**

Grading Scale:

- A: 94-100
- A-: 90-93.9
- B+: 87-89.9
- B: 84-86.9
- B-: 80-83.9
- C+: 77-79.9
- C: 74-76.9
- C-: 70-73.9
- D: 60-69.9
- F: below 60

*** Academic Policies:**

All students are required to abide by the academic policies detailed in the Academic Handbook for the current academic year. The following policies are of particular importance to the successful completion of one's coursework:

= Writing:

- Academic integrity and plagiarism: All professors are required to respond to all suspected incidents of academic dishonesty, especially plagiarism. Repeated incidents of plagiarism or academic dishonesty may result in dismissal from the school.
- Writing and citations: The Turabian Manual for Writers and the Chicago Manual of Style footnote/bibliography format provide the standard formats for all introductory courses. Basic information on these formats is available online here. In advanced courses an instructor may require another style guide appropriate to the discipline (such as APA).
- Writing Support: The Writing Center at Garrett-Evangelical offers programs to support all students' theological research and writing. See <https://www.garrett.edu/studentlife/student-services> "Writing Center" for more detailed information.

= Academic Accommodations:

- Student accommodations for documented conditions should be developed and requested before the beginning of the semester. See the Accessibility, Special Needs, and Disabilities policy and process set out in the Academic Handbook. Such accommodations are developed in consultation with the Registrar.
- Extensions: Please discuss this with the professor beforehand.

= AI Technology:

- * The use of AI includes, but is not limited to, such activities as: research, generating first drafts of assignments or creating outlines (through tools such as ChatGPT), translation from one language to another, and editing, polishing, or revising (through tools such as spell check, grammar check, and Power Point designer). The extent to which the use of AI is allowable in developing course assignments is determined by the faculty member in each of their courses.

Faculty may prohibit the use of AI tools on assignments, allow the use of certain tools with appropriate acknowledgment by the student as to which tools were used, or allow the use of some tools with no acknowledgment by the students that the tools were used.

*** Course Schedule:**

Dates	Topics, Readings, and Assessments
Session One:	<p>* Topics: - Understanding my Biblical and Theological Foundation(s)</p> <p>* Readings: - Norman Gottwald, “Framing Biblical Interpretation.” - Watch: “The Danger of a Single Story” by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie (youtube: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D9Ihs241zeg)</p> <p>* Assessments: - Analyzing my Biblical and Theological Foundation(s): due by Sept 13, 2024, 11:59pm CST. Please add your post and comments in the Forum, “Session One Assessment: Respond/Click Here.” - The two responses are due by Sept 20, 2024, 11:59pm CST.</p>
Session Two:	<p>* Topic: - Quoting Biblical Passages: The Politics of Citation</p> <p>* Readings: - Rhiannon Graybill, “Where Are All the Women?” - Jacqueline M. Hidalgo, “Scripturalizing the Pandemic.” - Wongi Park, “Multiracial Biblical Studies.” - Angela Parker, “Re-thinking God, the Guild and Good Transformation: Introducing (Again) Womanist New Testament Interpretation.”</p> <p>* Assessment: - Critical Reflection Essay #1: due by Sept 27, 2024, 11:59pm CST.</p>
Session Three	<p>* Topic: - Understanding Jewishness</p> <p>* Readings: - Amy-Jill Levine, “Preaching and Teaching the Pharisees.” - Daniel Boyarin, “The IOUDAIIOI in John and the Prehistory of ‘Judaism.’”</p> <p>* Assessment: - Critical Reflection Essay #2: due by Oct 11, 2024, 11:59pm CST.</p>

<p>Session Four</p>	<p><u>* Topics:</u> - Special Topic #1: Minoritized Identities</p> <p><u>* Readings:</u> - Kwok Pui-lan, “Reading the Christian New Testament in the Contemporary World.” - R.S. Sugirtharajah, “Biblical Studies After the Empire.” - Watch Cheryl Anderson’s video clip: “Reading the Bible at the Margins: Strategies for Inclusive Biblical Interpretation.” https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aLW9vaWnTZA</p> <p><u>* Assessment:</u> - Critical Reflection Essay #3: due by Oct 25, 2024, 11:59pm CST.</p>
<p>Session Five:</p>	<p><u>* Topics:</u> - Special Topic #2: On Queer Identity</p> <p><u>* Readings:</u> - Heather R. White, “How Paul Became the Straight Word: Protestant Biblicism and the Twentieth-Century Invention of Biblical Heteronormativity” - Pamela Lightsey, “Imago Dei: We Flesh That Needs Lovin”</p> <p><u>* Assessment:</u> - Critical Reflection Essay #4: due by Nov 8, 2024, 11:59pm CST.</p>
<p>Session Six:</p>	<p><u>* Topics:</u> - Engaging the Mystery of the Bible</p> <p><u>* Readings:</u> - Your own choice. Please write on the forum post your resource’s full reference.</p> <p><u>* Assessment:</u> - Asking the “Difficult” Question Forum Post: due by Dec 6, 2024, 11:59pm CST. Please submit your work through the Forum link in Moodle. - The two responses are due by Dec 11, 2024, 11:59pm CST.</p>

Fall extensions due: January 8, 2024.

Bibliography

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- Goss, Robert and Mona West, eds. *Take Back the Word: A Queer Reading of the Bible*. Cleveland, OH: Pilgrim Press, 2000.
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