

IN 344 Integrative Capstone Seminar

Instructors: Rev. Dr. Nate Frambach (nframbach@wartburgseminary.edu)

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Required of final year M.Div. students; 3 credits (credit/no credit only)

Description: This course is a seminar for theological reflection on ministry practice and for student-initiated projects shared in a mutually accountable environment. Learners are encouraged to consider and engage in a topic that addresses strong interests, passions, or growth areas—to enhance their theological understanding and ministry skills. Learners working on a project/thesis or in a concentration will focus their research on topics related to those academic needs. Faculty will act as mentors and guides for learners' research, reflection, and discernment.

Objectives:

1. To identify aspects of ministry worth further exploration for the sake of healthier ministry and lifelong learning (*practice of complex analysis*)
2. To practice theological reflection on tangible examples of ministry experience (*practice of biblical and theological wisdom*)
3. To learn from church leaders and partners about practical aspects relevant to contemporary ministry (*practice of ecclesial partnership*)
4. To practice collegiality and communal discernment about ministry and learning in small groups (*practice of collegiality*)
5. To identify, explore, and refine a research project relevant to faithful ministry (*practice of curiosity*)

Procedure: During the first two weeks, students will share ministry experience reports in assigned small groups with a faculty group leader. For the next 1–2 months, there will be guest presentations on topics relevant to ministry and based on student interests. There will also be time during these weeks for small group check-ins and sharing by learners of their ongoing project work. During the final month (or more), students will present their projects to the class.

Bibliography:

The following text is required:

Pastoral Imagination: Bringing the Practice of Ministry to Life. By Eileen R. Campbell-Reed. Minneapolis, NM: Fortress Press, 2021. ISBN: 978-1-5064-7006-1.

The rest of the bibliography will be developed by the students to support their research projects.