

IN142W Formation for Discipleship: Vocation, Witness, and Ministry

Instructors: Craig L. Nesson, Winston D. Persaud, Jan Schnell

Required First Year; 2 credit hours; letter grade or credit/no credit

In this course, we will reflect theologically on the baptismal foundations of Christian formation. We will critically examine our vocational callings informed by faith in Jesus Christ, which frees us for lives of witness and service in a complex world. Life together, in community and as community, centers us to explore ministry and mission.

OBJECTIVES:

1. To appreciate, deepen, and reflect theologically on the baptismal foundations of Christian formation (Practice of Biblical and Theological Wisdom).
2. To consider the contextual and systemic challenges of race, ethnicity, class, gender and other isms (Practice of Engagement with Cross-Cultural and Global Dimensions).
3. To explore our vocational callings as the priesthood of all believers, grounded in God's grace in Jesus Christ which frees us for lives of witness and service in a complex world (Practice of Being Rooted in the Gospel).
4. To understand forms of ministry needed in the church today for worship, learning, and leadership in building up the body of Christ (Practice of Collegiality).
5. To explore understandings of vocation, ministry, and discipleship among our ecumenical partners to prepare us for collaborative ministry, both locally and globally (Practice of Ecclesial Partnership).
6. To experience life in Christian community and consider how the Spirit is at work in and through Christian community (Practice of Personal Faith and Integrity).

PROCEDURE:

Interactive lectures, discussion in small groups.

EVALUATION:

Attendance, participation, completion and critical engagement of required readings/resources, short reflection papers, and final paper with annotated bibliography. Asynchronous learners engage class video, offer original postings, and respond to classmates' postings.

BIBLIOGRAPHY (Required Texts):

1. Dietrich Bonhoeffer, *Vida en Comunidad* **or** *Life Together* (HarperOne, 1st ed., 2009).
2. Austin Channing Brown, *I'm Still Here: Black Dignity in a World Made for Whiteness* (Convergent Books, 2018).
3. **Celebration of the 25th anniversary of the signing of the JDDJ (video (excerpt))**
4. Jessica Duckworth, *Wide Welcome: How the Unsettling Presence of Newcomers Can Save the Church* (Fortress Press, 2013).
5. Paul E. Hoffman, *Faith Forming Faith: Bringing New Christians to Baptism and Beyond* (Wipf & Stock, 2012).
6. Eric H. F. Law, *Inclusion: Making Room for Grace* (Chalice Press, 2000).
7. **Mary Elizabeth Moore, "Theology of Liberative Service" in *Diaconal Studies: Lived Theology for the Church in North America* (Regnum Books, 2024).**
8. Rowan Williams, *Being Disciples: Essentials of the Christian Life* (Eerdmans, 2016).
9. Gustaf Wingren, *Luther on Vocation* (Muhlenberg, Press, 1957; repr., Wipf and Stock Publ., 2004). Designated Sections only.