

Course Description

Course Number: IN 323W

Course Title: Diaconal Ministry: Advanced

Name of Instructor: Man-Hei Yip

Semester and Year: Spring 2025

Diaconal Ministry: Advanced is a 2 credit, credit/no credit course.

This Diaconal Ministry core course fulfils the Master of Arts in Diaconal Ministry degree program.

Completing Diaconal Ministry: Foundation is required to take this course.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course aims to deepen personal integration of faith with theory and practice of the diaconate that grounds and supports a solid theological foundation in the Lutheran traditions for those who will serve in a wide and distinctive variety of diaconal ministries. The course will critically engage biblical and theological perspectives on diakonia with respect to the diaconate in the ELCA context, and discuss the leadership and perceptive role of deacons in a world that is accelerating the new normal of VUCA, the acronym for volatility, uncertainty, complexity, and ambiguity.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

- I. Develop adaptive leadership skills that attend to diaconal specializations. (Practice of Complex Analysis)
- II. Raise awareness for diaconal leadership in the ELCA by identifying and affirming a candidate's gifts and skills for ministry. (Practice of Ecclesial Partnership)
- III. Deepen personal integration of faith with theory and practice of the diaconate that grounds in the Lutheran traditions. (Practice of Personal Faith and Integrity)
- IV. Develop leadership skills that promote collegial work in a variety of contexts, such as congregation, synod, ecumenical level, and other professional organizations. (Practice of Collegiality)

PROCEDURE:

The course will meet for 2 hours a week. It puts an emphasis on student participation through interactive discussion with instructor and one another.

EVALUATION:

I. Class participation. II. Demonstration of engagement in weekly assigned readings. III. Research paper that contributes to a robust discussion about a Lutheran approach to diaconal ministry.

BIBLIOGRAPHY (indicates required texts):**

**Craig, Nessian and Darryl Stephens, ed., *Diaconal Studies: Lived Theology for the Church in North America*, 2024.

**Dietrich, Jorgensen, Korslien, and Nordstokke, *The Diaconal Church*, 2019.

Ampony, Buscher, Hofmann, Ngintedem, Solon, and Werner, *International Handbook of Ecumenical Diakonia: Contextual Theologies and Practices of Diakonia and Christian Social Services*, 2021.

Everest and Nessian, *Transforming Leadership: New Vision for a Church in Mission*, 2007.

Ronald Heifetz, *The Practice of Adaptive Leadership: Tools and Tactics for Changing Your Organization and the World*, 2009.

Simon Sinek, David Mead, and Peter Docker, *Find Your Why: A Practical Guide for Discovering Purpose for You and Your Team*, 2017.

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