IN346W Reading and Leading in Context: Methods, Media, and Entrepreneurial Practices

Instructor: Kris Stache
Final-year MDiv and MADM required course; Three credits.

DESCRIPTION:
The congregation is a generative locus of theology. An essential focus of the course is helping students cultivate the capacity and develop the skills needed to generate a "thick description" of congregation and communal contexts for the sake of faithful, truthful, and effective evangelical public leadership. In order to do this, students will explore, and practice using tools and resources from congregational studies and deepen their awareness and facility with basic social scientific tools and skills for interpreting contexts and leading through change. In addition, attention will be given to deepening the capacity for cultural exegesis, thus becoming more culturally savvy ministry leaders.

OBJECTIVES: (Reading, Interpreting, Leading)
1. Students will learn to read and interpret complex contemporary contexts through a theologically, biblically, and theoretically informed lens as a spiritual practice.
2. Students will develop investigative skills drawing on social scientific methods to learn, discern, and effectively lead communities in context.
3. Students will reflect on their own capacity to lead communities faithfully, innovatively, and entrepreneurially in a multi-cultural, pluralistic world.

SEMINARY OUTCOMES:
- Practices curiosity as a learner and encourages lifelong learning in others
- Shows awareness of and sensitivities to complex social/cultural contexts
- Describes the world honestly and accurately in its brokenness and blessedness

PROCEDURE:
Class will meet twice weekly synchronously with async participation available.

EVALUATION:
In addition to being accountable to readings, students will be evaluated on participation in class and completion of labs, projects, and a variety of assignments.

BIBLIOGRAPHY:
Required Reading
Bolsinger, Tod. *Leading Through Resistance: Quit Pushing Back*. InterVarsity Press, 2024.
Law, Eric H. F. *The Wolf Shall Dwell with the Lamb*. St. Louis, MO: Chalice Press, 1993.
Moschella, Mary Clark. *Ethnography as a Pastoral Practice: An Introduction*. Cleveland, OH: Pilgrim Press, 2008.
Wheatley, Margaret J. *Who Do We Choose To Be? Facing Reality, Claiming Leadership, Restoring Sanity*. Oakland, CA: Berrett-Koehler Publishers, 2023.

Additional articles, book chapters, and assorted media will be required as well. Access instructions for these additional resources, as well as recommended resources will be available on Castle Commons.