

THE CONTENT OF THIS DESCRIPTION IS NOT A LEARNING CONTRACT AND THE INSTRUCTOR IS NOT BOUND TO IT. IT IS OFFERED IN GOOD FAITH AND INTENDED AS A HELPFUL GUIDE TO THE STUDENT.

TITLE: Introduction to Contextual Analysis

TERM: Spring 2019-2020

PROFESSOR: R. Drew Smith

CREDIT HOURS: 3

REGISTRATION: LIMITED TO _____
AUDITORS: 2

UNLIMITED U X
NO AUDITORS: _____

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course offers an orientation to the ways anthropological and sociological approaches to the interpretation of culture contribute to theological reflection with and within particular socio-cultural contexts. Focusing on a particular neighborhood and/or institutional environment, students will become familiar with the techniques and develop the skills to critically consider the missiological, theological, and ethical dimensions of a Christian community in relation to the wider society.

CLASS OBJECTIVES:

- Introduction to the socio-cultural dimensions of theological work
- Gathering, interpreting, and working with quantitative data
- Gathering, interpreting, and working with qualitative data
- Introduction to the different hermeneutic considerations one brings to research, including awareness of one's own social location
- Introduction to the role fieldwork can play in theological reasoning and construction
- Introduction to the histories, concerns, problems, and possibilities within the neighborhoods adjacent Pittsburgh Seminary

PREREQUISITES: None

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS/READING:

- Ammerman, Nancy et al, *Congregation & Community*. New Brunswick, NJ: Rutgers University Press, 1997, ISBN: 978-0813523354, \$20.29
- Moschella, Mary Clark. *Ethnography as a Pastoral Practice*. Cleveland: Pilgrim Press, 2008, ISBN: 978-0829817744, \$26.88
- Additional Readings on myPTS

ASSIGNMENTS & GRADING:

1. Book Review on theology and cultures
2. Fieldwork Presentations
3. Final Integrative Essay

ATTENDANCE: Required.