TITLE: Introduction to Contextual Analysis

TERM: Spring 2019-2020

PROFESSOR: R. Drew Smith

CREDIT HOURS: 3

REGISTRATION: LIMITED TO UNLIMITED
# AUDITORS: 2
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
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- 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:
- Additional Readings on myPTS

ASSIGNMENTS & GRADING:
1. Book Review on theology and cultures
2. Fieldwork Presentations
3. Final Integrative Essay

ATTENDANCE: Required.