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.

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**TITLE:** Introduction to Contextual Analysis

**TERM:** Spring 2020-2021

**PROFESSOR:** Scott Hagley

**CREDIT HOURS:** 3

**REGISTRATION:** LIMITED TO: UNLIMITED X

# AUDITORS: 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 to Pittsburgh Seminary

**PREREQUISITES:** None

**REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS/READING:**

- **Required Texts**
  - Additional Readings on myPTS

**ASSIGNMENTS & GRAADING:**
1. Thick Description(s) of Neighborhood and Congregation
2. Fieldwork Presentations
3. Final Integrative Essay

**ATTENDANCE:** Required.