

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 2023-2024

**PROFESSOR:** Scott Hagley

**CREDIT HOURS:** 3

**REGISTRATION:** LIMITED TO: \_\_\_\_\_  
# AUDITORS: \_\_\_\_\_

UNLIMITED 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
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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:**

- Ammerman, Nancy, et. al. *Studying Congregations: A New Handbook*. Abingdon Press, 1998, ISBN: 978-0687006519, \$20.95
- Moschella, Mary Clark. *Ethnography as a Pastoral Practice*. Pilgrim Press, 2008, ISBN: 978-0829817744, \$19.90
- Additional Readings on myPTS

### **ASSIGNMENTS & GRADING:**

1. Thick Description(s) of Neighborhood and Congregation
2. Fieldwork Presentations
3. Final Integrative Essay

**ATTENDANCE:** Required.