

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: Pittsburgh Social & Religious Ecology

TERM: Spring 2018-2019

PROFESSOR: John Welch

CREDIT HOURS: 3

REGISTRATION: LIMITED TO: 12
AUDITORS: _____

UNLIMITED _____
NO AUDITORS X

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

The Pittsburgh Metropolitan region has embodied in important ways America's early settler adventures, difficult race relations, industrial revolution, labor strife, urban decline and redevelopment, and an evolving religious culture. Utilizing historical, sociological, and theological readings as well as lectures from key, local experts and informants, the course explores Pittsburgh's metropolitan ethos and the role of churches in the formation and maintenance of metro-Pittsburgh's social and religious culture. Observational and analytical tools acquired in this course will readily transfer to interpretation and analysis of local social and religious contexts beyond the metro-Pittsburgh context.

CLASS OBJECTIVES:

- Systematic examinations of metro-Pittsburgh's socio-historical and religious formation;
- Theological and social analysis of select historical and contemporary events and social problems;
- A review of strategies for effective ministerial and social responses to these social problems;
- Reflection on the role of ministers as social analysts and activists and on boundaries between prophetic and priestly obligations;
- Delineations and critiques of contemporary activist ministry frameworks and of the definitions of community and of Christian calling that underlie these frameworks;
- The relationship between social criticism and practical social engagement; and
- Direct (i.e., in-person) and indirect (i.e., literary) exposures to contemporary embodiments of socially-engaged ministry.

PREREQUISITES: None

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS/READING: Please include ISBN numbers and price.

- Lowell Livezey, "The New Context of Urban Religion," in Lowell Livezey (ed.), *Public Religion and Urban Transformation: Faith in the City*, 2000 ISBN-13: 978-0814751589
- Selected Articles in in R. Drew Smith, Stephanie C. Boddie, & Ronald E. Peters, eds., *Urban Ministries Reconsidered: Context and Approaches*, Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2018. ISBN 13: 978-0-664-26392-8
- Linda Pritchard, "The Soul of the City: A Social History of Religion in Pittsburgh," in *City at the Point: Essays on the Social History of Pittsburgh*, Samuel P. Hayes, ed., 1991 ISBN 13:978-0-8229-5447-7
- Myrna Silverman, "Class, Kinship, and Ethnicity: Patterns of Jewish Upward Mobility in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania," *Urban Anthropology* Vol. 7, No. 1 (SPRING 1978), pp. 025-04.
- Mark Whitaker, *Smoketown: The Untold Story of the Other Great Black Renaissance*, 2018. ISBN 13: 978-1-5011-2239-2
- Trotter, W. & Day, N.. *Race and Renaissance: African Americans in Pittsburgh since World War II*. Pittsburgh: University of Pittsburgh Press, 2010. Project MUSE
- Barbara Stern Burstin, *After the Holocaust: The migration of Polish Jews and Christians to Pittsburgh*, Pittsburgh: University of Pittsburgh Press, 1989. ISBN 13: 978-0822936039
- John E. Bodnar, Roger Simon, and Michael P. Weber, *Lives of their own: Blacks, Italians, and Poles in Pittsburgh, 1900-1960*, Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 1982. ISBN 13: 978-0252008801

ASSIGNMENTS & GRADING:

Reflection papers on course readings; Final paper; Class attendance and participation.

ATTENDANCE: Required.