

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: Ecclesial Imagination

TERM: January 2024-25

PROFESSOR: Jared Witt

CREDIT HOURS: 3

REGISTRATION: LIMITED TO: _____
AUDITORS: _____

UNLIMITED X
NO AUDITORS X

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course invites students to reflect theologically on the ecclesial contexts in which they (will) minister: locally, denominationally, and ecumenically. Focusing on baptism, (ordained) ministry, and church unity, students will both draw on the insights of their own traditions and learn to see these traditions as embedded in a wider catholic tradition. As the shape of Christianity in North America is increasingly fragmented, this course will challenge students to ponder how we might seek common ecclesial life with those who think similarly and those who are different.

CLASS OBJECTIVES:

By the completion of this course, students who registered in time, participate interestedly and actively in the class, complete the readings, and finish all assignments, will:

- (1) Demonstrate the ability to narrate and reflect theologically on their own tradition's speaking about baptism, ordained ministry, and church unity;¹
- (2) Exhibit a critically informed awareness of the theological perspectives or other traditions on these topics, are able to fairly represent and charitable interpret these views.²
- (3) Have grown in their awareness of the catholic shape of Christianity, the forces that divide it, and the gift of unity we are called to live into.³

PREREQUISITES: None required; WS110, CH110, and CH120 recommended.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS/READING:

Carl E. Braaten and Robert W. Jenson, eds., *In One Body Through the Cross: The Princeton Proposal for Christian Unity* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2003) ISBN #: 978-0802822987. \$13.99 paperback. \$9.00 Kindle

All other reading will be made available online. It is the instructor's intention to find appropriate literature from each of the ecclesial traditions represented by the students in the class. To make this possible, if you want your tradition to be taken into account, please sign up by Thanksgiving.

ASSIGNMENTS & GRADING: three group projects (a mock theological debate on baptism and a group presentation on a case of (attempted) church unification), one individual project (online reflections on your tradition's take on ordained ministry), all completed during the three weeks of the course.

ATTENDANCE: Required.

¹ In support of M.Div. SLO 4.

² In support of M.Div. SLO 2.

³ In support of M.Div. SLO 3, 4, 5.