TITLE: Polity of the Presbyterian Church USA  TERM: January 2021-22

PROFESSOR: Trent Hancock  CREDIT HOURS: 3

REGISTRATION: LIMITED TO: UNLIMITED  X  
# AUDITORS: NO AUDITORS  X

COURSE DESCRIPTION:
An introduction to the essential elements of Presbyterian polity (the Book of Order) in light of the confessional and theological foundations (the Book of Confessions) of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). The course will explore ways an understanding of Presbyterian polity can support, guide, and enhance the practice of ministry in diverse congregational settings. In addition, students will be introduced to basic parliamentary procedure and the role of the moderator in planning and facilitating session meetings. This course is designed to prepare Presbyterian students for the ordination examination in church polity of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

CLASS OBJECTIVES:
This course will provide an introduction to Presbyterian polity. Topics include:
- The content and ethos of the Book of Order, especially part F – The Foundation of Presbyterian Polity; part G – Form of Government; and part D – Rules of Discipline
- The historical development of Presbyterian polity
- The confessional and theological foundations of Presbyterian polity
- Polity issues raised by recent conflicts in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
- Polity and the practice of ministry
- Robert’s Rules of Order for Presbyterian moderators

PREREQUISITES: None

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS/READING:
Available in print and as an online resource. ISBN: 978-0-9837536-8-1. $29.00 paperback.
Available in print and as an online resource. ISBN: 978-0-9837536-5-0
Handbook on Ordination Exams in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). Available as an online resource.

ASSIGNMENTS & GRADING:
Reflection papers
Case study response assignments
A session meeting visit

ATTENDANCE: Required.