

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: Ethics in Pastoral Leadership

TERM: Fall 2019-20

PROFESSOR: Barbara Blodgett

CREDIT HOURS: 3

REGISTRATION: LIMITED TO: 12
AUDITORS: 3-5

UNLIMITED _____
NO AUDITORS _____

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This is a course in both pastoral leadership and ethics. Effective leadership and administration of a church require many skills but they also require a well-developed moral sensibility and the ability to lead others in moral deliberation. In this course, we will study and deliberate upon a variety of moral issues that arise in congregational administration using case studies. You may not leave the course with a set of dos and don'ts but you will leave it with two things: an ability to spot the ethical issues in everyday congregational leadership decisions, and a process for arriving at sound moral decisions by embracing disagreement.

CLASS OBJECTIVES:

This course starts with learning how to follow the Ethical Process, an approach to making moral decisions on controversial issues. We learn the process that people in congregations can and do follow when they disagree but nevertheless must make a decision. Then we put the Ethical Process into practice. For ten weeks, we deliberate upon ten different cases in congregational administration through role play: we become the group that has to make the decision. One student leads the deliberation each time, and is responsible for guiding the process and evaluating it afterward. Students then choose one of the ten cases to deliberate on a community back home. Finally, we analyze our developing identities and vocations as faithful and ethical administrators through two exercises: writing our own code of ethics and writing a self-reflection.

PREREQUISITES: Some introduction to moral philosophy would be helpful but not required.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS/READING:

Marvin T. Brown, *The Ethical Process: An Approach to Disagreements and Controversial Issues Third Edition* ISBN-13: 978-0130988898 [Note: Buy the third edition but buy a used copy!]

Floyd H. Flake, Elaine McCollins Flake, and Edwin C. Reed, *African American Church Management Handbook* ISBN-13: 978-0817014858 \$14

Ismael García, *Dignidad* ISBN-13: 978-0687021345 \$44

John W. Wimberly, Jr., *The Business of the Church* 978-1566994040 \$23

--other selected readings--

ASSIGNMENTS & GRADING:

500 pages of reading; 1 film; 3 quizzes; 10 case discussions; Leadership of 2 in-class case discussions; Leadership of 1 videotaped case discussion in your community; 1 reflection paper; 1 code of ethics

ATTENDANCE: Required.

