God-Talk and Public Leadership

TERM: January 2020

PROFESSOR: Derek Woodard-Lehman

CREDIT HOURS: 3

REGISTRATION: LIMITED TO: UNLIMITED X
# AUDITORS: 3

COURSE DESCRIPTION:
This course explores the intersection of Christian God-talk and public leadership within electoral politics, civic discourse, and social movements in US America. It does so by drawing on a range of theological, philosophical, sociological, historical, and journalistic resources in order to assess the uses and misuses of religious rhetoric in public life as they shape concrete practices of Christian discipleship and democratic citizenship with particular attention to dynamics of domination and liberation from Abolition to Black Lives Matter.

CLASS OBJECTIVES:
- Students will interpret Bible as Scripture in order to develop norms and principles for discipleship and citizenship
- Students will reflect on Scripture and Tradition as resources for the public witness and social ministry of the Church
- Students will articulate Christian commitments in ways that are contextually sensitive and locally accountable to multiple publics, especially their own congregational and civic communities
- Students will reflect on their vocational formation and identity with respect to their roles as a social, political, and moral leader in their congregational and civic communities
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PREREQUISITES: TH 210/Christian Theology I and CS 110/Contextual Analysis preferred

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS/READING:

- Michael Gecan, *Effective Organizing for Congregational Renewal* (ACTA) ISBN 0879463848 ($5.95)

Additional readings to be distributed as PDFs via Jenzabar

ASSIGNMENTS & GRADING:
- Two short (three page) Document-Based-Question Essays (DBQ). These will undertake textual and contextual assessment of the biblical, theological, historical, and political dimensions of God-talk and public leadership in sermons and speeches.
- The third assignment will take the form of either a traditional term paper (10-12 page argument that develops and defends a thesis) or a creative project (sermon, liturgy, art, etc. and accompanying theological statement) that engages some aspect of course content.

ATTENDANCE: Required.