

## SYLLABUS D MIN SEMINAR II

June 7-12, 2015

**Johanna Bos and Daniel Grossoehme, Instructors**

### **Seminar II**

#### General Description

Seminar II will engage students in biblical reflection on a practice of ministry. Your biblical reflection might include, for example, gender construction in patriarchal societies, race relations in the United States, situations of grief and suffering, or relations among different faith groups. Topics such as Feminist/Womanist/Mujerista Interpretation of the Bible," "Connections and interactions between different faith communities seen through the biblical lens," and "Psalms of Lament" might be the focus of attention. Or, you may focus on another biblical theme that is particularly important to your context or possible project.

#### In preparation for Seminar II:

1. Students are asked to continue to reflect on their pastoral identity and the context in which they practice. This involves further thinking about the readings and reflections from Seminar I.
2. Students are to read the assigned texts. The readings are designed to encourage students to think about a particular scriptural frame or biblical hermeneutic that informs and transforms their ministry setting, and ultimately underscores their project in ministry. Discussion of the texts will be part of the Seminar. These readings include

**Zenger, Erich. *A God of Vengeance?* (Westminster John Knox, 2004).**

Van Wijk-Bos, Johanna W. H. *Making Wise the Simple – The Torah in Christian Faith and Practice*. (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2005).

Kahl, Brigitte. *Galatians Re-imagined: Reading With the Eyes of the Vanquished*. (Minneapolis: Fortress, 2010)

Levine, Amy-Jill. *Short Stories by Jesus – The Enigmatic Parables of a Controversial Rabbi*. (New York: Harper Collins, 2014).

In addition we will post a few selected chapters on the website from Renita Weems *Just a Sister Away* and from *Jews, Christians and the Theology of the Hebrew Scriptures*, edited by Alice Ogden Bellis and Joel Kaminsky.

3. Students will write a short paper [no less than 10 pages, no more than 12], to be submitted to Johanna Bos and Daniel Grosseohmer one week before Seminar II. The paper will address a practice of ministry that involves a biblical theme, as articulated in the general description or as chosen by the student in consultation with the Seminar leaders.

The following steps should be included in the paper:

- a. A brief statement of the practice and its relevance to a biblical theme.
- b. A more detailed reflection on the chosen practice and how it relates to the world of the Bible including reflection on areas of disconnect as well as connections between the student's context and the biblical context.<sup>1</sup>
- c. A theological reflection on the practice, including thoughts about God's involvement

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<sup>1</sup> For example, if the area of concern and focus of discussion would be reproductive choice, the reflection may involve issues of women's equality and dignity in a still patriarchal world, issues of anxiety about fertility and population in today's world as compared the world of the Bible, etc.

in and engagement in the world and the life and work of the student.

d. A short statement about ways in which the practice of concern might lead to a project study question.

4. Students should be prepared to discuss, in class, their area(s) of concern/interest and a critical biblical perspective on the area(s) in light of the assigned readings.

#### POLICY ON INCLUSIVE LANGUAGE

In speech and in written assignments, it is the policy of the school to avoid divisive terms that reinforce stereotypes or are pejorative. We do not use language that leaves out part of the population, perpetuates stereotyping, or diminishes importance. We do not use male pronouns (such as “men”) to refer to a group that includes females as well. Consult the Academic Support Center for additional guidance if necessary. See: [http://www.lpts.edu/Academic\\_Resources/ASC/avoidinggenderbiasinlanguage.asp](http://www.lpts.edu/Academic_Resources/ASC/avoidinggenderbiasinlanguage.asp).

#### Academic Honesty

All work turned in to the instructors is expected to be the work of the student whose name appears on the assignment. Any borrowing of the ideas or the words of others must be acknowledged by quotation marks (where appropriate) and by citation of author and source. Students unfamiliar with issues relating to academic honesty can find help from the staff in the Academic Support Center and should make use of the available resources at an early date, since violations of seminary policy on academic honesty can lead to a failing grade for the course.

#### INTERNET AND CELLPHONES

The use of laptop computers during class is allowed by permission only. Cell phones are to be turned off.

**Instructors' email addresses: [jbos@lpts.edu](mailto:jbos@lpts.edu) and [Daniel.Grossoehme@cchmc.org](mailto:Daniel.Grossoehme@cchmc.org)**

