



PMIN 201: Theological Foundations for Ministry

~*Bringing life to faith and faith to life*~

SCU GPPM | WINTER 2022 | Los Angeles

Instructor: Joe Morris, Ph.D. jamorris@scu.edu

 408-554-2357

Class Meetings:

Saturdays 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM; 1/22; 2/19; 3/26

Location: San Gabriel Pastoral Office 16009 Cypress Ave, Irwindale, CA 91706

Online Sessions: *Wednesday evenings 6:00-8:00 PM 1/26; 2/2; 2/9; 3/2; 3/9; 3/16 (2 hours)*

Online via Zoom

Course Description:

The discipline of practical theology reflects critically on the Christian faith as it takes shape in the many sociocultural contexts Christians inhabit. Practical theology takes stock of the diverse ways in which faith comes to be articulated in the life of the global Church and, in particular, in the practice of ministry. Practical theology is, then, **theological** insofar as it seeks to understand more fully the tenets of the Christian, Catholic faith: God, Christ, Spirit, Church, Creation, Eschatology, and so on. It is **practical** insofar as it focuses on the **lived experience** of that faith: not simply what it means to say that “Jesus is Lord,” but what it means to say “Jesus is Lord” in a specific time and place, taking stock of the cares and concerns of local Christian communities.

In keeping with the GPPM’s twofold emphasis on cultivating **theological reflection and pastoral-ministerial skills**, this course aims to equip students with the conceptual tools necessary to engage in critical reflection on the Christian faith—to engage in theology as “faith seeking understanding”—and to apply the fruits of that reflection to the life of faith and the task of ministry in a diverse global church. To achieve this end, we will engage in reading, writing, and thinking in an atmosphere of mutual, constructive engagement to discuss the challenges and opportunities practical theology offers the contemporary church and those who minister in its name.

Because this course is part of the MA in Pastoral Ministries with an emphasis in Restorative Justice and Chaplaincy, the connections with practical theology will be viewed through the lens of Restorative Justice and Chaplaincy.

GPPM Student Learning Goals

1A: Students will demonstrate an understanding of Fundamental Theology, Christology, Ecclesiology, Ethics, Hebrew Bible, and the New Testament according to the competencies articulated by each of these areas.

3A: Students will employ historically informed knowledge of the tradition to assess theological positions and pastoral issues.

4B: Students will integrate the perspective of the poor and the marginalized in their reflection on theological and pastoral issues.

5B: Students will describe and address cultural differences in Christian practice.

Course Objectives:

1. Learning to think critically about contextualized, lived Christian faith through theological reflection and correlation that informs Christian praxis and service.
2. Engaging an approach that prioritizes theoretical, practical and productive knowing that intends truth, wisdom and service in incarnating God's reign in the world.
3. Learning from and reflecting on the diverse sociocultural contexts, both historical and contemporary in which the Christian faith has been enfleshed and appreciating the Spirit's presence in diversity and unforeseen expressions.
4. Using the lens of restorative justice to shape responses to contemporary challenges and questions encountered in lived Christian faith.
5. Although examining and studying key elements of Christian theology, the course will develop an approach that seeks to find God in all things.

Required Books

Cahalan, Kathleen A., *Introducing the Practice of Ministry*. Collegeville, MN: Liturgical Press, 2010 (**ISBN-13:** 978-0814631690).

Rausch, Thomas P., *Systematic Theology: A Roman Catholic Approach*. Collegeville, MN: Liturgical Press, 2016 (**ISBN-13:** 978-0814683200)

Rohr, Richard, *The Universal Christ*. London: SPCK & Center for Contemplation and Action, 2019 (**ISBN-13:** 978-0281078622).

There will be additional readings and materials posted on the Camino Course website throughout the quarter.

Course Requirements

1. *Class Attendance and Participation (20% of Final Grade)*

This involves, prepared, on time, attentive and active participation in all class sessions, both Saturday sessions and Zoom classes. Students will post their assignments by

midnight on the evening before the Zoom session and be ready to use it in that evening's class discussion. (LO - 1A)

2. *Weekly Reading Responses (RR) (30% of the Final Grade) [Classes 2-6; classes 7-10 will introduce and use cases for Theological Reflection – information will follow]*

Write a 300-word response based on the readings and posted online by midnight the day before our scheduled class meeting. The format of these reflection essays is double-spaced, 12-point font that follows the following structure:

- **Central Concerns/Issues of the Readings** - "The central issues raised in these readings were..." (This should be the main part of the reflection.)
- **Central Learning or Insight you take from the readings** - "What struck me most profoundly in the readings was..." (Explain this in one paragraph; an insight or challenging practice you will take from the readings.)
- **One question you have** - One sentence expressing the question
- **One link to restorative justice or chaplaincy as you understand it at this point in your ministry** - One sentence where the readings resonated with your ministry or with some way the readings captured a theme, insight or practice of restorative justice or chaplaincy.
- **Practical Application or Implication** - How this might, could or should impact you, your community, your workplace, your church or the world. (This final part will be posted onto a discussion board) LO-3A

3. *Final Class Theological Reflection Case (25% of Final Grade)*

These theological reflection cases will be scheduled for our final Saturday Class, 3/26. 20 minutes will be provided each student to present and discuss their case. Guidelines for the project will be provided. (LO – 4B and 5B)

4. *Final Paper (25% of Final Grade)*

A 6-8 page paper that uses the “praxis-theory-praxis” method employed in class to examine an issue encountered in ministry, a burning world event or challenge or a historical event or conundrum that requires analysis and reflection in light of theology. (LO – 4B and 5B)



Course Calendar (full assignments and readings posted on Camino)

1/22 Saturday: 9:00 AM-3:00 PM

- Orientation to Pastoral Ministries program
- Introductory Concerns
- Practical Theology: Methods and Sources
- Restorative Justice and Chaplaincy

1/26 Wednesday: Zoom 6:00-8:00 PM

- How shall we understand God: Mystery, Revelation, Mercy, Trinity, Relationship

2/2 Wednesday: Zoom 6:00-8:00 PM

- Creation, First Incarnation, Revelation

2/9 Wednesday: Zoom 6:00-8:00 PM

- Biblical Studies and Practical Theology
- Hebrew Bible and Restorative Justice
- Historical Jesus/Pre-Easter Jesus
- Jesus' favorite topic: God's Reign
- New Testament and Restorative Justice
- Gospel Portraits of Jesus

2/19 Saturday: 9:00 AM-3:00 PM

- Christology
- Christ today
- Pneumatology – Theology of the Spirit

3/2 Wednesday: Zoom 6:00-8:00 PM

- Ecclesiology: theological reflections on the Church
- Sacraments

3/9 Wednesday: Zoom 6:00-8:00 PM

- Morality and Ethics
- Grace and Sin

3/16 Wednesday: Zoom 6:00-8:00 PM

- Communion of Saints and Mary
- Theological Reflection on Forgiveness

3/26 Saturday: 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM

- Eschatology, Life after death, Hope
- Theological Reflection Cases

Grading Scale

95%-100%	A
90%-94%	A-
87%-89%	B+
83%-86%	B
80%-82%	B-
77%-79%	C+
73%-76%	C
70%-72%	C-
67%-69%	D+
63%-66%	D
60%-62%	D-
59% & below	F

Disabilities Statement

If you have a disability for which accommodations may be required in this class, please contact Disabilities Resources, Benson 216, www.scu.edu/disabilities as soon as possible to discuss your needs and register for accommodations with the University. If you have already arranged accommodations through Disabilities Resources, please discuss them with me during my office hours. Students who have medical needs related to pregnancy or parenting may be eligible for accommodations.

While I am happy to assist you, I am unable to provide accommodations until I have received verification from Disabilities Resources. The Disabilities Resources office will work with students and faculty to arrange proctored exams for students whose accommodations include double time for exams and assisted technology. (Students with approved accommodations of time-and-a-half should talk with me as soon as possible). Disabilities Resources must be contacted in advance to schedule proctored examinations or to arrange other accommodations. The Disabilities Resources office would be grateful for advance notice of at least two weeks. For more information, you may contact Disabilities Resources at 408-554-4109.

Title IX Syllabus Statement

Santa Clara University upholds a zero-tolerance policy for discrimination, harassment and sexual misconduct. If you (or someone you know) have experienced discrimination or harassment, including sexual assault, domestic and dating violence or stalking, we encourage you to tell someone promptly. For more information, please go to www.scu.edu/studentlife and click on the link for the University's Gender-Based Discrimination and Sexual Misconduct Policy or contact the University's EEO and Title IX Coordinator, Belinda Guthrie at 408-554-3043 or by email at bguthrie@scu.edu. Reports may be submitted online through www.scu.edu/osl/report or anonymously through Ethicspoint: www.ethicspoint.com

Academic Integrity Policy

The University is committed to academic excellence and integrity. Students are expected to do their own work and to cite any sources they use. A student who is guilty of a dishonest act in an examination, paper, or other work required for a course, or who assists others in such an act, may, at the discretion of the instructor, receive a grade of F for the course. In addition, a student found guilty of a dishonest act may be subject to sanctions up to and including dismissal from the University as a result of the student judicial process as described in the Community Handbook. A student who violates copyright laws, including those covering the copying of software programs, or who knowingly alters official academic records from this, or any other institution is subject to similar disciplinary action.

Academic Integrity Pledge

The Academic Integrity pledge is an expression of the University's commitment to fostering an understanding of -- and commitment to -- a culture of integrity at Santa Clara University. The Academic Integrity pledge, which applies to all students, states:

I am committed to being a person of integrity. I pledge, as a member of the Santa Clara University community, to abide by and uphold the standards of academic integrity contained in the Student Conduct Code.

Students are expected to uphold the principles of this pledge for all work in this class. For more information about Santa Clara University's academic integrity pledge and resources about ensuring academic integrity in your work, see www.scu.edu/academic-integrity.