Syllabus: C757: Faith, Wealth, and Community Leadership

Description: This course is an experimental seminar, not a lecture course. The aim is to engage in theological reflection about the ways in which faith, wealth/resources, and community leadership interact as faithful people go about trying to be good stewards of the resources they have in their congregations and communities. We will examine "exemplars" in philanthropy and church leadership, biblical resources, the situation of the mainline Protestant churches, and creative congregations/parishes as the "stuff" for theological reflection. This will be done through readings, videos, and interviews. The outline below is not set in stone: if we find that we are trying to get through too much, we will adjust the schedule.

Requirements: Being a seminar geared to engagement with a topic, there will be no final exam and no paper. Instead, there are four requirements that will be graded:

1. Reading and Participation in Discussion, 20%.

2. Leading worship, 20%
   Each day, at the end of the class period, you will take turns leading 10-15 minutes of worship. The worship should be designed to address the themes of the class. It is not necessary to write original material, but it is also not permissible to use a single service taken whole from a worship resource.

3. Two pages a day of writing, 30%.
   Each week of class, starting with the second week, you should turn in two pages of writing: the first a description of the highlights of the class discussion, and the second your reflections on it - what you found most important or revelatory for you that you want to remember. Note: more than 2 pages at a time will not be accepted. You can pick 3 weeks in which not to turn in writing, to give you more time for preparation of worship and your oral report (see 4, below). The total number of 2 page papers is 10.

4. Oral Report, 30%
   Pick one of the following two assignments to research:
   Option A: Congregational and community leadership:
      Pick a congregation/parish that you think is doing creative work and interview at least three "exemplars" about what they are doing in the way of utilizing their resources on behalf of the common good. Your report should include your theological reflection about what you find.
   Option B: Stewardship:
      Pick a denomination or congregation and find out what they do to foster stewardship. Share with us a description of what they do, including any resources they use (or make available), and your assessment of its quality, including its theological content (or lack thereof). You should interview at least one person about current activities and trends.
   The report should be 20-30 minutes.
**Schedule:** Subject to adjustment to adapt to reality!

Sept. 2  First class: Introductions, Projects, Syllabus
Sept. 9  Philanthropy: Read Carnegie, *Gospel of Wealth*
Sept. 16  Bible: Wheeler, chapters 3-4

Sept. 23  Bible: Wheeler, chapters 5,6,8
Sept. 30  Tradition: Haughey, chapters 1-8
Oct. 7   Tradition: Haughey, chapters 9-14
Oct. 14  American Culture & Religion: Wuthnow, chapters 1, 6-7
Oct. 21  American Culture & Religion: Wuthnow, chapters 9-11
Oct. 28  Mainline Protestantism: Mead, chapters 1-4
Nov. 4   Focus on Ministry: Go hear the great Gardner Taylor preach!
Nov. 11  Mainline Protestantism: Mead, chapters 5-8
Nov. 18  Creative Community Leadership: Entwistle, chapters 5-7
Nov. 25  Thanksgiving Break
Dec. 2   Creative Community Leadership: Entwistle, chapters 8-11
Dec. 9   Meaning of Money: Buchan, chapters 7, 10-12
Dec. 16  Exam Week: Class if needed to finish reports
Selected Bibliography

Required Reading


Carnegie, Andrew. *The Gospel of Wealth* (Cent. on Philanthropy booklet)


General Bibliography: Faith and Money

Books


Dodge, Mary. *Sermons to the Clergy*. Boston: Estes and LaRiat, 1877.


Videos


"Irwin Miller: Portrait of a Trustee" Produced and directed by James Ault NCCJ, 71 Fifth Ave., Suite 1100, New York, NY 10003, 212-206-0006. 29m or James Ault, 75 Dryads Green, Northampton, MA 01066.

"Soul of the City" celebrating the life and public witness of San Fernando Cathedral, San Antonio, Texas. Produced and Directed by Adán Medrano. 28m JM Communications, 713-524-1382, fax 1383, http://www.jmcommunications.com

"The Stewardship of All of Life" Produced by Ted Yaple and distributed by the Presbyterian Publishing House, 1-800-524-2612 and order PREM #710312.