This course will introduce you to various forms of feminist theologies, and begin to equip you for engaging pastoral ministry which attends faithfully to justice within the life of the church. You will be introduced to inter-cultural perspectives, the importance of cross-cultural alliances within communities of faith, and engage feminist perspectives on the Bible, worship, preaching, pastoral care, and spirituality.

**Required Outcomes**
1. An engagement in a church or community context in which you use feminist theological and pastoral principles. You are free to use your imagination and creativity for this assignment!
2. You will articulate the basic principles of feminist theologies and the reasons for those principles in the final presentation on your church/community feminist engagement.
3. You will demonstrate your grasp of feminist perspectives on the Bible by writing a short exegesis on a biblical text, accompanied by an analysis of why this exegesis is feminist.
4. You will demonstrate your grasp of feminist worship and preaching by preparing a feminist worship service for an occasion of your choice, including a sermon, accompanied by an analysis of why this service and sermon are feminist, using Christine Smith’s outline in the Introduction to *Preaching Justice*.
5. You will demonstrate your grasp of womanist and feminist theologies in a paper which delineates the connections and differences between white feminist and womanist theologies.
6. You will demonstrate your grasp of feminist pastoral theology by analyzing what makes *Listening for the Soul* specifically feminist pastoral care and spiritual direction.

Students will be evaluated according to their levels of ability to meet these M.Div. Outcomes Criteria:
1. **Religious Heritage:** *Scripture* and The Broader Church’s Theologies
   A. Converse with various hermeneutical positions. #3
   B. Engage contemporary theological ways of thinking. #2, 4, 5, 6

2. **Cultural Context:** Contemporary Social/Cultural Issues
   C. Recognize and analyze at least one critical area of injustice in North American culture. #1-6
   D. Locate this area of injustice in the broader global framework. #1-6

3. **Personal and Spiritual Formation:** Pastoral Sensitivity
   E. Understand the profound differences that physical, psychological, gender identity, sexual orientation, age, class, cultural, religious, racial and ethnic factors make in the ways that human beings experience the world. #6

4. **Capacity for Ministry and Public Leadership:** Arts of Ministry
   F. Recognize and utilize differing approaches to ministry practice. #1, 2
G. Integrate biblical, historical, theological and pastoral disciplines. #3
H. Interpret traditions of faith in a changing world. #1-6
I. Lead ministries of compassion, nurture, justice and proclamation in response to God’s mission. #1, 2, 4

**Course Requirements**

Regular attendance and class preparation are assumed for this course. Please let the instructor know by email or phone if you are not able to attend class or have other difficulties.

1. An engagement in a church or community context in which you use feminist theological and pastoral principles. You are free to use your imagination and creativity for this assignment!
2. A final presentation on your engagement in a church or community activity/action, making clear the principles of feminist theologies and pastoral theologies, and why they are important. **April 25 or May 2.**
3. A 4-7 page paper which delineates the connections and differences between white feminist and womanist theologies. **Due February 28.**
4. A short exegesis of a biblical text, accompanied by an analysis of why this exegesis is feminist. **March 21.**
5. A feminist worship service for an occasion of your choice, including a sermon, accompanied by an analysis of why this service and sermon are feminist, using Christine Smith’s outline in the Introduction to *Preaching Justice.* **Due April 4.**
6. A 5 -10 page analysis of what makes *Listening for the Soul* specifically feminist pastoral care and spiritual direction. **Due May 20.**

**Texts for the Course**

**Required**


**Selected Readings**

Davies, Susan E. “Justice Healing.”
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**Recommended**


**Guidelines for Course Interaction**  
(adapted from Dr. M. Shawn Copeland)

1. We will listen to one another -- patiently, carefully -- assuming that each one of us is always doing the best that she or he can. We will speak thoughtfully. We will speak in the first person.
2. Although our disagreements may be vigorous, they will not be conducted in a win-lose manner. We will take care that all participants are given the opportunity to engage in the conversation.
3. We will own our assumptions, our conclusions, and their implications. We will be open to another’s intellectual and personal growth and change.
4. We cannot be blamed for the misinformation we have been taught and have absorbed from our society, our culture, and our religious backgrounds, but we will be held responsible for repeating misinformation after we have learned otherwise.

**Plagiarism**

You are reminded that using others’ words or ideas without attribution and citation constitutes plagiarism, an act of intellectual dishonesty which may result in failing the course.
PTP 1719 Feminist Theologies and Ministry  
Course Outline  
Spring, 2011

**January 31**  
**Introducing the Course and Concepts**

**WATERVILLE**

**Preparation**

Three steps to get ready for our first class meeting:

1. Make notes to bring with you to class in response to the following questions:
   - Why are you taking this course?
   - What do you bring with you to the course -- knowledge of the subject area(s)? Experience? Questions? Specific interests?
   - What do you hope to learn from this course?
   - How will you know that you have learned it?

**Class Meeting**

Introductions and establishment of class ground rules  
Housekeeping items: class openings and closings, final work/grading  
Discussion of your responses to the questions  
Presentation on feminist theological principles.

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**February 7**  
**A Feminist Theology**

**Preparation**

Letty M Russell, *Just Hospitality: God’s Welcome in a World of Difference*

Attend to these questions at the end of each of Russell’s chapters. Make notes to bring to class, and, if possible, prepare a visual response to one of the questions which can be projected to the other campus.

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**Class Meeting**

Presentation and discussion of Hunt and Neu’s review of feminist movements in during the last sixty years, and Dr. Russell’s last book.
**February 14**

**Womanist Theologies**

**Preparation**

Read: Stephanie Y. Mitchem. *Introducing Womanist Theology*

Attend to these questions at the end of each chapter. Make notes to bring to class, and, if possible, prepare a visual response to one of the questions which can be projected to the other campus.

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**Class Meeting**

Presentation, discussion, and visual responses to Dr. Mitchem’s materials

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**February 21**

**Feminist/Womanist Biblical Interpretation**

**Preparation**

Read


On-Line Research: Find examples of feminist/womanist exegeses, bringing them to class so they can be projected on the second screen for our discussion.

**Class Meeting**

Discussion of readings and on-line exegeses; practicing feminist exegesis.

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**February 28**

**Introducing Feminist Pastoral Theology**

**Due** Paper on feminist and womanist theologies

**Preparation**

Read

- Susan E. Davies, “Reflections on the Theological Roots of Abusive Behavior”
“Justice Healing”

Class Meeting

Presentation and discussion of Dr. Haney’s and Dr. Davies’ materials
Discuss possible topics, structures and format for Research Week.

March 7

Worship/Liturgy

Preparation
Read
Victoria Rue, “This is My Body,” in New Feminist Christianity.

On-line Research: Find examples of feminist liturgies, and bring them to class to share. We will project them on one of the screens so that everyone can see them.

Class Meeting

Bring Presentation and discussion of the assigned readings and research. We will use one of the liturgies for closing prayers and others for the rest of the term.

March 14

Research Week

The class will develop topics, structures and formats for the research during this week.

March 21

Preaching

Due: Feminist Exegesis

Preparation
Read
Christine Marie Smith. Preaching Justice: Ethnic and Cultural Perspectives

Class Meeting

Discussion of reading and characteristics of feminist preaching.

March 28

Pastoral Care

Preparation
Read
Kathleen D. Billman, “Pastoral Care as an Art of Community,” in The Arts of Ministry

Marsha I Wiggins and Carmen Braun Williams, “Pastoral Care with African American Women: Womanist Perspectives and Strategies,” in *Injustice and the Care of Souls*.

Carolyn Thompson. “Ableism: The Face of Oppression as Experienced by People with Disabilities,” in *Injustice and the Care of Souls*.

Class Meeting

____________________________________________

Discussion of readings and case studies

___Feminist Liturgy

**April 4**

**Spirituality**

Worship Service and Sermon

Read

Jean Stairs. *Listening for the Soul.*

Class Meeting

____________________________________________

Using feminist principles to analyse Dr. Stairs’ materials.

___Feminist Liturgy

**April 11**

**Professional Issues for Women in Ministry**

Preparation

Read


Jeanne Stevenson. “Feminist Values from Seminary to Parish” in *Feminist and Womanist Pastoral Theology*


Meg A. Riley. “Signs of Hope, Signs of Dismay,” in *New Feminist Christianity*.

Class Meeting

____________________________________________

Professional issues as they present themselves in participants’ ministries.

_____Feminist Liturgy
April 18
Holy Week

April 25
Presentations

______________________________________________

____Feminist Liturgy________________________________________

May 3
Presentations and Closing Ritual

WATERVILLE

May 20
Due: A 5-10 page analysis of what makes *Listening for the Soul*
specifically feminist pastoral care and spiritual direction.