**Syllabus**

*DPLC 734 Strategies for Collaborative and Transformational Leadership in Community*

*Phillips Theological Seminary*

*Tuesday, January 6 – Thursday, January 17, 2015*

*Dr. Nancy Claire Pittman and Dr. Ellen Blue*

This four-hour, doctoral-level course will be taught primarily in the context of post-Katrina New Orleans. It will also include participation in the “Finding Our Voices, Expressing Our Visions” conference at the seminary’s location in Tulsa.

Students will make use of material, issues and themes from previous coursework as they begin to develop strategies for collaborative and transformational leadership for communities seeking to be just, compassionate, and faithful to the way of Jesus. We will give special, though by no means exclusive, attention to leadership in worship planning and performance. Students will also engage models of community and leadership drawn from biblical texts and the history of Christianity as ways of building norms for contemporary communities and leaders. Guest practitioners will be invited to participate in the course.

**GENERAL INFORMATION**

Classroom meetings will occur between Tuesday, January 6 and Thursday, January 15. Students must attend all sessions and participate fully in class discussion. According to PTS policy, a student who misses as much as twenty percent of the class sessions cannot pass the course.

**REQUIRED READING**

**Course Packet:**

To be furnished to students. It will consist of selected chapters from Dr. Blue’s book on the post-Katrina church; short articles from popular media; and URL’s for websites about ministries in New Orleans.

**Books:**


**Movie:**

Spike Lee, *When the Levees Broke: An American Tragedy*. HBO Documentary Films and 40 Acres and a Mule Filmworks. DVD, 4 hours. 0-7831-5075-X  $19.98 on Amazon as of 9 August 2014, also available on Prime Instant Video.

**Material from the Web:**

Ellen Blue, “‘Yes, We are Everywhere’: Thirty Years with the Women for Progressive Action, Lower Ninth Ward,” *Methodist History* 52, no. 1 (Oct. 2013), 4-18. Free online at http://archives.gcah.org/xmlui/handle/10516/8536


**Material on e-reserves**


to purchase the whole book, which you do not have to do, it is $23.04 paperback at Amazon as of 2 September 2014.

ADDITIONAL MATERIAL ON RESERVE IN THE PTS LIBRARY:


ASSIGNMENTS

For all written assignments, please type your work in a regular twelve-point font, double-spaced with one-inch margins, and submit electronically to both Ellen and Nancy.

**Assignment 1 – Before the J-term**

Glance back through *St. Mark’s and the Social Gospel* (a required text for the History of Women in Christianity course) enough to refresh yourself on the historical context for current ministry there. Read the articles “Yes, We are Everywhere: Thirty Years with the Women for Progressive Action, Lower Ninth Ward” and “Spiritual Mothers and Midwives: Reflections on Conversations with Women Rebirthing the United Methodist Church in Post-Katrina New Orleans.” Read the selected chapters from *In Case of Katrina* and other material in the course packet sent to you. Familiarize yourself with the websites assigned. This is an ungraded activity.

**Assignment 2 – Before the J-term**

Watch the 4 hours of the Spike Lee film. I prefer that you do not use the director’s cut. This is not family-friendly video; it is adult material. Please write a page or so of reflection on the experience of watching it. Bring your paper to class with you to turn in on Tuesday, Jan. 6.

**Assignment 3 – Before and During the J-term**

Read *God’s Troublemakers* (Henderson); *Transforming Power* (Linthicum); *The Female Vision* (Helgesen and Johnson); “Ties That Bind Too Tightly” (Pittman); *Breaking through the Stained Glass Ceiling* (Park and Willhauck); and Ch. 9, “Transformation,” in *The Magic of Ritual* (Driver).

Henderson, Linthicum and Driver will be particularly important conversation partners as we spend the time in New Orleans. Write an initial reflection that demonstrates deep engagement with each of these three texts and what they might have to say regarding your
ministry. This reflection should be approximately four pages long, and absolutely no more than five. Bring your paper to class with you to turn in on Tuesday, Jan. 6.

Read the assigned chapters in *Worship for the Whole People of God* (Duck); *The Worshiping Body* (Long); *Words that Hurt, Words that Heal*; and “A Whole New Poetry Beginning Here,” the assigned chapter in *In Her Own Rite* (Procter-Smith). Be prepared to engage with this material particularly deeply during the conference in Tulsa.

**Assignment 4 – During the J-term**

The texts will be the basis for this assignment. Each of you is to give a presentation and then facilitate a class discussion on an assigned text. The presentation and discussion should total 45 to 55 minutes in length. You are responsible for making sure that the most important points and the points that are most relevant to your ministries are brought forward and considered. Material assigned to each student is as follows:

- **Devon:** *God's Troublemakers* (Henderson)
- **Lara:** *Transforming Power* (Lanthicum)
- **Dayna:** Chapter 9, “Transformation,” in *The Magic of Ritual* (Driver)
- **Lorri:** *The Female Vision* (Helgesen and Johnson)
- **Ellen:** assigned chapters in *Worship for the Whole People of God* (Duck)
- **Connie:** *The Worshiping Body* (Long)

It is unlikely that the presentations will come in exactly this order.

**Assignment 5 – After the J-term - Design for two worship sessions.**

We will discuss this assignment and its due date during our class sessions in January.

**Assignment 6 – After the J-term - Long Paper**

This assignment will be based on the experiences in New Orleans, in the worship conference, and in our wrap-up session, and it should be informed by your readings. We will discuss this assignment and its due date during our class sessions in January.

**DETERMINING YOUR GRADE**

Assignment 1: Reading and visiting websites - Ungraded
Assignment 2: Paper based on Spike Lee’s *When the Levees Broke* - 10%
Assignment 3: Presentation/leading discussion on assigned text - 20%
Assignment 4: Initial paper on Henderson, Lanthicum and Driver - 15%
Assignment 5: Worship design - 15%
Assignment 6: Long paper - 20%
Overall: Preparation for and participation in class activities and discussions - 20%