PHILLIPS THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
SYLLABUS DISCLAIMER

The following syllabus is the teaching and learning guide for the last time this course was taught. It will give you a good idea of the descriptions of the course, how it was taught, the reading, the papers and other assignments, the intended outcomes, and the workload. By examining this syllabus and others, you will be able to form an impression of what graduate theological education at Phillips Theological Seminary requires of students.

Due to periodic curriculum revisions, course names and/or numbers may be different on this syllabus than what the name and/or number of the current offered course may be.

This syllabus is provided for your information only. The faculty reserves the right to revise the curriculum, and each professor reserves the right to decide how best to meet the learning goals of the curriculum. Therefore, the following syllabus is an historical artifact rather than a promise of how the course will be taught in the future, or that the course will be taught again.

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PHILLIPS THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
Seminar: History and Polity of the Disciples of Christ
DS 850.01
Columbus, Ohio
July 19-22

For degree-seeking PTS students

John M. Imbler
Adjunct Professor of the History of Christianity and Disciples Studies

PURPOSE: This course will focus primarily on polity through General Assembly business items and evening worship services.

GOALS/OUTCOMES: 1) To gain an understanding of covenantal and structural processes of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). 2) To explore how the church worships in corporate life.

The purpose and course goals relate to the PTS departmental goals in Historical Studies: students should be able to critique contemporary Christian thought and practice by examining historical contexts and tracing storylines; articulate a substantive understanding of the theology, polity, and ecclesiology of their own denominations in order to personally appropriate and publicly interpret the denomination’s features and values; and explore the general concepts of ecumenical and interfaith engagements through historical developments, theological understandings, and cooperative activities.

METHOD: Sunday through Wednesday mornings business items and assembly worship services will be discussed as reflective of the denomination’s identity and mission.

Readings, lectures, and conversations will constitute the course’s format.

REQUIREMENTS: Pre-class reading assignment, a paper to be turned in at the beginning of class, and a paper due in August will be necessary in order to receive a grade.

ATTENDANCE: To receive academic or audit credit for this course, students must attend all class meetings listed in the course schedule.

GRADES: a letter grade for academic credit will be issued by the end of August based upon:

A. attendance and informed class participation (25%);

B. a review of Cummins, The Disciples: A Struggle for Reformation, chapters IV through VIII (3-5 pages, double-spaced in 12 pt. font). What is Cummins’ thesis? What new information have you learned? What critiques do you have? Due at the beginning of class on the 19th. (30%);

C. a final paper (10-15 pages, double-spaced in 12 pt. font). Choose from either: 1) Analyze the worship services in terms of style, content, and attention to the assembly theme and texts – “Soar (Isaiah 40:28-31).” Or, 2) Analyze any three Resolutions [other than Reports] as to purpose, value, and relevance to the church – do they address a “movement for wholeness in a fragmented world?” Due no later than August 14. (45%).
SCHEDULE:

Sunday, July 19 – 8:45-10:45 a.m. Location: TBA
Monday, July 20 – 10:45-11:45 a.m. Location: TBA
Tuesday, July 21 – 10:45-11:45 a.m. Location: TBA
Wednesday, July 22 – 10:45-11:45 a.m. Location: TBA

TEXTBOOKS:

Pre-class readings


2015 General Assembly Program Book – or download resolutions from disciples.org > General Assembly > Business

Bring for reference


2014 *Yearbook and Directory of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)*)