

I.S. 6 - Wisdom Year Integrative Seminar - UPDATED 10/13/16

Instructor: The Rev. Gabe Lamazares
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Meetings: Thursdays each week, 1:30p-4:30p

Co-requisite: TFE 4, or permission of the instructor

Pre-requisites: TFE 1, 2 & 3 & IS4, or permission of the instructor

Course Description

The goal of the sequence of integrative courses, when paired with field education, is to enable students to integrate what they are learning in the course of their classroom theological education, with what they experience in various field sites; and to develop a strong and consistent priestly identity.

The focus of I.S. 6 in the 2016-2017 academic year is to allow students to explore a variety of concepts, resources, and best practices in multiple areas of practical competency, with the understanding that students will be engaged in this kind of real work within a few short months. Through theological reflection and engagement with guest practitioners, students will also explore theological and theoretical questions facing the church today (approached through the lens of the parish context).

Course Activities and Expectations

I.S. 6 is an active-learning classroom, meaning that this course (and all integrative seminars) requires a high degree of participation from you, the students. We will engage in role play, case studies, student-led discussion, in-class collaborative work, and self-assessment. Guest practitioners will work with the instructor to develop similar teaching methods.

What this means for students, is that you will be expected and encouraged to participate actively and fully each week. This class requires thorough preparation - reading assignments are chosen for their utility, and it is expected that you will complete each reading assignment before class. Additionally, homework will be moderate and consistent, and late weekly assignments will not be accepted, as they are to be done in preparation for class that day.

Finally, you are expected to be thoroughly familiar with the CAMS system (where most reading assignments will be posted) to access digital resources.

End-of-the-Semester Paper / Project Work

Throughout the first half of semester, each student should consider one practical area of parish ministry about which they would like to learn more, prior to graduation. The week before Spring Break, each student will turn in a 2-page research prospectus to the instructor, outlining the central question / area for exploration, and providing basic resources for further research. See the 'IS6 Final Paper Instructions' resource, to be posted on CAMS. The final

paper is due on 05/16/17 at midnight via email. Extensions may be granted upon 48-hour advance written request, and will result in a 5% per day project grade reduction.

Weekly Work

Most weeks, you will be assigned a moderate amount of preparatory reading for the following class, plus a brief theological reflection paper or other small project that will form the basis of your participation for the upcoming week.

Most reading will not be reviewed via lecture in class - instead, it will support learning and discussion, rather than serve as the primary topic.

Instructor Feedback

Each week, the instructor will collect your written work at the end of class, will read it, and will return it to you the following week with written feedback.

Grading

50% - Weekly Work
25% - Final Parish Profile Project
15% - Attendance
10% - Participation

Relationship to TFE4

IS6, while corequisite with TFE4, is a separate course from TFE4. You will have no assignments for TFE4 for the spring semester. All news or questions regarding TFE4 will be communicated to you directly via email by the Director of Integrative Studies.

Classroom Policies

Attendance: You are expected to attend all classes. An excused absence truly will only be granted due to a death, or to a serious illness (or a sick child), a required diocesan meeting, or a funeral. If you or your child are ill, you must let the instructor know ahead of time, in writing (email or text is fine), and are still expected to turn in your weekly work prior to the start of class that day (via email or through a classmate). One unexcused absence will drop your overall course grade by 5%; two will drop your grade by 10%.

Technology: Note-taking is for personal use only (and not for testing) and therefore computers will not be necessary to take notes - please bring a notebook or looseleaf paper to take notes. Phones are, obviously, prohibited (except during break). If you are waiting for an important phone call (for example, from your bishop), please inform me before class.

Breaks: We will all need a break - this will be hard work! We will take a 10-minute break at approximately 4:15 each Wednesday, though break-time will vary

according to the day. This is your time to use the restroom, check your email, etc. This will not allow time to leave campus - please bring coffee with you!

Plagiarism: Plagiarism consists of “the appropriating and presenting as one’s own work, the writings of work of another person ... without acknowledgment.” It is academic dishonesty and bad scholarship, and therefore may result in failure of this class, and other penalties “up to and including dismissal from the seminary.” (GTS Catalog 2016-2017, “Academic Honesty”)

Accommodations: If you have a disability that requires any modification of class activities or requirements, please contact the seminary’s Registrar, Stacie Waring (registrar@gts.edu), before the second class session to register the disability officially. The Registrar will then authorize me to provide any modifications needed for your participation in the course.

Communication: All communication outside of class, particularly email, should reflect our dual academic and professional contexts. Email is the instructor’s primary mode of communication; text should only be used in an urgent situation, such as sudden illness.

Required Text

None

Schedule, Topics, and Assignments

Note: The schedule is subject to change, depending on class progress, weather, curricular adjustments, and a number of other factors. A new version will be issued in hard copy, and posted on CAMS, in the event of a major change (for example, a total change of topic or presenter for a given day). Any minor changes (for example, modification of a reading assignment) will be announced verbally in class and posted on CAMS.

Thursday, February 02nd

Topic: Introductions and Expectations
Guest: Caitlin Stamm (final part of class)
Pre-Reading: N/A
Due Today: N/A

Thursday, February 09th

Unit: Employment I
Topic: Human Resources - Interviews and Resumes
Guest: Trecia Sullivan and Jonathan Silver
Pre-Reading: (TBD by EW)
Due Today: Cover Letter for Position of Choice
Resume Tailored for Position of Choice

Thursday, February 16th

Unit: Parish Communications I
Topic: Church Communications Theory and Role
Guest: The Rev. Kyle Oliver
Pre-Reading: TBD (by KO)
Due Today: Reflection: What is the Purpose of the Church in Communicating During Tumultuous Times?

NOTE: Gabe Out Today
Assignment for 03/02 to be handed out today

Thursday, February 23rd

Unit: Employment II
Topic: Clergy Contract Negotiation
Guest: The Rev. Emily Wachner
Pre-Reading: State of the Clergy 2015 (CPG Report)
Due Today: Cost-of-Living Worksheet
1-Page Reflection: Why Should You Hire Me?

NOTE: Gabe Out Today

Thursday, March 02nd

Unit: Parish Communications II
Topic: Parish Communication Assessment and Triage
Guest: The Rev. Kyle Oliver
Pre-Reading: TBD (by KO)
Due Today: Evaluating A Church's Digital Media 'Front Door'

Thursday, March 09th

Unit: Church Finance II (Continued from Fall 2016)
Topic: Budget and Parochial Report
Guest: The Rev. Jerry Keucher, former CFO, DioceseNY (*to be confirmed*)
Pre-Reading: TBD (by JK)

Due Today: 1 Page Reflection: Personal Finances for Clergy (Should Clergy Spend Money / Live Differently than 'Normal' People? Why?)

NOTES: Prospectus for Final Research Paper Due Today

Thursday, March 16th

NO CLASS - SPRING BREAK

Thursday, March 23rd

Unit: Congregational Growth / Future I
Topic: Hospitality and Newcomer Welcome
Guest: Mary Parmer, Invite / Welcome / Connect
Pre-Reading: TBD (by MP)
Due Today: Supervisor Interview: Newcomers / Church Growth

Thursday, March 30th

Unit: Congregational Growth / Future II
Guest: The Rev. Emily Scott, St. Lydia's
Topic: Enculturated Leadership: Building Ministry that Grows from Local Spiritual "Hungers"
Pre-Reading: TBD (by ES)
Due Today: TBD (by ES)

Thursday, April 06th

Unit: Congregational Growth / Future III
Guest: The Rev. Emily Scott, St. Lydia's
Topic: Messaging as Welcome: Sharing the Gospel in Captivating and Hospitable Ways
Pre-Reading: TBD (by ES)
Due Today: TBD (by ES)

Thursday, April 13th

NO CLASS - MAUNDY THURSDAY

Thursday, April 20th

Unit: Parish Administration
Topic: Vestry Management and Transition / Priest-in-Charge Ministry
Guest: The Rev. Canon Greg Jacobs, Canon to the Ordinary, Diocese of Newark
Pre-Reading: (TBD, GJ)
Due Today: (TBD, GJ)

Thursday, April 27th

Unit: Outreach and Church Mission
Topic: Outreach Administration and Theory: Case Study, Homelessness
Guest: The Rev. Matt Heyd, Heavenly Rest
Pre-Reading: 'Dasani,' NYT Series
TBD (by MH)
Due Today: Supervisor Interview: Outreach / Mission

Thursday, May 02nd

Final Class, Wrap-Up, Course Evaluation, Paper Discussion

FINAL PAPER: Due Tuesday, May 16th at Midnight (via email)
2,500 - 3,000 words, i.e. 10-12 Pages