

General Theological Seminary
440 West 21st St.
New York, New York 10011

Epiphany 2017

COURSE INFORMATION

South African Travel Seminar
CS21/PT21
3 Course Credits
January 11-18, 2017

INSTRUCTOR

The Very Rev. Michael Battle, PhD
Office: 401Seabury
Office Hours: (TBD; by appointment)
Office Phone: (646) 717-979
Cell Phone: (626)-993-5384
GTS Email: battle@gts.edu

Course Description

What We Are About. The content of the Travel Seminar focuses both on how Archbishop Desmond Tutu's ministry and theology are vital for spiritual leaders today. More specifically, and for course credit, this South African Travel Seminar exposes students to the ongoing spirituality and theology of Tutu and the subsequent effects of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. In addition to Archbishop Tutu, this Travel Seminar exposes students to some of the most innovative spiritual leaders in the Anglican Communion and the world. Therefore, leadership formation is also a component of this course.

Learning Outcomes, students will:

- Deepen individual skills to create and foster effective theology and ethics
- Deepen agency in spiritual communities to practice restorative justice
- Increase capacity to impact others through social media
- Increase leadership skills to lead the church in the 21st century.

Required Texts:

- Battle, Michael. (2009). *Reconciliation: the Ubuntu Theology of Desmond Tutu*. Cleveland: Pilgrim Press
- Tutu, Desmond and Mpho Tutu. (2010). *Made for Goodness and Why this Makes All the Difference*, New York: Harper One

Suggested Text:

- Allen, John. (2006). *Rabble-Rouser for Peace: the Authorized Biography of Desmond Tutu*, London: Random House.

Course Requirements

You are to enter a covenant with me and your colleagues to undertake the strenuous and joyful demand of learning in community as we travel internationally to South Africa. There will be no exams in this course. When you return from the Travel Seminar, you are then required to reflect on an agreed upon theme in Tutu's ministry and theology through both a paper and social media project. Your final grade will be determined by your full participation in the Travel Seminar, reading, thoughtful and careful writing, and social media project.

Writing Guidelines

Students generally submit papers with footnote and bibliographical citations. I recommend papers with citations in CMS (Chicago Manual of Style) format delineated by the Chicago Manual of Style: The Essential Guide for Writers, Editors, and Publishers. The basic rules for these style formats may be found at the following websites:

http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools_citationguide.html(CMS website)

<http://bcs.bedfordstmartins.com/resdoc5e/> (Diana Hacker website – under social sciences) CMS

Student Responsibilities and Evaluation

In this course evaluation will be based on the following dimensions:

- Active participation in the Travel Seminar;
- Paper and Social Media Project turned in on time after the Course. Deadline TBD.

Grading Criteria

60% Participation and Consistent Presence

20% Paper

20% Social Media Impact

Participation, Paper and Social Media Project Description

Class Participation: Although travel can be demanding, this Travel Seminar aims for a relaxed learning environment in which we will worship together and enjoy learning through this international experience. As we travel, the expectation for participation is one in which we respect each other as we adapt to new cultures and ideas. Listening will require just as much energy as speaking in our time together.

The reflective paper is intended to help you apply Tutu's spiritual and theological distinctions, contextual choices and strategies for moving the church forward in difficult times. The length of this paper should be between 10 to 12 pages, double spaced. When you finish this reflection paper it should display strategies of Tutu's theology and ministry that point toward effective leadership in the 21st century. As an example of how you might want to write this paper, you could use the following methodology:

1. Context and Introduction: two to three page description of a particular aspect of Tutu's theology/ministry and why you chose it.
2. Two to three page definition of this particular aspect of Tutu's theology/ministry.
3. Three to four page discussion of the impact of this aspect of Tutu's theology/ministry.
4. Three to four page discussion of how this aspect of Tutu's theology/ministry may be controversial but may provide a more lasting solution
5. One to two page conclusion of what you learned and hope to accomplish beyond your written reflection.

The Social Media Project is meant to begin and build your reflective paper. Often in the western world, students feel as though they do deep reflection only in private or in the isolation between teacher and student. The Social Media Project is meant for you to take the necessary next step beyond deep reflection into deep and responsible action. So, instead of simply writing your paper for yourself or for academic credit or simply for the professor, I want you to make your spiritual and academic work perform in social circles. Your Social Media Project requires you to:

1. Create a conversation thread around your subject matter in your social media network, saving the thread as you go. Create a means to receive feedback from your social circles. Ask for feedback and a conversation thread;
2. When you finish your reflection paper at the end of the course, use your paper to teach and mobilize your social circles around what you learned. You can use a social media means to present your paper to your social circles (e.g. Church newsletter, Facebook, Twitter, email, etc.);
3. In addition, you are to challenge your social circles to think more deeply about your reflection paper and experience in South Africa.
4. After creating this organic conversation thread, discern together in your social circles what next steps should be if any (e.g., a specific action you want from your community).
5. Coalesce this organic conversation thread as a written document (displaying at least 7 thoughtful responses to your work during this course).
6. Send your Social Media Project to me contained in one document. (Hint: I'm more interested in how you impact your social circles concerning your insights.)