I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

What is liberation theology? Who does it? Why is it important to the church? How do traditional theologians and critics respond to it? This introductory course will discuss the many strands of liberation theology from different global contexts. The focus will be on liberation theology’s methodologies, its relation to the social context, and its challenges to the theological discipline.

II. SPECIFIC GOALS

The course is designed to:

1. introduce some of the classical texts of liberation theologies from different parts of the world and the works of a few key new critical thinkers.

2. analyze some of the newer challenges to liberation theologies: cultural hermeneutics, postcolonial criticism, and globalization.

3. develop the skills of contextual theological thinking and critique of traditional theology of the church and one’s own faith.

4. equip students to learn and reflect on theology from an anti-racist and multicultural perspectives through both course contents and pedagogy.

III. COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND EVALUATION

1. Complete assigned readings and participate in class discussions and presentations.

2. Complete two reflection papers (7-8 pages) on assigned readings. Instructions will be given in class. Due: Oct 8 and Nov 12.


To be fair to all students, late assignments will receive lower marks.
Mini-course requirement
EDS students who are taking this as a mini-course do not need to write the final paper.

Pass/Fail option
Those who are taking this course Pass/Fail need to inform me. The Pass/Fail grading system is now:
- Pass (B or better)
- Marginal Pass (B-)
- Fail (lower than B-)

D. Min Students
Course work for all Doctor of Ministry (D.Min.) students must demonstrate an advanced understanding of the nature and purposes of ministry, enhanced competencies in pastoral analysis and ministerial skills, and the integration of these dimensions into the theologically reflective practice of ministry. D.Min. students are encouraged to focus their course work on a particular subject germane to their anticipated thesis project.

IV. COURSE SCHEDULE

Sept 10    Introduction
Sept 17    The Global Context
Sept 24    Latin American Liberation Theology
Oct 1      Feminist Theology
Oct 8      Black Theology
Oct 15     Race, Ethnicity, and Theology
Oct 22     Gay and Lesbian Issues in the Global Church
Oct 29     Culture, Religion, and Liberation
Nov 5      Quiet Day (No classes at EDS)
Nov 12     Feminism and Ecology
Nov 19     Postcolonial Reality and Hermeneutics
Nov 26     Thanksgiving Holiday
Dec 3      Palestinian and Jewish Liberation Theology
Dec 10     Reflection and Celebration

V. READINGS

Texts:


Other articles in the course site in Blackboard (http://fishersnet.blackboard.com).

**Weekly Readings:**

**Sept 17  The Global Context**


**Sept 24  Latin American Liberation Theology**

Gutiérrez, Gustavo. *A Theology of Liberation*, Chs. 1,2,9,10,11,12,13.

Oct  1 Feminist Theology

Russell, Letty. Human Liberation in a Feminist Perspective, Chs. 1,2,3,4,5.

Oct  8 Black Theology

Cone, James. God of the Oppressed.

Oct  15 Race, Ethnicity, and Theology

Fernandez, Eleazar and Fernando F. Segovia, eds. A Dream Unfinished, Chs. 2,3,7,9,11,13.

Oct  22 Gay and Lesbian Issues in the Global Church

Brown, Terry. Other Voices, Other Worlds, Chs. 2,4,5,6,9,10,11,12,17,18,19

Oct  29 Culture, Religion, and Liberation


Nov  12 Feminism and Ecology


Nov  19 Postcolonial Reality and Hermeneutics
Dec 3 Palestinian and Jewish Liberation Theology

Ateek, Naim. *A Palestinian Christian Cry for Reconciliation*, selections


**SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY ON THIRD AND FOURTH WORLD THEOLOGIES**

Ecumenical Association of Third World Theologians (EATWOT) in Chronological Order


Fabella, Virginia, and Sergio Torres, eds. *Irruption of the Third World: Challenge to Theology*. Maryknoll: 1983. (Fifth International Conference, Delhi, 1981)


**Africa**


Asia


Fabella, Virginia, and Sun Ai Lee Park, eds. We Dare to Dream: Doing Theology as Asian Women. Maryknoll: Orbis, 1989.


**Latin America**


______. *Essential Writings.* Maryknoll: Orbis, 1996.


**Middle East**


**Indigenous Peoples**


