

**THEO5244 MODELS OF PRACTICAL THEOLOGY**

2nd term 2016-2017

HYS303, Tu 7:00PM - 9:15PM

Course Outline  
 Website: Blackboard

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**Course Descriptions and Objectives**

Here are some statements from Richard R. Osmer, a leading scholar within the International Academy of Practical Theology as well as editor of the *International Journal of Practical Theology* (IJPT):

In recent decades the discipline of practical theology has seen a number of far-reaching innovations, including its scientific emancipation and the broadening of its scope.....The “new” practical theology **no longer** views itself as a discipline concerned merely with applications and techniques. It no longer understands itself to be a form of applied exegesis or applied dogmatics, charged with formulating principles that can guide ecclesial practice.....its scope is no longer that of pastoral theology.....**The new focus of practical theology as an academic discipline is closely related to fundamental hermeneutical reflection on the practical character of theology as a whole.** (Fr. Editorial of 1<sup>st</sup> volume of *IJPT*)

These statements represent not only the new shape of practical theology but also a theological tradition, more or less suppressed, according to which theology is fundamentally practical.

This course aims at familiarizing the students with this recent trend as well as a tradition of practical theology which stresses that “theology is a practical science.” It also aims at helping students to see how the theological theories that they learn through lectures and readings may have bearings on their Christian lives and ministries.

**Expected Learning Outcomes**

- 1 Knowledge Aspects
  - 1.1 Concrete meanings of theology as a practical science
  - 1.2 Methods and Methodologies of practical theology
- 2 Attitude Aspect: fully appreciate that theological study is practically-oriented
- 3 Skill Aspect: theory-practice integration via theological reflection

Holistically, students would begin to acquire the habits of a reflective practitioner/practical theologian.

**Course Assessment**

- 1 **Critical** Book Review (within 3000 words) 50%
  - Critically discuss One Book marked with \* in the **Reference List** of this Outline (reserved)
  - Language: either in Chinese or English
  - Submission Deadline: One week after the final lecture
  - Submission: submitted via VeriGuide ONLY (Pls do not send in hardcopies)

- Style of Reference: *The Chicago Manual of Style* (16<sup>th</sup> edition)<sup>1</sup> OR APA (6<sup>th</sup> edition)<sup>2</sup> should be used as the style of reference
- Marking Scheme
  - .1 summary: 20%
  - .2 organization and presentation: 20%
  - .3 clarity of concepts: 20%
  - .4 criticality and reflectiveness: 20%
  - .5 argumentativeness: 20%
- Academic Honesty:

Attention is drawn to University policy and regulations on honesty in academic work, and to the disciplinary guidelines and procedures applicable to breaches of such policy and regulations. Details may be found at <http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/policy/academichonesty/>.

With each assignment, students will be required to submit a signed declaration that they are aware of these policies, regulations, guidelines and procedures. For group projects, all students of the same group should be asked to sign on the declaration. For assignments in the form of a computer-generated document that is principally text-based and submitted via the plagiarism detection engine VeriGuide, the statement, in the form of a receipt, will be issued by the system upon students' uploading of the soft copy of the assignment. Assignments without the receipt will not be graded by teachers. Only the final version of the assignment should be submitted via VeriGuide.

2	Integrative Seminar	
2.1	Presentation <sup>3</sup>	30%
2.2	Participation	10%
3	Class Participation	10%

## Contents

What is Practical Theology?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Nature of Theology—Theoretical or Practical or “theoretical vs. practical”?</li> <li>◆ Duns Scotus and the debate over the nature of Theology in the Thirteenth/Fourteenth Century</li> <li>◆ Practical Theology as a discipline—historical development</li> <li>◆ Types of Practical Theology</li> <li>◆ Methods and methodologies of Practical Theology           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Empirical (qualitative inquiry) approach               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ the approaches widespread in the British circles</li> <li>◆ Illustrations: A research on Protestant Death rites</li> </ul> </li> <li>◆ Practical Theology as Action Research</li> <li>◆ Hermeneutical Approach               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ theory and practice, application</li> <li>◆ What is “Practical”/“Practice”?</li> <li>◆ “Application” and Understanding: the Fundamental Hermeneutic Problem</li> <li>◆ Illustration: Wesleyan reflection on Pathological Gambling</li> </ul> </li> <li>◆ Stephen Pattison’s Practical Theology as “Critical Conversation</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

<sup>1</sup> Examples are available from the official website addressed <http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/home.html>

<sup>2</sup> Examples are available from the official website addressed <http://www.apastyle.org/>.

<sup>3</sup> Guideline and a sample for Presentation will be available later.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Practical Theology as Critical Social Theory           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Illustrations:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Lutheran reflection on local Higher Education in the context of Economic Globalization</li> <li>● Covenantal community and Taiwan/HK social policy</li> </ul> </li> <li>◆ Class Experiment: <i>enjo kosai</i></li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Domains (examples) of Practical Theology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Preaching</li> <li>◆ Theological Education</li> <li>◆ Theological Reflection           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Models of theological reflection</li> <li>◆ Disjuncture and theological reflection</li> <li>◆ Learning style and theological reflection</li> <li>● Reflection via integrative seminar</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Integrative Seminar	Students' presentation <sup>3</sup>

## References (Selected)

### **Practical Theology—General, Trends, Reconceptualizations, Models**

- \* Anderson, R. S. (2001). *The shape of practical theology: Empowering ministry with theological praxis*. Downers Grove, Ill.: InterVarsity.
- \* Ballard, P. H., & Pritchard, J. (1996). *Practical theology in action: Christian thinking in the service of church and society*. London: SPCK.
- \* Browning, D. S. (1991). *A fundamental practical theology: Descriptive and strategic proposals*. Minneapolis: Fortress.
- \* Farley, E. (2003). *Practicing gospel: Unconventional thoughts on the church's ministry* (1st ed.). Louisville, Ky.: Westminster John Knox.
- \* Forrester, D. B. (2000). *Truthful action: Explorations in practical theology*. Edinburgh: T & T Clark.
- \* Heitink, G. (1999). *Practical theology: History, theory, action domains: Manual for practical theology*. Grand Rapids: W.B. Eerdmans.
- \* Mudge, L. S., & Poling, J. N. (Eds.). (1987). *Formation and reflection: The promise of practical theology*. Philadelphia: Fortress Press. (Available online at <http://www.religion-online.org/showbook.asp?title=586>)
- \* Osmer, R. R. (2008). *Practical theology: An introduction*. Grand Rapids, Mich.: William B. Eerdmans.
- \* Swinton, J., & Mowatt, H. (2016). *Practical theology and qualitative research* (2nd ed.). London: SCM.
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- Miller-McLemore, B. J. (2012). *The Wiley-Blackwell Companion to Practical Theology*. Malden, Mass.: Wiley-Blackwell. *Wiley-Blackwell companions to religion* (pp. 1 online resource (xiv, 626 p.)).
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- Woodward, J., Pattison, S., & Patton, J. (Eds.). (2000). *The Blackwell reader in pastoral and practical theology*. Oxford; Malden, Mass.: Blackwell.

### **Bible and Practical Theology**

- Ballard, P. H., Holmes, S. R., & Elkins, W. W. (2005). *The Bible in pastoral practice: Readings in the place and function of scripture in the church*. London: Darton, Longman & Todd.
- Bennett, Z. (2013). *Using the Bible in practical theology: Historical and contemporary perspectives*. Farnham, Surrey; Burlington: Ashgate.

### **Theological Education**

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- Allen, R. J. (2008). *Thinking theologically: the preacher as theologian*. Minneapolis: Fortress. (《神學土壤：講員也是神學家。香港：文藝。》) .
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### Pastoral Theology

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### **Journals**

- American journal of pastoral counseling. Binghamton, NY : Haworth.
- International journal of practical theology. Berlin; New York: Walter de Gruyter.
- Journal of adult theological education. London: Equinox.
- Journal of empirical theology. Kampen: J.H. Kok.
- Journal of psychology and Christianity. New Braunfels Texas: Christian Association for Psychological Studies.
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<sup>4</sup> 中文版由基道書樓出版。

**Psychology.**

Pastoral psychology. New York: Human Sciences.

Religion and society. Bangalore, India: Christian Institute for the Study of Religion and Society.

Social compass. London: SAGE.

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1. Kwan, S. M. (2016). *Negotiating a presence-centred Christian counselling: Towards a theologically informed and culturally sensitive approach*. New Castle: Cambridge Scholars Publishing.
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10. 關瑞文。(2010)。「民女」落戶中大事件與高等教育全球化的結構性罪惡。《時代論壇》, 1191。
11. 關瑞文。(2009)。基督教殯葬禮儀的實踐與神學——一點反思。《基督教週報》, 2346。
12. 關瑞文及盧龍光。(2009)。願教會成為治療群體。《天風》(上海：《天風》), 350(58-60)。
13. 關瑞文。(2009)。論以盼望為本的基督教輔導中的正向心理學。《山道期刊》(香港：香港浸信會神學院), 12(1), 25-46。
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