

Person in Community

INT-510 | 2 Credit Hours

Wednesday 7:15 – 9:15 PM • Room TBD

Fall Semester 2017

Instructors

Reverend Trina A. Armstrong, Ph.D. and Reverend Hwa Young Chong, PhD.

Teaching Assistant

Rochelle Cross

Course Description

Three foundational questions, “Who am I?” “Who am I in relationship to others?” and “Who am I in relationship to God?” will guide first-year students through a communal self-examination process of how we see ourselves, our values, our choices, our relationships with each other, and our relationship with God. These questions will also guide our examination of human and sexual development, faith development, and vocational development amid our cultural and social realities with attention to how identity, constituted by race, gender, class, sexuality and culture is psychosocially and spiritually constructed, dynamic and constantly shifting. The theological concept of the *Imago Dei* or “Image of God” will be used to examine these dimensions as the framework for understanding self in relation to others. Ultimately, we will interrogate how the differences that shape how we understand ourselves does have implications for our theological and spiritual development.

Learning Goals: At the end of the course students should be able to:

Knowing

- Examine, evaluate, and reflect on different dimensions of their identity and connections to the *Imago Dei*.
- Identify how differences in race, gender, class and sexuality inform, enrich, and distort the theological concept of *Imago Dei*.

Doing

- Engage in critical self-reflexivity regarding different cultural, theological, religious, sexual, racial, vocational, and other formations to better understand the complexity of *Imago Dei* and what it means to be self in relation to others and with different communities.

Being

- Appreciate how our identities are psychologically and socially constructed and change over time due to a variety of biological, psychological, and social factors.
- Value differences and ambiguities in relationships with others whose sexual, gender, and racial identities have been forged through practices of injustice in church and society.

Required Texts:

The prices are from Amazon but books can be purchased new or used or rented from any book store of your choice.

Balswick, Jack O., Pamela Ebstyn King, and Kevin S. Reimer. *The Reciprocating Self: Human Development in Theological Perspective*. **Second ed.** Downers Grove, IL: IVP Academic, 2016.

978-0830851430 Paperback: \$21.81 Kindle: \$19.24 Used: starting from \$16.98

Battle, Michael. *Ubuntu: I in You and You in Me*. New York: Seabury Books, 2009.

978-1596271135 Paperback: \$10.90 Kindle: \$9.99 Hardcover: from \$3.50

Fernandez, Eleazar S. *Reimagining the Human: Theological Anthropology in Response to Systemic Evil*. St. Louis, Mo.: Chalice Press, 2004.

978-0827232525 Paperback: \$28.99 Kindle: \$8.49 Used: starting at \$19.95

Kondrath, William M. *God's Tapestry: Understanding and Celebrating Differences*. Herndon, Va.: Alban Institute, 2008.

978-1566993630 Paperback: \$16.23 Kindle: \$12.60

Supplemental Texts Available on Moodle:

Fowler, James W. *Becoming Adult, Becoming Christian: Adult Development and Christian Faith*. **Rev. ed.** San Francisco: Jossey-Bass Publishers, 2000.

Jung, Patricia Beattie, and Darryl W. Stephens. *Professional Sexual Ethics: A Holistic Ministry Approach*. Minneapolis, MN: Fortress Press, 2013.

Additional readings for the course will be posted on Moodle.