"Liberative Listening and Learning Lab" (L4)
PM-678 & PM-679*

Instructor: Dr. Brian Bantum
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meeting times: Wednesdays, 6:30-9pm (central), online on Teams
office hours: by appointment

*(1.5 credits each semester for total of 3.0 credits) | Fall 2025 & Spring 2026

Course Description

This course is a year-long, two-semester introduction to and cohort formational accompaniment for the Master of Arts in Theology and Ministry (MATM) degree. Its goals are: (a) to present broad multidisciplinary grounding for the theories and practices introduced in the MATM program; (b) to provide space for personal and spiritual formation, vocational discernment, professional development and mentoring through cohort learning; and (c) to cultivate basic skills for action-reflection praxis, which are essential to social justice ministry, education, and leadership.

Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs)

By the end of successful completion of the two L4 semesters, participants will be able to:

1. Articulate a theologically, biblically, contextually rooted vocational narrative that reflects critical self and other awareness, understanding of one's social identity/location and personal/spiritual temperaments, and spiritual grounding for a vocation in public ministry, education, and leadership.
2. Identify and develop one's own approach to multi-/inter-disciplinary methods, models, and traditions for analyzing social contexts, structures, and systems as they intersect to advance or inhibit individual, communal, societal, and planetary flourishing.
3. Select and make use of specific tools, skills, and resources needed for professional development of self as leader in public ministry and education.
4. Describe an orienting public concern that will serve as the focus of their Public Ministry Project and advance their preparations for a project-based Public Ministry Portfolio, which will be completed throughout the second year of their program.

Readings for Fall & Spring (available on LMS or library course reserve)

- Asset-Based Community Development Institute. *Asset-Based Community Development Institute*. Accessed February 27, 2025. https://abcdinstitute.org/.
- Brown, Lerita Coleman. *What Makes You Come Alive: A Spiritual Walk with Howard Thurman*. *Minneapolis: Broadleaf Books, 2023. (ISBN: 9781506474656; price on broadleafbooks.com $26.99)*
- Palmer, Parker J. *The Courage to Teach: Exploring the Inner Landscape of a Teacher's Life*. 2nd *ed. Hoboken: Wiley, 2010. (ISBN: 978-1-119-41411-7; ebook price on wiley.com $19.00)*
- Wong, Maria Liu. *On Becoming Wise Together: Learning and Leading in the City*. Grand *Rapids: Eerdmans, 2023. (ISBN: 9780802879066; price on eerdmans.com $19.00)*

Assignments*

*subject to change

Fall 2025

- Posterboard (digital or print) on call, vocation, charism.
- LCP 360 Self-Assessment Tool.
- Attend one training, workshop, or conference event, as they are available in the semester at Garrett or local to your community or context. Write 2-page (single-spaced) analysis & reflection for discussion.
- "Asset Mapping Tools for Discovering Individual Gifts & Skills" worksheet.
- "Contextual and Community Analysis" exercise found on Canvas. Write 2-page (single spaced) on findings, with reflection.

Spring 2026

- 2-minute elevator speech on orienting issue.
- 5-minute recorded video TED Talk on vision for social change.
- Interview with religious leaders/professionals with relevant expertise. Provide 2-page (single-spaced) written reflection on learnings.
- Attend one training, workshop, or conference event, as they are available in the semester at Garrett or local to your community or context. Bring 2-page (single-spaced) analysis reflection for discussion.
- Presentation of preliminary project/portfolio ideas.

Grade/Learning Assessment

L4 is a Pass/Fail course. All assignments must be completed satisfactorily to Pass.

Participants will be evaluated based on the following:
- Full attendance in all sessions and active participation in the activities.
- Demonstrated familiarity with the assigned readings in discussion and written reflections.
- Satisfactory completion of the assignments, workshop activities, in-class reflective
- exercises. Evaluative rubrics will be provided for relevant assignments on Canvas.

******Full class schedule and description of assignments will be available on Canvas approximately 1 week prior to the beginning of class. *******