

THEO 5140: Advanced Seminar
Trinitarian Theology & Human Migration
North Park Theological Seminary
Spring Semester 2023, Thurs. 9:30 am – 12:15 pm CT
3 credit hours

Instructor Information

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Office hours following class and by appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The advanced seminar builds on skills and content learned in Christian Theology through an in-depth study of either (1) a single doctrinal locus (Christology, Trinity, Sacraments, etc.) from multiple methodologies or (2) multiple doctrines through a single methodology (e.g., liberational theology). The course is run seminar style. (from Catalog)

This course will explore Christian theologies of migration from a Trinitarian perspective. This course will specifically address the following questions throughout the semester: What does it mean for the church to look at the phenomenon of human migration from a theological (Trinitarian) perspective? How does Christian theology have to do with the global phenomenon of human migration? How should the church and faith communities engage in the ministry of social care and justice for migrant people? In answering these questions as a class, this course will particularly focus on five key theological themes that lie at the foundation of all migration theologies – the Bible, God, Christ, the Holy Spirit, and the Church. By critically examining the biblical and theological significance of human migration in light of these five theological aspects, this course will integrate rich and diverse theological voices of the world.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Through the course students will:

1. Understand and analyze multifaceted social, economic, and (geo)political backgrounds of the global migration of people.
2. Expand their hermeneutic scope by exploring and hearing the real voices of migrant people by uncovering the buried stories of their suffering, healing, or liberation (redemption).
3. Develop a Trinitarian theology of migration by critically engaging diverse biblical and theological sources on human migration.

4. Construct a practical-theological perspective on the church's engagement in the humanitarian crisis of migrating people.

REQUIRED TEXTS

1. Daniel Groody, *A Theology of Migration: The Bodies of Refugees and the Body of Christ* (Orbis, 2022)
2. Ilsup Ahn, *Theology and Migration* (Brill, 2019): An ebook is available on Canvas.
3. Peter Phan, ed. *Christian Theology in the Age of Migration: Implications for World Christianity* (Lexington Books, 2020)
4. Daniel Montanez and Wilmer Estrada-Carrasquillo, eds. *The Church and Migration: A Theological Vision for the People of God* (Centro Para Estudios Latinos Press, 2022)
5. Additional pdf journal articles and ebook links are available on Canvas.

ASSESSMENT (See Canvas for additional guidelines and grading rubrics.)

1. Weekly Reading Journal (30%: CO 1, 2, 3, 4)

Students are expected to complete the reading before coming to class and be ready to engage in class discussion. Students are also expected to upload their weekly critical reading report (a summary paper of 500-600 words) on Canvas via Turnitin. All class and group discussions are conducted in such a manner that all students contribute to mutual learning by showing respect to the views of others as well as by actively responding to others' ideas in an open and reciprocal environment. Attendance is expected for all class sessions (except for emergent situations). Two absences (each day of class counts as two sessions) are allowed without penalty to a student's final grade; three absences may negatively impact their final grade. Students with four or more unexcused absences may not pass the course.

2. Leading Class Discussion (20%: CO 1, 3, 4)

Each student will have the opportunity to help other students develop and deepen their theological views of migration by leading the class along with their textual presentations and critical reflection. A sign-up sheet for available dates/sessions and more details will be provided on the day of our first class.

3. Presentation of Migrant Stories (10%: CO 1, 2)

Each class will begin with a communal act of hearing the real stories of migrant people (from all over the world), and each student will have the opportunity to introduce their hidden, untold, or buried stories to the class. This presentation is based on a short narrative summary of migrant people's real stories of suffering, healing, or liberation (redemption). This presentation will be followed up by students' theological exploration and reflection. (25-30 min will be given to this activity.) A sign-up sheet for available dates/sessions and more details will be provided on the day of our first class.

4. Integrative Final Paper (30%: CO 1, 2, 3, 4)

Throughout the semester, each student is expected to develop and construct their distinctive theology on migration. Students will also have an opportunity to present their theological development at the end of the semester. The final paper should be around 3,000 words, and its topic should be chosen by the student in consultation with the instructor. The overall research/reflective question for this final paper is “How should we engage the phenomenon of human migration from a theological (Trinitarian) perspective?” Final paper guidelines will be available on Canvas. The due for this project is May 4, 2023.

5. Presentation (10%: CO 1, 2, 3, 4)

Students are also expected to present their practical theologies of migration (based on their final paper) at the end of the semester. Each student will be given 20-25 min for the presentation, and this presentation may be performed in multiple formats (e.g., PowerPoint presentation, preaching, liturgical performance with a script, visual or performing art, etc.) A sign-up sheet for available dates/sessions and more details will be provided on the day of our first class.

ADDITIONAL COURSE GUIDELINES

1. Course Work and Assessment

- Any materials provided on Canvas are for personal use only; they should not be circulated or posted on social media or the Internet.
- Rubrics for each task can be found on Canvas
- Weekly reading journals should be uploaded on Canvas before 9:00 AM CTD.
- Without a prearranged adjustment 24 hours before the due date, work submitted late will receive a 1/3 grade reduction each day. Work will no longer be accepted after two weeks of the original date except for extraordinary occasions.

2. Attendance and Participation

- Tardiness is not free. Two late arrivals will be considered an absence.
- Students may not be subject to grade deduction up to two absences throughout the semester. More than two absences, however, will result in a downgrade of the student's final grade.
- Students are strongly encouraged to participate in class discussions or group discussions. Students, however, have the right not to respond to others' views.
- Students who greatly contribute to the enhancement of the live and conducive class discussion may receive an extra point during the semester

3. Communication

- My office is not in the seminary building. Students may email me to have an in-person meeting at Caroline Hall (3rd floor). Email is my preferred communication channel. Before sending an email (for informational purposes), please check out the syllabus or Canvas since rubrics and assessment guidelines are posted on Canvas.

4. Class Etiquette

- Laptops are allowed but should be used only for class purposes. Internet roaming or email checking etc. are prohibited during class hours. Violation of this regulation will result in the deduction of the final grade.
- During class, phones must be put away and turned off or on silent mode. Please do not text either.
- Arriving on time is a way of respecting others including both the instructor and fellow students.

ACADEMIC HONESTY

In keeping with our Christian heritage and commitment, North Park Theological Seminary is committed to the highest possible ethical and moral standards. Just as we will constantly strive to live up to these high standards, we expect our students to do the same. To that end, cheating of any sort will not be tolerated. Students who are discovered cheating will receive a failing grade on the assignment and are subject to discipline up to and including failure of a course and expulsion. Our definition of cheating includes but is not limited to:

1. Plagiarism – the use of another’s work as one’s own without giving credit to the individual. This includes using materials from the internet.
 2. Copying another person’s answers on an examination.
 3. Deliberately allowing another to copy one’s answers or work.
 4. Signing an attendance roster for another who is not present.
- For additional information, see the [Seminary Academic Catalog](#), pp. 25–27.

ACCOMMODATIONS

Students with disabilities who believe that they may need accommodations in this class are encouraged to contact the program’s office as soon as possible to ensure accommodations are implemented in a timely manner. For further information, see [Seminary Academic Catalog](#), pp. 19–20, and “[Disability Resources](#)” provided through North Park’s Office of Student Enrichment Services and Support.

TITLE IX

Students who believe they have been harassed, discriminated against, or involved in sexual violence should contact the Dean of Students (773-244-5565) or Director of Human Resources (773-244-5599) for information about campus resources and support

services, including confidential counseling services. As a member of the North Park faculty, we are concerned about the well-being and development of our students and are available to discuss any concerns. Faculty are legally obligated to share information with the University's Title IX coordinator in certain situations to help ensure that the student's safety and welfare are being addressed, consistent with the requirements of the law. These disclosures include but are not limited to reports of sexual assault, relational/domestic violence, and stalking. Please refer to [North Park's Safe Community site](#) for contact information and further details.

INCOMPLETE POLICY

If, due to extenuating circumstances, a student anticipates he will be unable to complete course work within the allotted time, that student must submit the request form for a grade of incomplete to the course instructor before the last week of class clearly stating the reason(s) for this request. Overscheduling and/or lack of self-discipline are not considered extenuating circumstances. If the request is timely and meets the criteria, the grade for that class will be listed as "I" until the last day of the following semester. If coursework is not submitted by the last day of the following semester the listing of "I" will automatically be changed to "F."

PROVISO

The instructor reserves the right to alter this syllabus at any time should it be warranted by the demands of sound pedagogy. Changes to the syllabus will be announced in class. The instructor reserves the right to alter this syllabus at any time should it be warranted by the demands of sound pedagogy. In any event, the posted, e-text version of the syllabus and schedule of classes are authoritative, taking precedence over any printed version

CLASS SCHEDULE

January 19 – Introduction to the Course

General Overview – Purpose, Structure, Expectations, Requirements, Evaluations

Film: *Trails of Hope and Terror* (Vincent De La Torre, 2019).

January 26 – Covenant Midwinter Conference – Class does not meet

February 2 – Migration in Historical, Religious, and Structural Context

- Narrative Reflection: Migration Stories 1
- Session 1: Daniel Groody, “Migration and the Human Story” in *A Theology of Migration: The Bodies of Refugees and the Body of Christ* (Orbis, 2020) & Ciprian Burlacioiu, “Migration and Church History” in *Christian Theology in the Age of Migration* (Lexington, 2020)
- Session 2: William Barbieri Jr. “The Migrant *Imago*: Migration and the Ethics of Human Dignity” & Kristin Heyer, “Migration and Structural Injustice” in *Christian Theology in the Age of Migration* (Lexington, 2020)

February 9 – The Bible and Migration I

- Narrative Reflection: Migration Stories 2
- Session 1: Markus Zehnder, “Complexity of Views on Migration Attested in the Hebrew Bible” in *The Bible and Imagination* (Pickwick, 2021)
- Session 2: Daniel Groody, “The First Reading: The Old Testament and Migration” in *A Theology of Migration: The Bodies of Refugees and the Body of Christ* (Orbis, 2020)

February 16 – The Bible and Migration II

- Narrative Reflection: Migration Stories 3
- Session 1: Susanna Snyder, “Ecology of Faith: Ruth and the Syro-Phoenician Woman,” in *Asylum-Seeking, Migration, and Church* (Routledge, 2016).
- Session 2: Markus Zehnder, “New Testament Views on Migration,” in *The Bible and Immigration* (Pickwick, 2021).

February 23 – God and Migration I

- Narrative Reflection: Migration Stories 4

- Session 1: Peter Phan, “God, the Beginning and the End of Migration: A Theology of God from the Experience and Perspective of Migrants,” in *Christian Theology in the Age of Migration* (Lexington, 2020)
- Session 2: Ilsup Ahn, “Criminalization, Apophatic Theology, and Giftful Migrants,” in *Theology and Migration* (Brill, 2019)

March 2 – God and Migration II

- Narrative Reflection: Migration Stories 5
- Session 1: Luis N. Rivera-Pagan, “Toward a Theology of Migration” in *Theologies on the Move: Religion, Migration, and Pilgrimage in the World of Neoliberal Capital* (Lexington, 2020).
- Session 2: Daniel Groody, “The Gospel Reading: The Divine Migration” in *A Theology of Migration: The Bodies of Refugees and the Body of Christ* (Orbis, 2020).

March 9 – Christ and Migration I

- Narrative Reflection: Migration Stories 6
- Session 1: Gioacchino Campese, “¿Cuántos Mas?: The Crucified Peoples at the U.S.-Mexico Border,” in *A Promised Land, A Perilous Journey: Theological Perspectives on Migration* (Notre Dame, 2008) & Daniel Groody, “Jesus and the Undocumented Immigrant: A Spiritual Geography of a Crucified People,” *Theological Studies* 70.2 (2009).
- Session 2: Ilsup Ahn, “A Christological Reflection on Migration and State Terror,” in *Theology and Migration* (Brill, 2019)

March 16 – Spring Reading Week (Spring Break) – Class does not meet.

March 23 – Christ and Migration II

- Narrative Reflection: Migration Stories 7
- Session 1: Sammy Alfaro, “Incarnation and Redemption: Jesus the Migrant” & “The Restoration of the Kingdom: Disciples on the Move,” in *The Church and Migration: A Theological Vision for the People of God* (Centro Para Estudios Latinos Press, 2022)
- Session 2: Daniel Groody, “The Body of Christ as Bread for the World,” in *A Theology of Migration: The Bodies of Refugees and the Body of Christ* (Orbis, 2020).

March 30 – The Holy Spirit and Migration I

- Narrative Reflection: Migration Stories 8
- Session 1: Ilsup Ahn, “The Global Migration of People and *Missio Spiritus*,” in *Theology and Migration* (Brill, 2019).

- Session 2: Daniel Groody, “The Bodies of Refugees and the Body of Christ,” in *A Theology of Migration: The Bodies of Refugees and the Body of Christ* (Orbis, 2020).

April 6 – The Holy Spirit and Migration II

- Narrative Reflection: Migration Stories 9
- Session 1: Sam George and Godfrey Harold, “Motus Dei (The Move of God): A Theology and Missiology for a Moving World,” in *Pharos Journal of Theology* 102 (2021).
- Session 2: Ilsup Ahn, “Toward a Paradigm Change of Hospitality from Gift to Forgiveness: Economy of Invisible Debt and Ethics of Radical Hospitality.” *Journal of Religious Ethics* 38, no. 2

April 13 – The Church and Migration I

- Narrative Reflection: Migration Stories 10
- Session 1: Rose Cuisson-Villazor and Ulrich Schmiedel, “‘No more deaths’: religious liberty as a defense for providing sanctuary for immigrants,” in *Christianity and the Law of Migration* (Routledge, 2022).
- Session 2: Ilsup Ahn, “Toward a Trinitarian Ecclesiology of Migration,” in *Theology and Migration* (Brill, 2019) & Susanna Snyder “Supporting Asylum Seekers: Church Activities and Projects,” in *Asylum-Seeking, Migration, and Church* (Routledge, 2016).

April 20 – The Church and Migration II

- Session 1: Gemma Tulud Cruz, “Witness and as witness: Underclass migrant workers and pastoral ministry by the Churches” in *Christian Across Borders: Theology and Contemporary Issues in Global Migration* (Routledge, 2016)
- Session 2: Gemma Tulud Cruz, “Toward Just and Inclusive Communities: ‘Undesirable aliens’ and Christian mission in the context of the European migrant and refugee crisis of 2015 and its aftermath” in *Christian Across Borders: Theology and Contemporary Issues in Global Migration* (Routledge, 2016) & Ulrich Schmeidel, “Coalitional Church: Ecclesiology in the Age of Migration” in *Christian Theology in the Age of Migration* (Lexington, 2020)
- Session 3: Conclusive Theological Reflections

April 27 & May 4 – Student Research Presentation I & II