Summer Course of Study
Book List and Pre-work

Advanced Practical Theology
Session One: Sunday, July 5 - Thursday, July 16, 2015
11:00am – 1:15pm

Instructor: Elizabeth DeGaynor
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Course Description
This course explores various models and methods for doing practical theology. It attends to the cultural context and to the theological values of particular communities, noticing how myriad elements shape our embodied practices of faith and impact our ability to witness God's movement in the world. Our communal learning emphasizes the acquisition of skills that aid in faithful human flourishing (e.g., ethnographic observation and theological reflection) in the overlapping spheres of congregational gathering and everyday living, including public engagement.

Required Texts
Mary McClintock Fulkerson, *Places of Redemption: Theology for a Worldly Church*

Mary Clark Moschella, *Ethnography as a Pastoral Practice*

Marilynne Robinson, *Gilead*

Pre-Course Work:
1. **Writing Assignment:** Please read chapters 1-3 of *Ethnography as a Pastoral Practice* (pgs 25-85). Look carefully at Figure 1. Guidelines for Research Plan (p. 84). In 3-5 pages (typed, double-spaced, 12pt font, 1 inch margins, parenthetical citations): First, briefly describe your ministerial context and its unique needs, values, and gifts. Second, respond to the first two questions of Figure 1. Please email your essay to me (cad15@duke.edu) at least one week before the start of our course (Monday, June 29 – at the latest. You may send it to me earlier.)

2. **Reading Assignment:** Please read Marilynnne Robinson’s novel, *Gilead*, prayerfully and carefully. Pay attention to context (historical, geographical, theological), to what is written, and to what seems absent from the story. Mark passages that you find striking, troubling, or confusing.