Course Title: **Baptismal Ecclesiology (HT 446/646)**

Term Offered: **Fall 2017**

Meeting Dates/Times:

- **Online:** August 22 introductions begin; all course work due by December 23.

- **On-site at Bexley Seabury:**
  - September 8-9: Friday 1:00-7:15 PM, Saturday 8:30AM-3:00 PM
  - October 6-7: Friday 1:00-7:15 PM, Saturday 8:30AM-3:00 PM
  - November 3-4: Friday 1:00-7:1500 PM, Saturday 8:30AM-3:00 PM

Instructors: **John A. Dally and BSSF Faculty**

Contact Information: jdally@bexleyseabury.edu; (773)380-7044

Office Hours: You may reach me by email at any time. Prior to the onsite class meetings you may reach me by phone on Tuesdays. You may leave a voice message at any time; it will be forwarded to me as an MP3.

Course Description:

What is the shape of a church called into being by baptism? The liturgical renewal of the late 20th Century moved baptism to the center of the Christian life and provided a new basis for ecumenical reconciliation and shared mission. This course, taught by the entire Bexley Seabury faculty, will consider the implications of that shift from multiple viewpoints.

Course Goals and Outcomes:

1. Participants will cultivate an understanding of the meaning, mission, and ministry of Christ’s church, and of their identity as members of Christ’s body, that is grounded in the sacrament of baptism and in the baptismal covenant of the Episcopal Church.
Outcomes:

1.1. Participants will be able to describe the multiple dimensions of baptismal ecclesiology and to explain its foundational significance in the life and ministry of the church and of its members.

1.2. Participants will be able to identify in liturgical and musical texts the biblical baptismal themes that have their origins in the synoptic gospels, Gospel of John, and in the Pauline Epistles.

2. Participants acquire knowledge about the rites, symbols, and liturgical practices associated with Baptism the Book of Common Prayer.

Outcomes:

2.1. Participants will be able to demonstrate that they are conversant about the rites, symbols, and liturgical practices of Baptism in the BCP.

2.2. Participants will be able to demonstrate familiarity with musical resources related to baptismal identity and missiology.

3. Participants will deepen their understanding of their own baptismal calls according to their orders within the household of faith.

Course Requirements:

Credit students: Attendance at all three weekend on-site session. Completion of all assigned readings and writing assignments (see below); participation in all Moodle discussions (online classroom) as assigned.

Enrichment students: Completion of selected readings (specified by dates of participation) and participation in pertinent Moodle discussions

Required Work and Basis for Evaluation (Credit Students)

♦ Participation in classroom discussion (15%) Assessed on the basis of the rubric for classroom discussion
♦ Participation in Moodle site assignments (15%) Assessed on the basis of the rubric for online work
♦ Completion of all assigned readings
♦ Completion of all work assigned by instructors and one final project due December 23.
Late work—i.e., anything submitted after December 23—cannot be accepted without permission from the instructor before December 23 and submission of the incomplete form, which students can obtain from the registrar.

♦ Students enrolled in this course for credit or enrichment are expected to adhere to the policies and statements of Seabury’s student handbook: http://www.seabury.edu/student-resources.html.

**Required Reading:**

Books to be read in their entirety:


Excerpts posted to the Moodle site:


Stewart, Benjamin M. “Water in Worship.” *Christian Century* 128, no. 3 (February 8, 2011): 22-25
Final Project Guidelines:

Students will identify in their own context a church or work moment when baptismal sensibility offers a chance to glimpse or come closer to the Kingdom of God. The project will be discussed at the end of each weekend session as the implications of the various presentations are drawn out. Students will leave the first weekend with a project in mind, refine that project during the second weekend, and present their projects and outcomes at the final class meeting. A written report of the project and its outcomes will serve as the artifact for this course. (8-10 pages double-spaced, due no later than 12/23/17.)

On-Site Class Plan

Friday 9/8: Swimming Together in Holy Water: A Liturgical and Theological Introduction to Baptismal Ecclesiology: Therese DeLisio

What is baptismal ecclesiology? In what ways is it foundational to the meaning of Christian identity, mission and ministry? How is it informed by biblical texts, expressed in the 1979 Book of Common Prayer, and embodied in baptismal practice? (1.1, 1.2, and 2.1)

Required Reading:

Stewart, Benjamin M. “Water in Worship.” *Christian Century* 128, no. 3 (February 8, 2011): 22-25

Recommended Reading:

Joslyn-Siemiatkowski, Daniel E. and Meyers, Ruth A. “The Baptismal


Saturday 9/9: **Instead of Death: Baptism as Empowerment for Life: John Dally**

How does a baptismal identity empower us to bring life to death-like personal and social situations? (1.1, 3)

**Required Reading:**

Stringfellow, William. *Instead of Death (New Expanded Edition)*

Friday 10/6: **Congregational Singing as an Expression of Baptismal Ecclesiology: Milner Seifert**

What does our singing together convey? How do the songs that we sing form us as the people of God? (2.1, 2.2)

**Required Reading:**


Saturday 10/7: **Baptismal Ecclesiology and Mission: Jason Fout**

Through baptism, God empowers us and moves us out in mission. How do Anglicans think about mission, how do we do evangelism, and how can fresh expressions of church express a baptismal ecclesiology? (1.1, 3)

**Required Reading:**


Friday 11/3: **Baptismal Ecclesiology and the Gifts of the Spirit: Suzanne Holding Doak**

Students will have an opportunity to expand their understanding and practice of aspects of the Christian spiritual life with attentiveness to how their own spiritual life contributes to the life of the Christian community. (3)

**Required Reading:**

Saturday 11/4: **Members of One Body: Christ’s Church in a Global and Pluralistic Society:**

**Kyung Ja Oh**

How do pluralism and an increasingly global society broaden the meaning, mission and ministry of Christ’s Church, our perception of God and deepen our own identity and our ability to see Christ in those who differ from ourselves? (1.1, 3)

**Required Reading:**


**Absence Policy**

Due to the intensive nature of our courses on campus, it is especially important that you be present for the entirety of each weekend session. Please adjust your personal and employment calendars accordingly. In the event of an unanticipated absence due to illness or emergency, you must notify your instructor immediately. It is within the discretion of the instructor, up to an absence of one day during an intensive, to determine whether or not and to what extent a grade reduction is appropriate and/or makeup work will be required. Beyond an absence of one day, it is within the discretion of the academic dean, in consultation with the instructor, to determine if a passing grade for academic credit will be permitted. It is the student’s responsibility to request class notes for missed classes from another student.

**A Word about Assessment**

The Bexley Seabury Seminary Federation regularly evaluates the quality of our programs using a variety of data and artifacts, including portfolios of students’ work. These portfolios consist of designated student work (artifacts) from each course, along with the instructor’s rubric-based evaluation of the artifact.

At the end of the term, the course instructor will send your final project/mission plan and the evaluation of your work to you and to the Officer for Academic Affairs for inclusion in your portfolio.

We use your portfolio to assess student learning (in the aggregate) and the effectiveness of our curricula in reaching desired goals and objectives. This process does not involve any further evaluation of your work for grading purposes. No portfolio or artifact is evaluated until all identifying information is removed. No identifying information will be included in any evaluation or report.
For further information, see the Student Handbook. You may also talk with your instructor, the Assessment Officer (Prof. Jason Fout, jfout@bexleyseabury.edu), or the Academic Dean (Prof. Terry DeLisio, tdelisio@bexleyseabury.edu).

**Bexley Seabury’s Statement on Responsible Use of Material by Others**

Plagiarism is the taking of the words, ideas, and methods of others as one's own. In academia, plagiarism involves the use of others' words and ideas without adequate reference to the author or indication of quotation. It is a serious form of academic dishonesty or academic fraud, and offenders are subject to discipline, up to and including expulsion from the school. In order to avoid plagiarism, especially by inappropriate use or citation of quotations and ideas, students are expected to familiarize themselves with the requirements and practices of citation found in *Turabian’s Manual for Writers*. Unfamiliarity with these requirements and practices is not an acceptable reason for unintentional plagiarism. Plagiarism cannot be evaded through the alteration of occasional words from one's source.

When plagiarism is detected, the instructor will assign the work an appropriate grade and then refer the matter, together with evidence, to the Academic Dean who, in consultation with the faculty and the President, will make an appropriate disposition of the matter, which may include failure of the course, academic probation for a designated period, suspension for a designated period, or expulsion from the program. The student's bishop will normally be notified of the situation. Those who have questions about the nature and scope of plagiarism should consult the Academic Dean.