



**Anglican Formation PSF 300 (0 credits)/PSF
301 (1 credit)**

[PLEASE NOTE: THIS SYLLABUS MAY BE SUBJECT
TO CHANGE]

Term and Year Offered: Fall 2020

Learning Environment This is a fully online course that begins with two days of synchronous sessions followed by monthly online synchronous meetings and asynchronous work.

Meeting Dates/Times/Place: This class meets via Zoom from 1:00 PM to 5:00 PM on Saturday, August 29th and from 9:30 AM to 1:00 PM on Sunday, August 30th. Subsequent synchronous sessions will be from 7:00 PM to 8:30 PM on the first Monday of October (10/5), November (11/2), and December (12/7). Asynchronous work and due dates will appear on Canvas and with a summary in the detailed course schedule that follows.

Instructor(s): The Rev. Eileen Shanley-Roberts

Contact Information: Email is preferred - eshanleyroberts@bexleyseabury.edu
Please text for urgent matters 847-894-7986

Office hours: Office hours are by appointment. Please email to schedule a Zoom meeting.

Course Description:

Anglican Formation provides students with the opportunity to cultivate three fundamental spiritual tools common to the Anglican Tradition: first, intentional participation in community; second, theological self-reflection; and third, fluent conversation between scripture and daily life experience. The course is designed to support and stretch students throughout their seminary experience by developing effective strategies for forming personal, spiritual, and relational support in ministry. In this semester of formation we will ask the question “How did I get here?” as we explore how, when, and why each of us came to the Episcopal Church. Through the course of the semester we will broaden our inquiry to ask “How did we get here?” as we examine the broader cultural context of being part of the Anglican Communion and the Episcopal Church in the twenty-first century. Our final question, which will not be resolved, becomes “Where do we go from here?” as we explore the challenges that face a traditionally homogenous institution that exists in a heterogenous culture. These are big questions. The goal of formation is not to find the right answer but to find more of the questions and work as a community to explore possible responses. Note: All M.Div students are required to take Anglican Formation. For those who enrolled prior to Fall 2019, this is a one-credit course for a maximum of six possible credits.

Course Goals and Outcomes:

Students successfully completing this course will develop:

Goal: Understanding of their own personal narratives that frame their world view.

Outcomes: Students will know they have achieved this goal when they demonstrate:

- a critical awareness of one's own social location, culture, preconceptions and biases, and a sense of self that is informed by one's own cultural narrative. [MDiv outcome 3.4]
- the ability to articulate one's own beliefs and to reflect on one's own spiritual and vocational experience and development. [MDiv outcome 4.2]

Assessment These will be assessed by observation and participation in synchronous sessions and online engagement with the material.

Goal: An ability to recognize assumptions made about self and others and reflect theologically on the effect of those assumptions.

Outcomes: Students will know they have achieved this goal when they demonstrate:

- the capacity to engage in various methods and techniques of theological reflection. [MDiv outcome 4.1]
- the ability to appreciate the connection between spirituality and the pursuit of justice. [MDiv outcome 4.3]

Assessment: These will be assessed by observation by instructors as well as self and peer evaluations.

Learning Methodology:

How we function as a community is a question that the church asks itself over and over again, especially during periods of change and growth. Anglican Formation is one of the primary opportunities for Bexley Seabury students to develop community and engage in collaborative learning. Typically, we begin with a required in-person retreat that introduces the topical focus for the semester and allows for significant community interaction and exchange across the M.Div. program. We know that there is no replacement for in person relationship building. We also know that health and safety take precedence over companionship and fun. With that in mind, for Fall 2020, we will forgo the in-person retreat in favor of several synchronous sessions during the scheduled retreat time with additional asynchronous independent and group work. We follow up with monthly Zoom meetings to continue the discussion and engage in topical group work. Regardless of the semester's topic, the unifying element of Anglican Formation is how we function as a community. The topic is the vehicle through which we explore our inter- and intra-personal dynamics for ministry and leadership. While the content is important, the grade for Anglican Formation is not dependent on content mastery. Instead, Anglican Formation students are graded on how well they function in the learning environment and engage with their peers. This includes the ability to share leadership, allow and encourage the gifts of others to shine, hold each other mutually accountable, remain in the discomfort of not being in control, and trust that others will do their part.

Anglican Formation allows space for personal prayer and reflection and students are encouraged to find and meet with a spiritual director. Anglican Formation is not intended to be a course in which different prayer forms are explored in a systematic way or that incorporates group spiritual

direction. While important, they are more about personal piety than communal formation and are beyond the scope of this course.

Required and Recommended Books and Resources:

There is only one book required for this course. Continuing students should already have this volume. It will not be discussed directly in class and simply serves as a baseline for understanding and practicing theological self reflection.

Blodgett, Barbara and Matthew Floding, *Brimming with God: Reflecting Theologically on Cases in Ministry*, Eugene, OR, Pickwick Publications: 2015.

All other resources, including those related to issues of historic racism and the culture of white supremacy, will either be provided on Canvas as they are needed for our shared work or the responsibility of students through independent research using the library or simple internet searches. If the latter, follow the specific instructions for evaluating sources and materials found in the prompt.

Course Assignments and Expectations:

- Attendance at and participation in initial synchronous sessions (30 points)
- Participation in monthly synchronous sessions (30 points/10 points per session)
- Engagement with asynchronous group and individual material as found on Canvas (25 points)
- Participation in student led worship/prayer (in any form) via the closed student group (5 points)
- Completion of a final self and peer evaluation that assesses engagement with material and willingness to engage with the community with a brief reflection on the self and peer evaluation. These two items will serve as the artifact for this course. (10 points)
- You must have at least 80 points to pass this course

Course Grading & Feedback:

- This is either a pass/fail 1-credit or a 0-credit class.
- Participation in the various components of the course makes up the bulk of your grade. Absences are allowed, but you are responsible for tracking your points to ensure that you pass the class.
- Feedback will be provided within 2 days of receiving an on-time assignment.

Bexley Seabury requires a minimum grade of C to pass a course.								
Grade	Points	Description	Grade	Points	Description	Grade	Points	Description
A (4.00)	96-100	Superior/Mastery	A- (3.67)	90-95	Excellent	B+ (3.33)	87-89	Very Good
B (3.00)	84-86	Good (high)	B- (2.67)	80-83	Good (low)	C+ (2.33)	75-79	Acceptable (high)
C (2.00)	70-74	Acceptable/Adequate						
F/NC (0)	<70	Unacceptable (Fail/No Credit)						
A grade of "P" in a Pass/Fail course is equivalent to a grade of C or above.								

A Word about Assessment:

Bexley Seabury Seminary regularly evaluates the quality of our programs using a variety of data, including documents that are deposited into student portfolios. These portfolios consist of designated student work (artifacts) from each course, along with the instructor's graded artifact and a scored rubric that assesses the work in light of desired curricular outcomes. The designated assessment artifact for this course is the reflection on the self-and peer evaluation.

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 identifying information will be included in any evaluation or report provided to our accreditors or other outside parties. For further information, see the Student Handbook. You may also talk with your instructor, your advisor, the Assessment Coordinator (Lelia Fry, lfry@bexleyseabury.edu), or the Academic Dean, (Terry DeLisio, tdelisio@bexleyseabury.edu).

Preliminary work:

In order to maximize our synchronous sessions, I hope to restrict housekeeping details to asynchronous time using Canvas or email. If you have a housekeeping question, please check Canvas or email me directly. Unless it really is a question for the entire group, please use reply rather than reply all as your default.

Prior to our synchronous sessions on August 29 and 30, please read Blodgett and Floding, *Brimming with God*, and review this syllabus and our Canvas page for dates, course expectations and norms, and a brief description of how we will create sacred space.

August 29-30 "Formation Retreat"

We will try very hard to adhere to the posted start times for each section. We will try to conclude each section with 5 or more minutes for people to take breaks. Yes, eating and drinking during the Zoom call is acceptable. Yes, pets are welcome, but mute if the dog starts barking, the cat decides to attack your mouse, or some other disruptive event is happening in your world.

August 29 Formation Retreat Schedule

1:00 PM	Gathering, introductions, and overview
2:00PM	Confidential conversation time for students
2:30PM	Why are we here?
4:00PM	Debrief & Evening Prayer

August 30 Formation Retreat Schedule (cont.)

9:30 AM	Morning Prayer
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10:30 AM	Plenary
11:00 AM	Small groups
12:00 PM	Plenary
1:00 PM	Dismissal

Class Schedule and Assignments

Between our synchronous meetings you will be asked to engage in theological self-reflection, around the topics identified with each date. You may record your reflections in writing, as an audio file, as something visual, or simply in your head. The key is to come to each session prepared to engage the materials with your peers. There will be a small amount of reading or research required for each session that will have grown out of the previous month's discussion. Please see Canvas for specific assignments for each class.

Between our synchronous sessions you are encouraged to join your peers for student organized communal prayer. This is not a worship requirement, but it is an encouragement to connect with each other as a matter of regular practice. This component is worth 5 points (1 point for each time you pray with other students awarded on the honor system) Details for this will be provided at the retreat and then made available on Canvas.

October 5 Synchronous Class 7pm – 8:30pm CST

How did we get here?

What do you love about TEC?

What problems or challenges do you see in TEC?

November 2 Synchronous Class 7pm–8:30pm (CST)

The story of Joseph's Bones

What is essential to Episcopal identity and what can/should we give up to be more multicultural? Please pay special attention to issues that may implicitly or explicitly foster a culture of white supremacy and/or exclude individuals or groups because of their racial, ethnic, or cultural heritage.

December 7 Synchronous Class 7pm-8:30pm (CT)

Where do we go from here?

During this session we continue to explore the tradition of white supremacy, racial dominance, and colonialism that is the legacy of the Anglican Communion and discuss ways that we, as members of the body of Christ, might work to develop the beloved community.

Reflection on Peer and Self Evaluation must be received by December 15 in order to pass this class.

Additional Information:

A word about children and other important people in your life: Unlike pets, children take in far more than we realize. I love to see your kids and the other people who share your life, and I appreciate and respect that the conversations in which we engage are often deeply personal and should be kept confidential. As students, you have pledged to maintain confidentiality, the rest of your household has not. Moreover, sometimes topics arise that might not be developmentally appropriate for your child. I can't judge that for you (neither can anyone else in the class). If you need to attend to someone or something, do what you need to do. If the kids want to say hi or your spouse or other adult passes through the room, cool. In the interest of confidentiality and comfort for your classmates, please encourage them to move on quickly. If possible, find a place to work that is apart from the main traffic flow in your home. We love you. We want to know you as full human beings who are in relationships and have competing responsibilities. We also need to value each other's time, trust, and commitment to this process.

Headphones, while not essential, can help with the audio and make it possible to participate in a Zoom session without muting. Try to find a place with a stable internet connection. If you cannot, it is possible to phone in to class. The phone number is provided with the Zoom link. You have all the dates and times. Please, try to schedule yourself so you are not going between locations during class time. It is disruptive to the rest of the class to pop in and out as you are driving. I know that things come up. Let me know in advance and we will try to work something out (and yes, I too have attended a child's hockey game or concert and class simultaneously).

ALL STUDENTS IN BEXLEY SEABURY COURSES ARE EXPECTED TO BE FAMILIAR WITH THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION THAT IS PROVIDED ON CANVAS:

- ACADEMIC POLICIES AND FORMS;
- REQUESTS FOR WITHDRAWALS, EXTENSIONS, AND INCOMPLETES;
- TECHNOLOGICAL REQUIREMENTS AND ASSISTANCE,
- WRITING GUIDELINES AND ASSISTANCE;
- COURSE NETIQUETTE;
- PROHIBITION OF PLAGIARISM