



**Anglican Formation PSF 300 (0 credits)/**

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

**Term and Year Offered: Fall 2022**

**Learning Environment:** This is a hybrid course that begins with an in-person retreat followed by monthly online synchronous meetings.

**Meeting Dates/Times/Place:** This class meets in person on the CTS campus (1407 E. 60<sup>th</sup> St., Chicago) from 12:30 PM to 7:00 PM on Saturday, August 27th and from 9:00 AM to 12:30 PM on Sunday, August 28th. Continuing students are encouraged to arrive early to participate in Matriculation, which begins at 11:00 AM. Lunch and dinner will be provided on Saturday.

Subsequent synchronous sessions will be from 7:00 PM to 8:30 PM on the first Monday of each month (10/3, 11/7, 12/5) Any asynchronous work and due dates will appear on Canvas with a summary in the detailed course schedule that follows. **All times listed are Central Time (CT).**

**Instructor:** The Rev. Dr. Eileen Shanley-Roberts

**Contact Information:** Email is preferred [eshanleyroberts@bexleyseabury.edu](mailto: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:

1. intentional participation in community
2. theological self-reflection
3. 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. It is not intended to take the place of work with a spiritual director, neither is it intended to provide the primary introduction to the myriad of spiritual disciplines available to support student's spiritual development. The goal of formation is not to find the right answer but to engage in deep listening, develop more questions, and strive as a community that honors difference to explore possible responses to real life concerns in our broken world. Note: All MDIV students are required to take Anglican Formation. DAS students are encouraged to join Anglican Formation as an optional component of their Bexley Seabury experience.

## 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 their personal social location, culture, preconceptions and biases, and a sense of self that is informed by their personal cultural narrative (s). [MDiv outcome 3.4]
- the ability to articulate their own beliefs and reflect on their own spiritual and vocational experiences and development. [MDiv outcome 4.2]

**Assessment** These will be assessed by observation of interactions and participation during synchronous and in person sessions as well as engagement with course material, including final self reflection.

**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. 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 follow up with monthly Zoom meetings to continue our discussions 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. The monthly discussion prompts are not prescriptive neither to they require that groups arrive at a unified response. In this class, we practice speaking across differences, honoring other views, and fighting the urge to persuade.

Anglican Formation allows space for personal prayer and reflection and students are encouraged to find and meet with a spiritual director. Moreover, students are encouraged to plan prayer opportunities within their small group work and, perhaps, set up times to meet beyond the required course sessions. 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:**

In the fall semester, new students are asked to read: Blodgett, Barbara and Matthew Floding, *Brimming with God: Reflecting Theologically on Cases in Ministry*, Eugene, OR, Pickwick Publications: 2015.

Any additional resources 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 retreat (50 points)
- Participation in monthly synchronous sessions (30 points/10 points per session)
- Participation in student led worship/prayer outside of class (in any form) (10 points)
- Completion of a final self and peer evaluation that assesses engagement with material and willingness to engage with the community (10 points) with a brief reflection on the self and peer evaluation (10 points). These two items will serve as the artifact for this course.
- You must have at least 80 points to pass this course.

### **Better Practices for Zoom Sessions**

Zoom works best when certain criteria are met:

- The latest version of Zoom is installed. Periodically check for updates and download the latest version.
- One computer::one user. Everyone should have their own device (including camera and mic) and zoom link. This helps everyone come to the space equally.
- If you are in a shared or noisy space, use headphones/earbuds. In general, it is normally best to keep your mic muted unless you are speaking. This helps minimize background noise.
- Minimize distractions around you (try to be in the same location for the duration of the session). If you must be in transit, mute your mic.
- Plan ahead to ensure you have a stable internet connection for the duration on the session. If your connection becomes unstable, it may be helpful to turn off your video when you speak.
- Otherwise, cameras should generally be on, unless you need to step away to take care of something. This contributes toward demonstrating your presence and participation in class during the session.

**Course Grading & Feedback:**

- This is a pass/fail 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 5 days of the due date for on-time assignments. Please be aware that the Canvas gradebook reflects cumulative grades for assignments for your course, but the final official grade for the course will be recorded manually by the instructor in Populi.

<b>Bexley Seabury requires a minimum grade of C to pass a course.</b>		
<b>Grade</b>	<b>Points</b>	<b>Description</b>
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 (0)	< 70	Unacceptable (Fail)
<b>A grade of "P" in a Pass/Fail course is equivalent to a grade of C or above.</b>		

**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 self and peer evaluation with accompanying self-reflection.

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](mailto:lfry@bexleyseabury.edu)), or the Academic Dean, (The Rev. Dr. Jason Fout, [jfout@bexleyseabury.edu](mailto:jfout@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 the retreat on August 27-28, please review this syllabus and our Canvas page for dates, course expectations and norms, and a brief description of how we will create sacred space. Not every module will be visible at this time.

**Formation Retreat  
1407 E. 60<sup>th</sup> Street, Chicago, IL  
Saturday, August 27 to Sunday, August 28**

**Saturday, August 27**

<b>11:00 AM</b>	<b>Matriculation</b>
<b>12:30 -1:15</b>	<b>Lunch with entire community</b>
<b>1:45</b>	<b>Overview of weekend</b>
<b>2:15</b>	<b>Transmission of student lore and insights</b>
<b>3:15</b>	<b>Break</b>
<b>3:30</b>	<b>Plenary</b>
<b>4:00</b>	<b>Break out groups</b>
<b>5:00</b>	<b>Plenary</b>
<b>5:30</b>	<b>Evening Prayer</b>
<b>6:00</b>	<b>Dinner as a community</b>
<b>7:00</b>	<b>Social Time</b>

**Sunday, August 28**

<b>8:00 AM</b>	<b>Morning Prayer</b>
<b>8:30 AM</b>	<b>Light Breakfast Available</b>
<b>9:00 AM</b>	<b>Plenary</b>
<b>11:45 PM</b>	<b>Eucharist and sending forth</b>

*Please don't schedule return flights before 3:00 PM*

## **Class Schedule and Assignments**

Between our synchronous meetings you will be asked to engage in theological self-reflection, around our semester topic. You may wish to keep a journal to record your reflections in writing, as an audio file, as something visual, or simply in your head. You are not asked to hand anything in. This is an opportunity for you to try on various methods of theological reflection to **A.** discover what works for you and **B.** help you prepare to engage your group in conversation. There may be a small amount of reading or research required prior to a session that will have grown out of the previous month's discussion. **You should expect no more than 2 hours of work between synchronous sessions.** Please check Canvas prior to each meeting in case there is something specific for you to consider.

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 10 points (awarded on the honor system). Non course connected worship is listed on the Canvas Chapel site.

**October 3      Synchronous Class 7pm – 8:30pm CT**

**November 7   Synchronous Class 7pm–8:30pm (CT)**

**December 5   Synchronous Class 7pm-8:30pm (CT)**

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, I do not recommend this practice, but I sometimes endorse it.).

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