

**Mennonite Brethren Biblical Seminary**  
**Directed Study: Contextual Theology Methodology**

TS-735 (2Units)  
Spring 2009

452- 1768 (office); 255-5236 (home)  
e-mail: mbaker@mbseminary.edu  
Office Hours: Tuesday 1:00-2:30  
Wed. 1:30-3:30

Professor: Mark D. Baker, Ph.D.

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course builds on the Global Christian Theologies course and places the emphasis on methodology. The student will read descriptions of various methodologies and articulate a methodology he would like to use as he does contextual theology.

**Reading**

- Bevans, Stephen B. *Models of Contextual Theology*. Rev. and Exp. Ed. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books, 2002.
- Flemming, Dean E. *Contextualization in the New Testament: Patterns for Theology and Mission*. Downers Grove, Ill.: InterVarsity Press, 2005.
- Schreiter, Robert J. *Constructing local theologies*. Maryknoll, N.Y.: Orbis Books, 1985.
- Heibert, Paul. "Critical Contextualization." *International Bulletin of Missionary Research* 11, no 3 (July): 104-112.
- Padilla, C. Rene. "Hermeneutics and Culture," in *Down to Earth*, eds. Stott and Coote. Grand Rapids, Mich.: Eerdmans, 1980. 63-78.1-21.
- Boff, Clodovis. "Methodology of the Theology of Liberation,' in *Systematic Theology: Perspectives from Liberation Theology*, eds. Sobrino and Ellacuria. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books, 1993.
- Moreau, Scott. "Contextualization that is Comprehensive." *Missiology* 34, 3 (July 2006): 325-335.
- Vanhoozer, Kevin. "'One Rule to Rule Them All?' Theological Method in an Era of World Christianity," in *Globalizing Theology*, eds. Ott and Netland. Grand Rapids, Mich.: Baker Academic, 2006. 85-126.
- Priest, Robert J. "'Experience-Near Theologizing' in Diverse Human Contexts, in *Globalizing Theology*, eds. Ott and Netland. Grand Rapids, Mich.: Baker Academic, 2006.180-195.
- Sedmak, Clemens. *Doing Local Theology*. Maryknoll, N.Y.: Orbis Books, 2002. [168 pp]
- Nicholls, Bruce J. *Contextualization: a Theology of Gospel and Culture*. Downer's Grove, IL: Inter Varsity Press, 1979. [72 pp]

**Response to reading**

After each reading write a short response paper—length will vary depending on the length of the book/article and its perceived importance. Offer a brief description of the authors methodology (if appropriate) and compare and contrast it with others you have read, and with Bevans's models. What do you appreciate, what are your critiques, questions? What have you learned from reading this work and how might it contribute to your methodology.

**Final Paper**

Write a description of your methodology for contextual theology. Please include diagrams to

illustrate your method. This is to be understood as a working draft—you should expect to refine it in the future, and relatively short ten to fifteen pages.