

MN555 Polity and Program of the PC (USA)
University of Dubuque Theological Seminary
Course Description

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Summer, May 20-July 12, 2024
3 Credits, Letter Grade
Online

Course Description

This course provides an overview of Presbyterian Church (USA) polity, both in principle and in practice. Particular emphasis will be given to the use of the constitution in the local congregation and governing bodies.

The class will include lectures, discussion posts, case studies, and outside assignments.

Course Objectives

Students who complete this course will be able to:

- Articulate the denomination's broader missional purposes
- Describe Presbyterian connectional polity
- Demonstrate competency in moderating a session
- Interpret Presbyterian polity for the local congregation

Curricular Goals Fulfilled by This Course

M.Div.

- Educate and equip individuals and congregations to live and minister joyfully and faithfully as part of their own denomination and the ecumenical church.

M.A.M.D.

- Develop skills and capacities for faithful and competent Christian witness.

M.A.M.

- Articulate and interpret key Christian theological affirmations for Christian discipleship and ecclesial life.

Requirements

1. Timely completion of the assigned readings and lectures and weekly knowledge checks. 16%
2. Timely and thoughtful participation in class discussions. 16%
3. Attendance at a session meeting or presbytery meeting with permission, with submission of analysis of the meeting. (With approval reviewing a recorded meeting may be substituted if a meeting is not schedule during the course of the class) 30%

4. Completion of mid-term quiz 18%
5. Completion of final essay 20%

Bibliography

- Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) *The Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), Part I, The Book of Confessions*, 2016 (with index).
- Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), *The Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), Part II, The Book of Order*, 2023-2025
- Goodwiller, Gregory A., *A Guide to Parliamentary Procedure in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)* (This is a PDF document at https://www.pcusa.org/media/uploads/oga/pdf/parliamentary_procedure.pdf)
- Gray, Joan S. and Joyce Tucker, *Presbyterian Polity for Church Leaders* (Fourth Edition)
- Hooker, Paul K., *Faith, Hope, Love, and Witness: The PC(USA) Form of Government* (Leader's Guide and Participant's Book, *Being Reformed* Series) ... (Available from pcusa.org.)
- Wilton, Carlos E., *Principles of Presbyterian Polity*. Geneva Press. 2016.
- Select e-reserve articles and resources made available on the course site.