

Christian Theological Seminary  
Spring 2006

Hispanic Theology in North America  
T-645

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I General objective:

The course pretends to be a general introduction to the Hispanic/Latino theology, its different expressions, methodologies and approaches. Special reference is made to current trends, crucial issues and challenges.

II Specific objectives:

1. To analyze the historical roots of the Hispanic/Latino presence in the US.
2. To see the Hispanic Diaspora from a theological perspective, concentrating, particularly, on a way of doing theology from a Hispanic perspective.
3. To explore the different church models arising from praxis of faith and daily experiences of the people.
4. To look at biblical hermeneutics within the Hispanic contexts.
5. To concentrate on the multifaceted expressions and developments of pastoral models from a Hispanic perspective.
6. To clarify and discern some critical issues, challenges and problems facing the future of a Hispanic theology in the US.

III Outline

Introduction – January 19

*Child of the Americas (Poem)* - Aurora Levins Morales

1. A people called "Hispanic," "Hispanic American," "US Hispanic," "Latino(a)," "Latin American"
  - 1.1 The Hispanics in the US: Historical roots
  - 1.2 Hispanic Immigrations: From colonialism to captivity and liberation
  - 1.3 Hispanic presence and contributions

Hispanic Ministries in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the US and Canada – January  
26

2. A Hispanic/Latino Theology – February 2
  - 2.1 A Hispanic Diaspora: Doing theology in a strange/proper land?
  - 2.2 A Hispanic Theology or theologies? Commonalities and Divergences

Required readings:

José David Rodríguez and Loida I. Martell-Otero (eds.) *Teología en Conjunto: A Collaborative Hispanic Protestant Theology*, 11-22; 98-111.

Eduardo C. Fernández, *La Cosecha...*xi-130.

3. The Church: Hispanic/Latino Perspectives – February 9
  - 3.1 The Church in Diaspora

*My Family/Mi familia – Film – Group Discussion – February 16*

Recommended reading: Ismael García, *Dignidad: Ethics Through Hispanic Eyes*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1997, Chapter I.

- 3.2 The Church in the Barrio – February 23
  - 3.3 The Church of the Poor
  - 3.4 The Church: Life in the Spirit

Required readings:

Justo L. González, “In Quest of a Protestant Hispanic Ecclesiology,” in *Teología en Conjunto...* 80-97.

Carmelo Álvarez, *Life in the Spirit: Toward a Hispanic Spirituality* – (Photocopied)

4. The Bible: A Hermeneutic of Liberation from a Hispanic Perspective – March 9
  - 4.1 Reading the Bible in Spanish

- 4.2 Reading the Bible in community – March 16

4.3 Beyond Fundamentalism: Biblical Hermeneutics and Popular Religiosity

*Soul of the City – The San Fernando Cathedral*, San Antonio, Texas – Documentary – Group Discussion - March 23

Recommended reading: Virgil P. Elizondo and Tomothy M. Matovina (eds.) *San Fernando Cathedral Soul of the City*. Maryknoll: Orbis Books, 1998

Required readings:

José David Rodríguez and Loida I. Martell-Otero (eds.) *Teología en Conjunto...* 33-49; 66-79.

5. A Pastoral Theology – March 30
  - 5.1 The importance of pastoral ministries
  - 5.2 Praxis of US Hispanic Communities

- 5.3 The Role of Women in Society and the Church – April 6
  - 5.4 Hispanic Popular piety: Social location and Spirituality of Liberation
  - 5.5 Pastoral models: Catholic, Protestant, Pentecostal

Required readings:

José David Rodríguez and Loida I. Martell-Otero (eds.), *Teología en Conjunto*, 50-65; 112-145.  
 Eduardo C. Fernández, *La Cosecha...*131-157.  
 Carmelo Álvarez, “Hispanic Pentecostals: Azusa Street and Beyond,” in *Encounter* 63:1 (Winter/Spring 2002):13-26.

- 6. A future for Hispanic Theology in the US? – April 20

- 6.1 Cultural identity and theological reflection
- 6.2 A new people, a new Diaspora

- 6.3 Frontiers of Hispanic Theology in the US: Doing Theology in the Borderlands – April 27

- 6.4 What lies ahead?

Conclusion: *Hispanic Credo*

Required readings:

José David Rodríguez and Loida I. Martell-Otero (eds.), *Teología en Conjunto...*146-165.  
 Eduardo C. Fernández, *La Cosecha...*159-174.  
 Carmelo Álvarez, “Ecumenism in Transition? Hispanic Responses from the US,” in *Journal of Hispanic/Latino Theology*: 4 (November 1996)

IV Requirements

1. Required readings for each section in the outline and discussion in class.
2. A review Essay 8-10 pages, double-spaced, on the required reading assigned in the two basic textbooks and the articles by Carmelo Álvarez:
 

Eduardo C. Fernández, *La Cosecha: Harvesting Contemporary United States Hispanic Theology (1972-1998)*. Collegetown, MN: The liturgical Press, 2000.

José David Rodríguez and Loida I. Martell (eds.) *Teología en Conjunto: A Collaborative Hispanic Protestant Theology*. Louisville: WJK, 1997.

Due On: March 16
3. A theological essay, 8-10 pages, double-spaced, *Roots and Dreams: A Theological Reflection*, based on the film *My Family/Mi Familia* and the documentary *Soul of the City, San Fernando Cathedral*.
 

Due On: April 20
4. A final theological essay: *Hispanic Theology in the US: Challenges and Promises*, 8-10 pages, double-spaced, based on the reading of Benjamín Valentín, *Mapping Public Theology: Beyond Culture, Identity and Difference*. Trinity Press International, 2002, Benjamín Valentín (ed.) *New Horizons in Hispanic Latino(a) Theology*. Cleveland: The Pilgrim Press, 2003 and Carmelo E. Álvarez, *Globalization and Marginality: Hispanics Surviving in the Borderlands* Voices from the Third World XXV: 1-2 (December 2002):164-174.
 

Due on: May 5