

**Houston Graduate School of Theology**  
IE 601, 602 Integrative Experience  
Fall 2019, Tuesdays, 5:00-6:00 pm  
Meets 8/27, 9/17, 10/15, 11/12, and 12/10  
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*Houston Graduate School of Theology equips women and men to be ministers and messengers of God's mission of reconciliation through academic excellence, personal transformation, and leadership development*

## **I. Course Descriptions**

### IE 601 – Integrative Experience 1

The greater Houston area affords a wide array of educational and missional opportunities, as well as ecumenical and interfaith dialogue experiences for our students to integrate into their theological training and formation. Students will be required to complete a minimum of three separate integrative experiences over the course of the semester usually in a lecture, workshop, conference, and/or church setting. Regular meetings on campus will be held throughout the semester for faculty supervision and evaluation as well as theological reflection. (One hour)

### IE 602 – Integrative Experience 2

Continued from IE 601, IE 602 will involve a minimum of three integrative experiences for a total of at least ten hours of face-to-face contact, in conjunction with regular meetings on campus for supervision and evaluation as well as theological reflection. (One hour)

## **II. Course Learning Outcomes (MDiv-2)**

The purpose of this course is to bridge the gap between the classroom and the larger community through participation in activities and events that integrate theological education with knowledge and experience gained from outside the immediate seminary community and to provide academic assessment and peer reflection of those experiences. In keeping with the HGST Mission Statement, the three experiences assigned for each course will reflect God's mission of reconciliation through 1) academic excellence, 2) personal transformation, and 3) leadership development.

Upon completion of this course, the student will:

- A. Identify and explain differing viewpoints through participation in selected activities.
- B. Interact with multicultural traditions, thereby further describing the meaning and relevancy of personal beliefs as well as the beliefs of others.
- C. Explain and discuss activities experienced outside HGST's on-campus environment.
- D. Develop relationships and alliances within the community beyond HGST.
- E. Explain and discuss spiritual growth, maturity, or impact resulting from interactions and experiences beyond HGST's on-campus environment.

### III. Required Textbook

Eldred, Ken. *The Integrated Life*. Monna Ventures, 2010. ISBN: 978-0-9840911-1-9.

### IV. Course Requirements

- **Seminar Reading Summaries:** Because students are expected to have read assigned texts and readings prior to the class meeting in which they are to be discussed as well as participate in seminar discussions, each student must demonstrate evidence of having read the assigned reading(s) and be prepared to discuss in class. As proof that students have read, critically reflected, and digested the assigned readings for each seminar, students must come prepared with at least a one-page written response to the assigned readings. This can express critical questions, substantive summary reflection(s), observations, constructive criticism(s), praise, and/or a more formal summary essay in which the student demonstrates theological engagement with *each* of the assigned readings. The point is to crystallize at least two or more clear impressions of what the student has read.
- **Integrative Experiences:** Participate in at least three separate integrative experiences, involving at least ten face-to-face contact hours each semester. A list of links to a variety of upcoming events is included at the end of this syllabus. However, the student may be creative in choosing events. The experiences may be:
  - Academic (i.e., lectures, workshops)
  - Professional (i.e., workshops, conferences)
  - Service (i.e., ministry project outside of student's own church/ministry)
  - Ecumenical (i.e., workshops, worship services, etc),
  - Artistic (i.e., museum and/or theater exhibitions of theological nature)
  - Creative (i.e., grocery shopping at Whole Foods in River Oaks, Fiesta in 3<sup>rd</sup> Ward, and HEB in Montrose)

*If an event of a non-religious nature is chosen, the student must integrate the content of that event with the mission of Houston Graduate School of Theology and explain how this event contributed to achieving the course learning outcomes.*

Integrative experience reports are due on 9/17, 10/15, 11/12 and 12/10. Student reports can take the form of a reflective summary paper, review, or critically constructive essay. The length requirement for each written assignment is three to five pages in length.

The papers should include these elements, as applicable:

- Description of the event, including time, place, hours, and nature of the event. Include enough detail for the reader to understand the purpose and importance of the experience.
- The ways in which your theological education at HGST might have impacted the experience for you.
- The impact of the experience on your understanding of ministry, faith, culture, and theological education, especially as it relates to HGST.

*All papers should exhibit academic form and style, according to the guidelines of Turabian 9<sup>th</sup> edition. Papers written in anything but Times New Roman, 12-point type,*

*will not be graded. Please do not double-double space or use additional spacing between paragraphs. Use citations as necessary and third-person writing throughout.*

## **V. Course Schedule**

### **August 27**

Syllabus and Introduction

### **September 17**

**Due:** First Integrative Experience Report

**Read:** Ken Eldred Part I. The Way Things Are, pages 1-36

### **October 15**

**DUE:** Second Integrative Experience Report

**Read:** Ken Eldred Part II. What I Didn't Learn, pages 37-77

### **November 12**

**DUE:** Third Integrative Experience Report

**Read:** Ken Eldred Part III. What I Didn't Learn in Church, pages 79-123

### **December 10**

**Due:** Turn in Assessment Folders

**Degree candidates must submit their Assessment Folders one week prior to the last date of class.**

**Read:** Ken Eldred Part IV. Increasing Your Spiritual Joy, pages 125-169 Ken Eldred Part V. Living the Integrated Life, pages 169-202

## **VI. Grading Scale**

Integrative Experience is a Pass-Fail course.

A passing grade will be achieved by meeting all requirements for the course.

## **VII. Student Workload Expectations**

Classtime	5 hrs
Readings	15 hrs
Integrative Experiences	12 hrs
IE Reports	8 hrs
Presentation	5 hrs
<b>Total Hours</b>	<b>45 hrs</b>

## **VIII. Policies**

A. Regular attendance and regular submission of assignments on due dates in the syllabus is expected. The following guidelines have been approved for inclusion in all HGST syllabi and reflect standards for all courses:

Fall/Spring semester 15-session course - 3-absence maximum

Summer term 8-session course - 1-absence maximum (equals 4 hours).

6-session hybrid - 1-absence maximum

4-session hybrid - 0-absence maximum

If a student reaches the designated number of absences, the student will no longer be allowed to stay in the class. The student does have the opportunity to appeal to the Academic Dean and should assume responsibility for scheduling that meeting as soon as possible.

- B. Work is expected on the due date. Students should expect a grade reduction of up to one letter grade on late papers. A one-letter grade reduction will result each week a paper is late.
- C. Turnitin.com
1. All written assignments are subject to required submission to [www.turnitin.com](http://www.turnitin.com) to check for originality and style. The assignments that are required for submission will be described in the syllabus.
  2. Students will create an account at [www.turnitin.com](http://www.turnitin.com). After doing so, the student will join the course page with the code and password supplied by the instructor. A list of assignments and due dates will be available on the course page.
  3. Students will submit assignments by the due date and time and may be required to submit the assignments in a hard copy format.
- D. Electronic Equipment Usage in Classrooms
- It is expected that students will use technology (laptop computers, iPads, etc.) during classes only for the purposes of class work. For this reason, students should turn off cell phones and refrain from texting and using laptop computers during classes except for the purposes of taking notes or doing research specifically authorized by the course instructor. Students who have emergency needs not covered by this policy must ask for an exception from the course instructor.
- Violation of this policy will result in a full letter grade deduction for the student's final grade as well as forfeiture of the opportunity to utilize personal electronic equipment during the remainder of the course.***

## IX. Possible Integrative Experiences

This list is in no way exhaustive. Rather, the list is designed to give the students ideas.

Additional ideas will be presented after the class begins. The student should be watching for opportunities of interest. This can be done in the "Belief" section of the *Houston Chronicle*, on websites of churches and schools, and in many other publications and websites.

- Artistic events, such as Houston Museum of Fine Arts ([www.mfah.org](http://www.mfah.org)) or one of the many theatres in Houston. At the museum, there are several interesting exhibitions beyond the museum collection. Artistic reports must show the ability to think theological, deeply, and philosophically about the art and to apply it to life, learning, and ministry.
- Houston Holocaust Museum ([www.hmh.org](http://www.hmh.org))
- Ministry conferences/training/workshops, such as a variety of events at Union Baptist Association, see [www.ubahouston.org](http://www.ubahouston.org).

- Lectures and other academic events:
  - Interfaith events: Interfaith Ministries of Greater Houston ([www.imgh.org](http://www.imgh.org)), Interfaith Dialog (<http://www.interfaithdialog.org/texas/houston>).
  - Lectures at Rice University. See calendar at [http://events.rice.edu/index.cfm?e\\_id=22](http://events.rice.edu/index.cfm?e_id=22).
  - Events sponsored by Foundation for Contemporary Theology. <http://contemporarytheology.org/>
  - Lectures at Lanier Theological Library <http://www.laniertheologicallibrary.org/about-ltl-events/>
- Ongoing ministry opportunities: Star of Hope (<http://sohmission.org>), Church Under the Bridge ([www.1000hills.org](http://www.1000hills.org)), Houston Rescue and Restore events (<http://www.houstonrr.org/>), and many other similar organizations.
- Cultural Events such as the Houston International Festival ([www.ifest.org](http://www.ifest.org)), International festivals or other similar cultural and religious festivals.
- Visit a church of different belief and tradition from your own. Get to know the church through worship and interviewing leaders.
  - Visit Buffalo Soldiers Museum
  - St. John's UMC
  - Menninger Clinic
  - Lakewood Church
  - Women's Center of Houston
  - Salvation Army