

**DS523 “Landmarks and Legacies” – History and Ethos of the United Church of Canada  
UNITED CHURCH DENOMINATIONAL STUDIES 1.0 credit**

Instructor: Janet Gear  
Fall 2009

**Purpose**

The goal of this course is preparation for learned and able leadership in the United Church of Canada. The story of the United Church of Canada is told in many different voices over many decades prior to and after union. By attending to a variety of testimonies to our history and formation, we will trace the threads of our founding traditions to their earlier roots and read our current context for the legacies of historic events, struggles and aspirations. Particular attention will be drawn to voices of women, First Nations, and racial-minorities within the Canadian context.

This is a required course for United Church MDiv, DipCS, and Admissions students.

**Learning Outcomes**

**Competencies are approved when you are able to demonstrate . . .**

- ability to describe and discuss the history and theological traditions of the UCC
- ability to identify legacies of UCC and Canadian history influencing current issues facing the church
- ability to identify and discuss the significance of landmarks within the life of the UCC
- ability to identify voices representing the diversity within the UCC
- ability to access the UCC archives for purposes of research

**Format**

This 1.0 credit class will meet for a ten hour intensive over two days during fall semester. The course is taught as a seminar with instructional input, including guest lecturers. Participation is through active listening, collegial group work, in-class discussions and presentations. Preparation for the course includes pre-reading, preview of on-line or library-use video, and written reflections (200-500 words). A final paper/project (8-10 pages) will be due by the end of the term.

**Prerequisites:** none

**Expectations of the student**

- 100% attendance of the class
- appropriate preparation for participation in class activities and discussion
- pre-reading and writing/viewing and post-reading and writing assignments as detailed in syllabus

**Required Reading**

- Short, Peter *Outside Eden*
- Chambers, Steven, *This is Your Church*
- Reading Packet of selected documents, articles and reports related to UCC polity available at UBC bookstore
- UCC website references as noted in the syllabus
- books and articles will be placed on reserve in the VST library for your use