



BEACON UNIVERSITY

6003 Veterans Parkway, Columbus, GA 31909

SYLLABUS

I. COURSE TITLE:

PM 515 Philosophy of Ministry

II. COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course will introduce the student to the concepts and philosophy of ministry. Emphasis will be placed on the concept of service to God and to other people. The student will formulate a personal philosophy of ministry and a plan for personal and professional growth and development in ministerial service.

III. COURSE RATIONALE:

- A. *PHILOSOPHICAL:* The theology/ministry student will be faced with many expectations from various sources. This course will enable the student to understand the various philosophical views of one's call from God.
- B. *PRACTICAL:* In addition to developing an understanding of one's call to ministry, the student will be equipped to fulfill his or her ministry in a local setting. This course will equip the ministry student to discern the issues involved in ministry, to search out the answers, and to formulate her or his findings in a clear and concise manner in accordance with the student's understanding of ministry.

IV. COURSE PREREQUISITES:

None

V. COURSE OBJECTIVES: Upon completion of the course, the student will be able to:

- A. Make appropriate application of the principles in each textbook to his or her specific area and philosophy of ministry.
- B. Identify various philosophies of ministry and identify the main ideas as they relate to the student's specific ministry.
- C. Identify specific leadership skills necessary for maintaining a balanced ministry in various fields of service.

- D. Identify a personal growth plan related to the student's specific field of ministry.
- E. Identify his or her strengths and weaknesses in ministry and develop a plan for growth in each area.
- F. Identify specific danger areas related to the student's approach to ministry and develop a plan to avoid these pitfalls.
- G. Present an ongoing plan for the development of resources related to leadership and ministry skills.

VI. COURSE OUTLINE:

A. Video Presentations

1. *Understanding One's Call to Ministry*
2. *The Minister's Purpose*
3. *The Pastoral Identity*
4. *What Does a Minister Really Do?*
5. *The Message of the Minister*
6. *Developing Purpose in Ministry*
7. *Developing a Ministry Strategy*
8. *A Covenant for Ministry*
9. *Where the Caregiver Finds Help*
10. *Critical Questions We Must Ask*
11. *The Meaning of Servant Leadership*
12. *The Pastor as Shepherd*
13. *The Shepherd Who Loves and Leaves a Legacy*
14. *The Counselor Who Cares and Confronts*
15. *Leading Through Triumph and Tragedy*
16. *In Partnership With the Father*
17. *The Leadership Crisis*
18. *Developing a Personal Growth Strategy*
19. *Being Holy, Being Human*
20. *Taking a Spiritual Inventory*

B. Online Module Dates and Assignments:

Module	Dates	Assignments
Module 1	Jan 12 – 25	Video sessions 1-3, discussion forum 1
Module 2	Jan 26 – Feb 8	Video sessions 4-6, discussion forum 2, Peterson review
Module 3	Feb 9 – 22	Video sessions 7-9, discussion forum 3
Module 4	Feb 23 – March 8	Video session 10, discussion forum 4, Greenleaf review
Module 5	March 9 – 22	Video sessions 11-13, discussion forum 5
Module 6	March 30 – April 12	Video sessions 14-16, discussion forum 6, Reflection paper
Module 7	April 13 – 26	Video sessions 17-19, discussion forum 7
Module 8	April 27 – May 8	Video session 20, discussion forum 8, exam

VII. COURSE METHOD:

- A. General Method: Instruction will normally be provided via the lecture method. However, students will be encouraged to ask questions and participate in discussion. The sharing of ideas is integral to one's education. This is particularly true for the student who desires to serve in public ministry.
- B. Online Method: The uniqueness of distance learning necessitates unique learning experiences and methods. The power of an online course management system like Moodle makes unique assessment methods possible. As a result, this online course will follow the module schedule above. Grades will be given for the viewing of video sessions, participation in discussion forums, the completion of written assignments, and exams. In each case, the deadline will be midnight on the last day of the module.

VIII. COURSE TEXTS:

Greenleaf, Robert K. *The Power of Servant Leadership*. Larry C. Spears, ed. San Francisco: Berrett-Koehler Publishers, Inc., 1998.

Peterson, Eugene H. *Five Smooth Stones for Pastoral Work*. Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1980.

IX. COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

- A. **Discussion:** Each module will include a discussion forum question posed by the instructor. Every student is required to post two responses to the questions and to respond to at least two other student responses. Forum participation will be graded according to the quality of critical thinking and the correctness of language usage.
- B. **Writing:** Read each of the texts in their entirety and write a Book Review of each one. Each review is to be a minimum of 1,000 words in length (typed and double spaced). They should include a summary of the book's content, a critique of the author's presentation (strengths and weaknesses with appropriate illustrations), and an application to the student's area and philosophy of ministry.
 - 1. Review of Peterson, due by the end of the second module.
 - 2. Review of Greenleaf, due by the end of the fourth module.
- C. **Analysis & Writing:** A 3,000 word reflection paper, *My Philosophy of Ministry: A Plan For the Future*, will be written, typed and double spaced and formatted according to guidelines in Turabian's Manual for Research Papers. The paper should include material on the following areas:
 - 1. A description of the various philosophies of ministry and identification of the student's own philosophy.
 - 2. A description of the ministry area in which the student will be involved.
 - 3. A description of the student's strengths and weaknesses and potential pitfalls in ministry and a program for personal growth and development,

including maintaining adequate and up-to-date resources related to your field of ministry.

4. A description of the specific leadership skills necessary for maintaining a balanced ministry in various fields of service.
5. Due by the end of the sixth module

D. **Exam:** A Final Exam will be given, composed of essay questions taken from readings and class discussions. The exam must be completed by the end of the eighth module.

X. COURSE EVALUATION:

A. **Grade:**

Book reviews	30%
Discussion	20%
Research paper	30%
Exam	<u>20%</u>
	100%

B. **Attendance & Late Grades for Distance Learners:** Success as a distance learner requires regular attendance to the course management system and to email. Students who do not log in to their Moodle course site by the drop/add deadline will be automatically withdrawn from the course. Every aspect of student participation on the Moodle site is reported by Moodle. Assignments must be completed by the due dates. The student who presents the instructor with an adequate and documented reason for late work will be given an opportunity to make it up. Adequate reasons involve circumstances beyond the student's control. It is the responsibility of the student to make the necessary arrangements to make up missed assignments, including exams. If an adequate reason is not given and/or arrangements are not made, the grade for the assignment/exam may be reduced.

C. **Beacon University Plagiarism Policy:** According to the American Heritage Dictionary, 2nd College Edition, plagiarism is defined as taking and using "as one's own the writings or ideas of another." Plagiarism shall include failure to use quotation marks or other conventional markings around material quoted from another source. Plagiarism shall also include paraphrasing a specific passage from a source without indicating accurately what that source is. Plagiarism shall further include letting another person compose or rewrite a student's written assignment. Students found guilty of academic dishonesty will be subject to a range of penalties up to, and including, dismissal from the University. All incidents of academic dishonesty are to be reported by the faculty member to the Academic Vice President.

XI. COURSE PROFESSOR:

Name: Larry Asplund

Degrees:

B.A., Philosophy and Biblical Studies

M.A., Biblical Literature

D.Min., Leadership and Spiritual Formation

Faculty Rank: Instructor

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Office Hours on Campus: 8-5, Monday through Friday

XII. COURSE BIBLIOGRAPHY:

Anderson, Leith. *A Church for the 21st Century*. Minneapolis, Bethany House Publishers, 1992.

_____. *Dying for Change: An Arresting Look at the New Realities Confronting Churches and Para-Church Ministries*. Minneapolis: Bethany House Publishers, 1990.

Barna, George. *The Frog in the Kettle*. Ventura, California: Regal Books, 1990.

_____. *Today's Pastors*. Ventura, California: Regal Books, 1993.

_____. *User-Friendly Churches*. Ventura, California: Regal Books, 1991.

Blackaby, Henry T. and Henry Brandt. *The Power of the Call*. Nashville: Broadman and Holman Publishers, 1997.

Dale, Robert. *Keeping the Dream Alive*. Nashville: Broadman Press, 1988.

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Dawn, Marva and Eugene Peterson. *The Unnecessary Pastor: Rediscovering the Call*. Vancouver: Regent College Publishing, 2000.

Guinness, Os. *The Call: Finding and Fulfilling the Central Purpose of Your Life*. Nashville: Word Publishing, 1998.

Jones, Kirk Byron. *Rest in the Storm: Self-care Strategies for Clergy and Other Caregivers*. Valley Forge: Judson Press, 2001.

Martin, Glen and Gary McIntosh. *The Issachar Factor: Understanding Trends that Confront Your Church and Designing a Strategy for Success*. Nashville: Broadman and Holman Publishers, 1993.

Kesler, Jay. *Being Holy, Being Human: Dealing With Expectations in Ministry*. Waco, Texas: Word Books Publishers, 1988.

- London, H.B. and Neil B. Wiseman. *They Call Me Pastor: How to Love the Ones You Lead*. Ventura, CA: Regal Books, 2000.
- Macadam, Millard. *Intentional Integrity*. Nashville: Broadman and Holman Publishers, 1996.
- Miller, Calvin. *The Empowered Leader: 10 Keys to Servant Leadership*. Nashville: Broadman and Holman Publishers, 1995.
- Muse, Stephen J., ed. *Beside Still Waters: Resources for Shepherds in the Marketplace*. Macon, GA: Smyth and Helwys Publishers, 2000.
- Myra, Harold, ed. *Leaders: Learning Leadership From Some of Christianity's Best*. Waco, Texas: Word Books Publishers, 1987.
- Oden, Thomas. *Pastoral Theology: Essentials of Ministry*. Philadelphia: Harper and Row Publishers, 1983.
- Peterson, Eugene. *Five Smooth Stones for Pastoral Work*. Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans Publishers, 1980.
- _____. *Under the Unpredictable Plant: An Exploration of Vocational Holiness*. Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans Publishers, 1992.
- _____. *Working the Angles: The Shape of Pastoral Integrity*. Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans Publishers, 1987.
- Warren, Rick. *The Purpose Driven Church*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishing House, 1995.