

Introduction to Christian Ministry

RL 2113 A

Instructor

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Contact Points

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Course Website

<http://tinyurl.com/rfoster>

Office Hours

Maddox Center 105

Specific office hours are posted on my door but I am generally in my office from 7:15 AM to 4:00 PM.

Communication

Students must use their WBU e-mail address for this course. This address will be used to make contact with students as need arises related to course work, attendance, etc. Students are responsible to check their email between each class. If you need to contact me, please do so personally or use one of the contact points mentioned above.

Course Overview

An introduction to the issues related to ministry including basic discipleship, the minister's call, leadership, and the relationship between ministers and their congregation and other denominational agencies.

Course Objectives

The following objectives will serve as a summary of the content of the course. The learning activities which are discussed in this syllabus will measure the achievement of these objectives. Furthermore, these objectives are intended to assist students in accomplishing the "Institutional Academic Goals" of Williams Baptist University (Catalog).

1. The student will learn the process through which one completes a degree in Christian Ministry including degree plans.
2. The student will learn about the expectations the Department of Christian Ministry has for its students.
3. The student will understand the nature of a "calling" into the Christian ministry and be able to evaluate his/her own personal experience in light of this understanding.
4. The student will understand the process of how one is "called" to a local church position.
5. The student will describe several models for ministry and consider which might best suit her/his talents.
6. The student will evaluate his/her need for continual spiritual growth in ministry.
7. Students will be able to communicate a personal plan for integrating Christian thought, passion, and action in their lives and ministries.
8. The student will be able to describe the moral formation of a minister as well as common moral pitfalls.
9. The student will understand basic Baptist ecclesiastical polity.

Academic Integrity

Students are expected and required to uphold the highest standards of academic honesty in this and all courses. Students should be familiar with the university's "Academic Honesty Policy" (catalog). Students requiring any clarification of these policies should consult their academic advisor or the Office of Academic Affairs.

Required Texts

A modern translation of the Bible such as NKJV, NASB, ESV, NRSV, etc.

Foster, Richard. *Celebration of Discipline: The Path to Spiritual Growth*. San Francisco: Harper, 2002. [Any edition of this book is acceptable for use.]

Hollinger, Dennis P. *Head, Heart, and Hands, Bringing Together Christian Thought, Passion, and Action*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity, 2005.

Turabian, Kate L. *A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*, 8th ed. Chicago: University of Chicago, 2013.

Learning Activities

Note Bene

Turning in an assignment is no guarantee of receiving full point value. Only assignments done in a professional, error-free manner with excellence in thought and organization will receive full point value.

Late Assignments

Assignments and exams may be accepted late if submitted in a reasonable amount of time, except where otherwise noted. The grade received on any assignment turned in after the due date will be reduced by 10% for each class session it is late.

Class Attendance (25 points)

Students are expected to attend every class session. Class begins at the appointed time.

Students who miss one week's worth of class will be notified by the professor. Absences equal to two weeks of classes may result in removal from the class. No excused absences are allowed. Students who are involved in university required activities such as Williams Singers, The Cast, athletic competitions, etc. will not be counted absent when the student submits a note (e-mail is preferred) to the professor including the date and reason for the absence. These notes should be submitted within one week of the absence, preferably prior to the absence. Please see the current Academic Catalog for additional information.

Students will lose 10 points from their Attendance and Participation grade for each absence beginning with their second absence. Students will lose 5 points for any late arrivals or early departures beginning with their second late arrival or early departure. If a student loses 20 points because of late arrivals, they will be required to meet with the professor. If a student loses more than 25 points, the additional forfeiture will be subtracted from her/his total points in the class.

Written Projects (25 points each, 100 total points)

Each student will complete five short written projects. Each of these projects will be submitted in both typed and electronic formats unless noted otherwise. Typed projects should be submitted in class. Electronic formats are submitted to Turnitin.com.

Submissions should include a title page, a blank page, and a bibliography (when necessary). Submissions should follow the correct Turabian format as found in Kate L. Turabian, *A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*, 8th ed. Students may find the document "Turabian Style Sheet" useful. This document is available on the Course Website, located on the "Turabian Help Page" link.

- Call Essay: Each student will write a two page essay describing their calling.
- Degree Plan: Each student must complete a Degree Plan. Further instructions for this assignment will be given in class. (This assignment will not be submitted to Turnitin.com.)

- CD Chapter Review: Each student will write a two page review of a chapter of *Celebration of Discipline*. These chapter reviews should conform to the book review format presented in class.
- HHH Worksheet: Each student will complete a worksheet on *Head, Heart and Hands*. The blank worksheet is located on the Course Website. Please print out the worksheet and complete it in your best handwriting. (This assignment will not be submitted to Turnitin.com.)

Practice and Reflection in Ministry (8 points each; 112 total points)

Christian Ministry and Church Music students are expected to be active in the life of the local church. Students are asked to write a paragraph each week about their personal growth in ministry skills and spiritual formation as they are involved in a local church. This paragraph should be a brief reflection of the previous week. Paragraphs should consist of at least 425 words. Following the paragraph, students should record their church attendance during the previous week.

These Reflections will be submitted in the “Discuss” section of Vcamp. Reflections are due each week no later than 11:00 PM on Wednesdays. *No late Reflections will be accepted.*

While this assignment will be graded on completion, they are expected to be substantive.

Exams (100 points each, 200 total points)

A mid-term and final exam will be given in this course. Exams will cover both lecture and reading material. Students should demonstrate superior mastery of the material. Exams will be in class essays and some objective questions. All exams must be completed with a black or blue ink pen. *The final exam will be comprehensive.*

Final Course Grade

Accuracy of Grades

All grades for the class are kept in the online grade book. Students should routinely check their grades. Any questions about the grades should be directed to the professor by the last day of class. All grades for the course (except the final exam) will be considered final the last day of class. The final exam grade will be considered final if the student does not contact the professor within one week of the posting of the grade. This procedure is intended to involve the student in the accuracy of their grades in a timely manner.

Grading Scale

Class Attendance	25	A	90-100%
Written Projects	100	B	80-89.9%
Practice and Reflection in Ministry	112	C	70-79.9%
Exams	200	D	60-69.9%
TOTAL POINTS:	437	F	0-59.9%

Disabilities

The student has the responsibility of informing the professor of any medically documented disabling condition that will require modifications to avoid discrimination. All requests for special accommodations must be approved in consultation with the Director of Counseling Services. Reasonable accommodations will be jointly developed between student and professor after consultation with the Director of Counseling Services. The student is responsible to initiate any request for accommodations in advance of their need. Documentation will be required.

Course Schedule

DATE	LECTURE	READING	ASSIGNMENTS
August 21	Introduction to the Course		
23	A Biblical View of Call	Ex 3:1-6; Jon 3:10-4:11; Lk 1:5-25; Mk 5:1-20; 1 Tm 4:11-16	
28	Spiritual Formation	<i>Celebration of Discipline</i> (CD) x-11 Col 2:8-3-17	
30	The Four Core Disciplines		CALL ESSAY DUE
September 4	Introduction to the Department of Christian Ministry	Print and read pages 11-22 from the "Department of Christian Ministry" link on class webpage	
6	<i>All Kate, All the Time!</i>	Turabian 135-163 Print and read "Turabian Style Sheet" from class webpage.	
11	Meditation	<i>Celebration of Discipline</i> (CD) 13-32 Ps 119:97-120	Degree Plan Due
13	Prayer	CD 33-46 Mt 6:5-15; Mk 1:35	
18	How to Write a Book Review	Print and read "Book Review Guide" from course webpage	
20	Fasting	CD 47-61 Mt 6:16-18	
25	Study	CD 62-76	
27	Review		
October 2			MID TERM EXAM
4	Simplicity	CD 77-95	
9	Solitude	CD 96-109 Phil 4:10-14	

11	Submission and Service	CD 110-140 Mk 8:34-38	
16	FALL BREAK	NO CLASS	
18	Review		CD Chapter Review
23	Arkansas Baptist State Convention	NO CLASS	I encourage you to attend the evening session of the ABSC.
25	Confession	CD 141-157 1 Jn 1:5-2:2	
30	Worship	CD 158-174 Dt 12:1-12	
November 1	Guidance and Celebration	CD 175-201 Acts 6:1-7; Jn 15:11	
6	Class Discussion	CD 202-210	
8	Baptist Polity	Print and read "Axioms of Religion" and "Baptist Faith and Message" links on course webpage	
13	Moral Issues in the Ministry Guest Speaker: Lynn Riley		
15	Introduction to HHH	<i>Head, Heart and Hands</i> (HHH) 9-34	
20	Faith and the Head	HHH 35-71	
22	THANKSGIVING BREAK	NO CLASS	
27	Faith and the Heart	HHH 72-106	HHH Worksheet Due
29	Faith and the Hands	HHH 107-142	
4	HHH: Class Discussion	HHH 175-193	
6	Review		
FINAL EXAM			