Course Description: Explores various aspects of ministry, in particular the theology and practice of ordained ministry within the Reformed traditions. Topics include understandings of ministry, the call, functions and roles in ministry, challenges and contexts for ministry today and in the future, leadership and authority, and spiritual practices. Various methods of presentation will be used (small group, lecture, discussion).

Theological and Practical Curricular Outcomes In successfully completing this course a student will meet the following outcomes:

Religious Heritage
- Identify theology and practice of ministry related to central functions of ministry;
- Describe the distinctive theology and practices of Reformed understandings of ministry within the larger Christian tradition;
- Describe spiritual practices within the Reformed and the larger Christian traditions;
- Demonstrate basic knowledge of various theological disciplines and how these intersect with the practice of ministry.

Cultural Context
- Identify theology and practices of ministry that demonstrate respect for difference - cultural, ethnic, gender and physical ability diversity, etc.;
- Demonstrate willingness to engage the diversity of the church;
- Demonstrate ability to understand contextual issues (societal, ecclesial, global) and an emerging awareness of how these factors impact what it means to be a pastor today in a particular context.

Personal Spiritual Formation
- Articulate one’s own identity and emerging self-understanding in ministry;
- Demonstrate piety congruent with the Christian & denominational tradition;
- Ability to articulate an emerging sense of call to ministry;
- Ability and willingness to act in a principled, ethical fashion;
- Demonstrate an ability to identify assumptions;
- Show willingness to conduct one’s life out of confessed Christian faith;
- Display willingness to engage in prayer, Bible study, worship, discipleship and growth in the fruit of the Spirit.

Capacity for Ministry
- Show care for others and act in a compassionate manner towards others, including people of different backgrounds, ages, and perspectives;
- Ability to articulate one’s emerging pastoral identity in relation to the functions and roles of the pastor within the Reformed traditions.
- Emerging ability to articulate one’s own theology and understanding of ministry in relation to the Reformed heritage.
Course Requirements and Evaluative Criteria

COURSE POLICIES
Policies for courses are contained in the TST Basic Degree Handbook and the Knox Student Handbook. In particular note:

Cell Phones: Cell phones can be disruptive to the classroom experience. Students, therefore, should turn off or set their phones to silent and refrain from using them while in class. Cell phone use is permitted only for medical professionals who are on call and for students who need to be in constant contact with ill family members or minors. Students who meet either of these requirements should inform the professor prior to class.

Use of Technology: Laptops and other computing devices may be used in the classroom for note taking purposes only. The use of the internet is not permitted while class is in session unless it is part of a specific class activity. Students wishing to text message, search for images, fact check etc. should do so during the break or outside of class. Much of the learning that goes on in the classroom is founded upon mutual disclosure that takes place between the instructor and the student and between students. Parties outside of that learning community have not committed themselves to this relationship of trust. For this and other reasons, permission to record lectures in audio format is granted for use by registered students only. Video recording is not permitted without the written permission of the instructor. Recordings and notes of class lectures may not be electronically reproduced, posted or distributed without the written permission of the instructor.

Late Policy: one grade (4 marks) deducted per week late.

Completion of Course work: All course work must be completed by the due date of final paper (June 29, 2012). Only in the case of illness (with a note from a doctor), bereavement or other unusual circumstances will an extension be considered and this must be authorized by the Faculty. A request for an extension must be submitted in writing by the last day of the class (May) to the Registrar or the Director of Academic Programs who will refer the matter with a recommendation, to the Faculty for final decision.

Email correspondence: Check your email regularly!
  • Reading material will regularly be transmitted by email.
  • Papers and assignments are only accepted in hard copy, using scrap paper or printed on both sides of the paper.
  • Communication by email can ONLY take place through UTOR email accounts.

ASSIGNMENTS:

1. Reflection papers, Mentorship, Spiritual Gathering, Participation
Through 3 reflection papers students will reflect upon the class content, readings, and how these engage them in their journey in ministry. These reflection papers, spiritual gathering, mentored ministry experience as well as class participation, will be worth 65% of the final mark.

- **Reflection Paper 1** (15%) - Exploring my Call and Pastoral Images (see description of reflection papers above), *Wednesday week 1.*
- **Reflection Paper 2** (15%) – Personally engage the functions of ministry – pastoral, priestly, preaching, teaching, prophetic, missional etc. in the church today (see description of reflection papers above), *Tuesday week 2.*
- **Spiritual gathering** (10%) – during the course you will be with a group required to lead a spiritual gathering at the beginning of class. Brief background; theological explanation: practice.
- **Participation** (10%) – attendance and engagement in class and small group discussions and course materials.

2. Fifteen-Hour Mentorship Experience
Over a 2-3 week period (following or overlapping with the course) you will spend a minimum of 15 hours with a mentor for ministry. The 15 hours will include individual conversations about ministry exploring the mentor’s experiences and reflections on ministry, being present with the mentor in ministry experiences (worship, pastoral visiting, congregational/community events, social justice/mission experiences, etc.) and having an opportunity to discuss the experiences toward the end of the mentoring time. **By Friday of the 2nd week** each student must submit for approval a plan for mentorship including, name, contact information, mentor’s position and plan for use of the hours. Mentorship experience is to be completed prior to submission of the final paper and evidence of learning must be included in the final paper.

3. Spiritual Gathering
In a small group, you will lead the class in a short (5-10 min max.) spiritual gathering at the opening of the class. Include brief background; theological explanation; practice. You will choose from the following list:
- Day 2 - Lectio Divina (Ancient, Origen etc.)
- Day 3 – (General) Examen (Ignatius of Loyola)
- Day 4 - Labyrinth and finger Labyrinth, (12th c. France)
- Day 5 - Breath Prayers/Hesychia (Gregory of Palamos)
- Day 7 – Centering Prayer (Thomas Keating from ancient dessert Mothers and Fathers)
- Day 8 – choice - Taize Community/ Iona Community, etc. morning gathering
  - Music focused gathering – Korean traditional, Gregorian chant, contemporary..
  - Guided Meditation based on Scripture
  - Psalm (reading/sung) and prayer – Historical Reformed/Puritan
4. Final Integrative Paper
Along with all the required readings and discussions throughout the semester, students are strongly encouraged to read autobiographical accounts or novels (see Auto/biographical sketches and novels) that reflect the stories of a practicing ministers.

Students are to write a 10-page integrative paper focusing on the theology and practice of ministry as explored through a pastoral image (or story/metaphor/scripture passage). The paper will draw on class lectures, discussions and mentorship experience, Scripture and texts (required and recommended). The paper will describe a pastoral image/passage that can function as an integrative focus for one’s theology and practice of ministry. The pastoral image (story/metaphor/passage) will be considered theologically (how it expresses a theology of ministry), contextually (how it engages the North American contexts of ministry) and personally (how it intersects with one’s faith journey, sense of call). Further, the pastoral image (story/metaphor/passage) will be explored through the theology and practice of the different functions/roles of ministry (pastor, priest, prophet, preacher, teacher, etc.) discussed throughout the course. The assignment must include a thorough exploration of a pastoral image (story/metaphor/passage) and how it relates, at this point, to the student’s discernment process and to their understanding of the theology and practice of ministry. It is worth 35% of the final mark. Due: June 29, 2012

CALENDAR

Day 1 Introduction and The Call

Read for class: Willimon, pp. 11-53 (Introduction & chapter 1)
Together in Ministry, pp. 5-7, 48-64.
Fennell article
Recommended: Rice, pp. 11-38 (Introduction & chapter 1)

Day 2 Pastoral Identity and Formation: Images for Ministry
Pastoral Functions: Soul Care (Pastoral) Function
Spiritual Gathering: Lectio Divina

Read for class: Willimon, pp. 55-74 (chapter 2)
Willimon, pp. 91-110, 171-185 (chapters 4 & 7)
Recommended: Rice, pp. 39-74 (chapters 2-3)
Rice, pp. 75-90 (chapter 4)

Day 3 Pastoral Functions: Priestly Functions Preaching and Teaching Function
*Reflection Paper 1 Due

Spiritual Gathering: (General) Examen

Read for class: Willimon, pp. 75-90, 111- (chapter 3 & 5)
Willimon, (chapters 6 & 8)
Hand out – Charles L. Campbell, Principalities, Power, Fools
Recommended: Rice, pp. 91-106 (chapter 5)
Rice, pp. 107-123 (chapter 6)
Day 4  Pastoral Functions: Prophetic, Missional
          Administrative & Leadership Functions
Spiritual Gathering: Labyrinth

Read for class:  Willimon, pp. 225-264 (ch. 9-10)
                Willimon, pp. 275-297 (ch. 11 & Interlude)
Recommended: Rice, pp. 125-138 (chapter 7)
              Rice, pp. 139-156 (chapter 8)

Day 5  Pastoral Functions: Administrative and Leadership Functions
Pastors as People: Integrity, Self Care and Pastoral Authority
Spiritual Gathering: Breath Prayer/Hesychia

Read for class:  Willimon, pp. 299 – 336 (chapters 12-13)
                Nouwen, In the Name of Jesus
Recommended: Rice, pp. 157-192 (chapters 9 & 10, Epilogue)

Day 6  Intro to Context and Ministry
* Reflection Paper 2 Due
Spiritual Gathering: Aboriginal Honouring

Read for class:  Handouts – ACCRA Confession, TRC Documents
                Daniel & Copenhaver, Odd and Wondrous Calling
Recommended: Douglas Hall, The End of Christendom and the Future of Christianity

Day 7  Context and Ministry – Harris Athanasiadis
Spiritual Gathering: Centering Prayer

Read for class:  Daniel & Copenhaver, Odd and Wondrous Calling

Day 8  Context and Ministry – Deb Rapport TBC
Spiritual Gathering: Choice – Taize/ Iona, Psalm, Music (see list)

Read for Class: Daniel & Copenhaver, Odd and Wondrous Calling

Day 9  Context and Ministry
* Mentorship Plan Due
Sharing Pastoral Images/Metaphor/Story
Spiritual Closing: Pam

Read for class: Handouts
RESOURCE MATERIAL

Required Texts:

- Others as distributed in class.

Recommended Readings:


Auto/Biographical Sketches

- Achtemeier, Elizabeth, Not Till I Have Done: A Personal Testimony (Westminster, John Knox 1999).
- Augustine of Hippo, The Confessions
- Bonhoeffer, Dietrich, Letters and Papers from Prison: Life Together


Day, Dorothy, The Long Loneliness


Julian of Norwich, Revelations of Divine Love

  o The Messenger (Wipf & Stock, 2011)

Harder, Gary, Dancing Through Thistles in Bare Feet: A Pastoral Journey (Herald Press, 2007)


Lueking, F. Dean, The Grace of it All: Reflections on the Art of Ministry (The Alban Institute, 2006)

MacPherson, D. Neal, Church at a Crossroads: Being the Church after Christendom (Wipf & Stock Publishers)

Miles, Sarah, Take This Bread: A Radical Conversion (Ballantine Books, 2007)

Niebuhr, Reinhold, Pages from the Notebook of a Tamed Cynic

Nouwen, Henri, Return of the Prodigal Son
  o The Genesee Diary
  o The Road to Daybreak: A Spiritual Journey (New York: Doubleday Pub., 1988)


Rutherford, Samuel, Letters of Samuel Rutherford.

Albert Schweitzer, My Life and Thought


- Vais, Chris, *For Words: A Journal of Hope and Healing*

**Novels**
- Shusaku Endo, *Silence*
  - *The Samurai*
- Georges Bernanos, *Diary of a Country Priest*
- Fyodor Dostoyevsky, *The Brothers Karamazov.*

**Suggested Films**
- Priest *Dead Man Walking*
- The Mission *Romero*
- Les Miserables *Gran Torino*