

## DM 9380-SEMINAR IN PRACTICAL THEOLOGY

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### Course Description

This seminar invites the participants to explore the Biblical foundations for pastoral ministry in relation to contemporary cultural challenges, social conditions, and the students' own sense of vocation. At the end of the seminar students will be able to explain in writing the fundamental principles and forces that shape their practice of ministry, and their implications for specific further work on more fully developing some aspect of that ministry.

### Required Readings

- Hill, Craig. *Servant of All*, Eerdmans, 2016
- Thompson, James W, *Pastoral Ministry according to Paul*, Baker Academic, 2006
- Niebuhr, H. Richard. *Christ and Culture* (Preface by James Gufstason. Foreword by Martin Marty). San Francisco: HarperCollins, 2001.
- Wood, Charles M. and Blue, Ellen. *Attentive to God*. Nashville: Abingdon, 2008.

### PRELIMINARY ASSIGNMENTS

1. Write an autobiographical paper of 1000-1200 words. It should begin with your grandparents, mention formative persons in your life and turning points in your life, and focus on you call to ministry. Provide as well for submission a photograph of your church or ministry setting, your family and yourself. Be prepared to make a ten minute autobiographical presentation on the first day of class. **Two copies of the autobiography will be submitted on the first day of class.** It will not be graded. (This assignment is common to both 9370 and 9380)
1. Read *Servant of All*. Write a 1500 – 2000 word reflection on how issues of status and authority have challenged your own ministry. **This paper will be due the first day of class, and will be used as a basis for class discussion.**
2. Read *Pastoral Ministry according to Paul*. Prepare a 1500 - 2000 word reflection on how Thompson's understanding of the major features of Paul's view of pastoral ministry can have a practical effect on your ministry and that of your colleagues. **This paper will be due the first day of the second week of classes and will be used as a basis for class discussion.**
3. Read the books by Niebuhr and Wood and come to class prepared to discuss how they can help us better understand both the context of Christian ministry and how we can be attentive to that context.

### PRIMARY ASSIGNMENT: *Theology of Ministry Paper:*

Your primary task in this course is to develop a paper that articulates your own theology of ministry. The purpose of the paper is not to report about others, but to take your stand about your own ministry. The first week of the seminar will be devoted to working together to create an outline for this paper that all students will use. Then you will write the paper itself on your own, following the outline but with your own original thoughts and analysis.

On the first day of class in the second week of class you must turn in a draft Introduction and section 1 of this paper. Each day an additional draft section will be due. Each section should be between 1 page and 1.5 pages. I will meet with each student individually each day to discuss their draft.

**The completed paper, based on the drafts and put into final form, will be due 1 week after the last day of class.**

**CLASS Schedule - TBA**

## **Minority Concerns and Ministry Courses in the Perkins Curriculum**

In 1975 the Perkins Senate passed resolutions which bear on the relation of the Perkins curriculum to this school's common concern for the status of ethnic minority groups and of women both in education for ministry and in the ministry itself. The following statement summarizes these resolutions with respect to courses in the area of Ministry.

1. Instructors and students alike are urged to use inclusive language, images and metaphors which will give full and positive value to both the past contributions and the future prospects of ethnic minorities and women in the church and in society at large.
2. Instructors and students alike are urged to give sensitive consideration to the role of images from a predominantly white and male culture in shaping both the language and concepts of Christian theology and the models and methods of Christian ministry that are widely current today.
3. Instructors are urged to make every effort to provide—in the syllabi, assignments and formats of their courses—opportunities for women students and students from ethnic minority groups (1) to study the functions of ministry with particular reference to their own status or tradition in the life of the church, (2) to practice the functions of ministry (when practice is an element in a course) in settings which reflect or, if possible, arise from their own status or tradition in the life of the church, (3) to receive evaluation of their practice of the functions of ministry from persons who are not only knowledgeable about and skilled in those functions, but also share their special status or tradition in the life of the church, and (4) to observe the practice of persons who, as women or as members of ethnic minority groups, provide models of effective ministry which are immediately relevant to the special status or tradition of women or members of ethnic minority groups in the church.
4. Instructors are urged to make every effort to provide—in the syllabi, assignments and formats of their courses—opportunities for all students to become acquainted with the special problems and conditions that affect women and ethnic minority groups in human society and in the life of the church, with special attention to the ways in which these problems and conditions may affect the practice of ministry.

## **Policy Statements**

The *Student Handbook* for Perkins School of Theology includes three appendices with statements on Sexual Harassment, Academic Responsibility, and Grade Appeals. All students should be familiar with these statements and should expect that they will be honored in this course.