

PERKINS COURSE OF STUDY SCHOOL  
524 Theological Reflection: Practice of Ministry

**Pre-Class Assignments**

Instructor: Charles L. Aaron  
Email: caaron@smu.edu

**Course Objectives:**

This course is the capstone to the student's basic course of study. Its focus is the integration of the biblical, theological, and practical aspects of ministry.

Students will be able to:

1. Articulate a Trinitarian theology for the practice of ministry.
2. State clearly the nature and mission of the Church and its relation to pastoral ministry.
3. Demonstrate the ability to reflect theologically.
4. Develop a plan for lifelong theological reading, reflection, and growth.

**Required Readings:**

- William Willimon. *Pastor: The Theology and Practice of Ordained Ministry, revised edition*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2016.
- Charles L. Campbell, et al, *Preaching Gospel*, Cascade, 2016.
- Charles Wood and Ellen Blue. *Attentive to God: Thinking Theologically in Ministry*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2008.

**Supplementary Readings:**

- Lacey Warner and Ken Carder. *The Grace to Lead: Practicing Leadership in the Wesleyan Tradition*. Nashville: United Methodist General Board of Higher Education, 2016.
- Richard Lischer. *Open Secrets: A Spiritual Journey Through a Country Church*, Doubleday, 2001.

**Pre-Class Written Assignments:**

*[Write on any two of these three questions]*

Submit pre-class assignments via Canvas by. Your work should be typed, double spaced, in 12 pt. Times New Roman font.

**Question 1**

Choose two of the vignettes from the book Attentive to God by Wood and Blue. Address the following questions. How does this scenario help you to reflect on the doctrine of the Trinity? Specifically, how does the scenario point out the gap between the way God the creator wants the world to be and the way it is? How is Jesus the Christ good news for this situation? What is the role of the Holy Spirit in guiding the church in this scenario?

6 pages; 3 pages per scenario)

## Question 2

In Chapter 3 of his book, *Pastor*, William H. Willimon discusses the role of “The Pastor as Priest: The Leadership of Worship.” He points to The First Apology of Justin Martyr as providing one of the earliest accounts of A Pattern for Sunday Worship in the life of the church. In so doing, he lists a set pattern of eight common acts that in turn is a pattern that can inform “the priestly ministry of pastors.” First, list and discuss each of these common acts within this pattern of Sunday worship. Second, list and discuss how this pattern of Sunday worship informs the pastor’s priestly ministry. (5-6 pages)

## Question 3

Read the chapter by Charles Campbell (pp.1-15) in *Preaching Gospel*. Choose one other chapter on which to comment (but **not** the chapters by Willimon, Neumark, or Hays). How does the chapter you chose help you to understand God’s “yes,” God’s “no,” and God’s “go/do?” Extra credit if you can find a legitimate “ha.”

(5-6 pages)

Criteria for Evaluation of Assignments:

1. Follow assignments in such a way that meet the requirements given.
2. Meet the submission due dates.
3. Submitted work that is clear and coherent, following basic rules of writing.
4. Submitted work gives evidence as having thoroughly read the assigned material.
5. Written work shows comprehension and originality.
6. All external sources used are cited.

## Assignments and Grades:

1. Pre-class assignments count for 30% of the final grade.
2. Grades for the in-residence and online portion of course work will be explained in the course syllabus.

## Pre-class Assignments Policy:

Pre-class assignments for the first session are due June 9 and for the **second session on June 30**. Instructors have discretion to lower a student’s grade for the pre-class assignments and their overall course grade for late submission of pre-class assignments. Submission of all pre-class assignments by the first day of class is required to attend the class. Students who do not have pre-class assignments completed by the first day of class will be required to withdraw from the course without a refund.