



DR 901 THEOLOGICAL FOUNDATIONS FOR MINISTRY

Fall, 2011

Richard E. Burnett, Ph.D.
Mondays, 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Patrick Room

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Office hours: Mondays and Tuesdays, 2:30 - 5:30 p.m. I will make every reasonable effort to be in my office during these hours. However, due to meetings and unforeseen circumstances that may arise, my schedule may change. If you need to see me, I recommend that you call to schedule an appointment.

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

This seminar is designed to help students clarify and articulate a theology of ministry in light of their own theological tradition, in conversation with a wide range of theological perspectives. Students read and discuss significant theological thinkers on the doctrine of the Church and its ministry. The course culminates with a final Theology of Ministry paper, in which students describe their own theological perspective on ministry. *Required. Three hours.*

II. COURSE OBJECTIVES

The primary objectives of the course are:

1. To orient students to the basic rubrics of the Erskine Doctor of Ministry program, namely, *norms* (of Bible and theology), *functions* (e.g., preaching, teaching, pastoral care, church administration, evangelism, etc.), and *data of contemporary life* (the contextual dimension of ministry, e.g., demographics, historical identity, ethical issues, cultural analysis, event analysis);
2. To help students *reflect theologically upon* their practice of ministry (functions) as it intersects their understanding of the Church (norms) and the realities of the contemporary world (data of contemporary life), *and develop a well-written statement of their position*;

3. To engage in theological dialog at an advanced level with peers and professor; and
4. To refresh and cultivate the skills of careful reading, analytical thinking, and clear writing, all exercised notably in a written discourse.

III. REQUIRED TEXTS

Students are expected to secure their own copies of all required textbooks (below). As a convenience, the seminary has a bookstore portal of the website at <http://www.erskineseminary.org/bookstore.html>. There you will find links to familiar vendors (CBD, Amazon, B&N, and Books-A-Million) and can check availability of texts, compare prices, and place orders. The ETS SBA will receive a modest percentage of the profits from students' and professors' purchases through this portal. The Erskine Campus Bookstore will carry a limited number of copies of every required text and orders for books can be placed through the Campus Bookstore.

Bonhoeffer, Dietrich. *Life Together*. New York: Harper & Row, 1954.
ISBN 11-99-54148-6

Dulles, Avery. *Models of the Church*. Expanded Edition. New York : Image Books, 1987. ISBN 0-385-13368-5

Hauerwas, Stanley. *Resident Aliens: Life in the Christian Colony – A Provocative Christian Assessment of Culture and Ministry for People Who Know That Something is Wrong*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1991.
ISBN: 0-687-36159

Peterson, Eugene. *Working the Angles: The Shape of Pastoral Integrity*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1987. ISBN 0-8028-0265-6.

Handouts:

Barth, Karl. *Church Dogmatics* IV/3.2, pp.720-901. Edinburgh: T&T Clark, 1962. ISBN 0-567-09044-2

Packer, J.I. "A Stunted Ecclesiology? The Theory & Practice of Evangelical Churchliness" in *Touchstone*, Dec., 2002, Vol.15, Issue 10.
<http://www.touchstonemag.com/archives/article.php?id=15-10-037-f>

Other works relating to research in ministry will be suggested in the course.

IV. COURSE REQUIREMENTS

[N.B. The course requirements are subject to change in detail up to the first day of class. A revised syllabus will be available at that time.]

- A. **Students must attend every class meeting.** If a student must be absent for all or part of a session, he/she is responsible for all work done and due for that session. Normally, a student who misses all or part of a session will be required to do additional work. This must be negotiated with the professor. **A student who misses more than a total of one session will not pass the course.**
- B. Students must be adequately prepared for each class session. Adequate preparation consists of completion of all reading and/or writing assignments for that day. The format of this course will largely be lecture/discussion with some small-group work. It is imperative that each student be adequately prepared in order to participate in an intelligent manner in classroom discussions.
- C. The major requirement for this course is the writing of a Church and Ministry paper in which the student describes his/her own model of ministry and discusses its theological and biblical underpinnings. **A detailed guide-sheet will be provided for this paper.** The paper will be evaluated on the basis of form as well as content. **The finished copy of this paper is due no later than Monday, December 12.**
- D. **Four other shorter pieces of work will be required of the student. Notice that the first of these must be done prior to Session 1 and must be submitted during Session 1.** See the **COURSE OUTLINE** for the descriptions and due dates for each of these other papers.

V. SEMINARY POLICIES:

http://seminary.erskine.edu/content_policies/SeminaryPoliciesforETSSStudents.pdf

VI. CLASS MEETING DATES

This course will meet from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on the following days:

- Session 1: Monday, Sept. 19**
- Session 2: Monday, Oct. 17**
- Session 3: Monday, Nov. 14**
- Session 4: Monday, Dec. 5**

VII. EVALUATION

The Seminary grade scale will be used. The student's final grade will be calculated as follows:

Paper # 1	=	15%
Paper # 2	=	15%
Paper # 3	=	15%
Paper # 4	=	15%
Major Paper	=	25%
Participation	=	<u>15%</u>
		100%

OVERALL GRADING SCALE:

See Seminary Catalogue, 85-86.

Session 1: Monday, Sept. 19

Topic: What is a model of ministry and why is it important?

Course introduction, requirements, goals, procedures, etc.

I. An Orientation to Erskine's Doctor of Ministry Program

- A. The structure of the program
- B. The components of the program
- C. The foundations courses
- D. The electives
- E. The project/dissertation
- F. Important policies of the program

II. Models of the Church

- A. Introduction
- B. What is a model of the church?
- C. The church as an institution
- D. The church as a mystical communion
- E. The church as sacrament
- F. The church as herald
- G. The church as servant

III. Models of Ministry

- A. What is a model of ministry?

- B. Historical models of ministry
- C. Theological underpinnings of various models of ministry
- D. The issue of instrumentality and participation

ASSIGNMENT FOR SESSION 1:

1. Read and be prepared to discuss in detail Avery Dulles' book, *Models of the Church*. Expanded Edition. New York: Image Books, 1987. ISBN 0-385-13368-5
2. Read and be prepared to discuss in detail Karl Barth's essay, "The Word of God and The Task of The Ministry" in *The Word of God and The Word of Man*. Gloucester, Mass. Peter Smith, 1978, 183-217. On reserve in McCain Library.
3. Supplemental Reading: Karl Barth, *Church Dogmatics* IV/3:2:721-762, §72.1 "The People of God in World-Occurrence"
4. Write a paper (**Paper #1**) of 7-8 pages in length (double-spaced) in which you describe each of Dulles' models of the church in your own words. What kind of pastoral leadership does each call forth? What do you see as the strengths and weaknesses of each model? Describe what counts as divine revelation in each model and how one receives it. Also, describe in a page or two how your understanding of the church and ministry has changed since graduating from seminary.

Session 2: Monday, Oct. 17

Topic: What is the church's relationship to the world?

ASSIGNMENT FOR SESSION 2:

1. Read and be prepared to discuss in detail Stanley Hauerwas's book, *Resident Aliens: Life in the Christian Colony – A Provocative Christian Assessment of Culture and Ministry for People Who Know That Something is Wrong*.
2. Read and be prepared to discuss in detail Karl Barth's *Church Dogmatics* IV/3:2:762-795, §72.2 "The Community for the World."
3. Write a paper (**Paper #2**) of not more than 8 pages (double-spaced) stating the extent to which you agree or disagree with Hauerwas's assessment of culture and ministry today and why. Please also compare Barth's and Hauerwas's views on the church's relationship to the world in light of the assigned reading. Where do they agree and/or disagree?

Session 3: Monday, Nov. 14

Topic: What is the task of ministry?

ASSIGNMENT FOR SESSION 3:

1. Read and be prepared to discuss in detail Dietrich Bonhoeffer's book, *Life Together*.
2. Read and be prepared to discuss in detail Eugene Peterson's book, *Working the Angles: The Shape of Pastoral Integrity*.
3. Supplemental Reading: Karl Barth's *Church Dogmatics* IV/3.2:795-830, §72.3 "The Task of the Community"
4. Write a paper (**Paper # 3**) of not more than 8 pages where you discuss the task of ministry as described by Dietrich Bonhoeffer and Eugene Peterson. What are their basic concerns regarding the ministry? What is so distinctive about their understanding of the task of ministry? How is it different than other more popular notions of ministry? How does their understanding of the church and ministry compare with your own "wish dream," as Bonhoeffer describes it? In your opinion, is their understanding of the task of ministry realistic? Would it "work" in your ministry setting? Why or why not? In answering these questions, please be as specific as possible.

Session 4: Monday, Dec. 5

Topic: What are the specific ministries of the church?

ASSIGNMENT FOR SESSION 4:

1. Read and be prepared to discuss in detail Karl Barth's *Church Dogmatics* IV/3.2:830-901, §72.4 "The Ministry of the Community"
2. Read Packer, J.I., "A Stunted Ecclesiology? The Theory & Practice of Evangelical Churchliness" in *Touchstone*, Dec., 2002, Vol.15, Issue 10. <http://www.touchstonemag.com/archives/article.php?id=15-10-037-f>
3. Write a paper (**Paper # 4**) of not more than 8-10 pages where you analyze Barth's understanding of the Church's ministry as discussed in the *Church Dogmatics* IV/3.2: 830-901. Use insights from Sessions 1-3 and from your readings. **A guide-sheet will be provided for this paper.**