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**DR 901 FJ Theological Foundations of Ministry**

Spring 2011

Mark E. Ross, Ph.D.

Professor of Systematic Theology

**Class Meeting Times and Location**

Saturdays, 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

February 5, March 5, March 26, and April 30

Fort Jackson Extension Site\*

U.S. Army Chaplain Center and School

10100 Lee Road

Fort Jackson, South Carolina

*\* Entrance to Fort Jackson requires a picture ID. If driving a vehicle, you will need a valid driver's license, current vehicle registration, and current proof of insurance. Normally you should allow an extra fifteen minutes to clear the security gates. Occasionally longer waits occur at the security gates. Plan ahead.*

## CONTACT INFORMATION:

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## OFFICE HOURS

In Columbia: Thursdays, 2:00 – 4:00 p.m.

*My office is located at the Erskine Theological Seminary Columbia extension site, 1500 Lady Street, Suite 200, Room 205. Enter by the side door off the driveway from Lady Street and go to the second floor. Due to meetings and unforeseen circumstances that may arise, my schedule may change. If you need to see me, I strongly recommend that you schedule an appointment. You are welcome to call me at home when necessary. Please make your calls between 9:00 a.m. and 9:00 p.m. Because Columbia is not convenient for some students, I will do my best to be available. We can meet before or after class at Fort Jackson, or by telephone.*

## CATALOG 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.*

## COURSE OBJECTIVES

The mission of Erskine Theological Seminary is to educate persons for service in the Christian Church. The Doctor of Ministry program, which builds upon the work done in the student's Master of Divinity program or its equivalent, is designed to develop further the leadership competencies required for Christian ministry in contemporary society. This course serves as an introduction to the Erskine Doctor of Ministry program and lays the theological foundation for the work to be done in DR 902 The Practice of Ministry. From the lectures, class discussions, readings, and presentations from classmates, the student will develop a theology of ministry paper which is exegetically and theologically grounded, historically informed, and focused on the opportunities and challenges of the ministry context. The primary objectives of the course are:

1. To introduce students to the Erskine Doctor of Ministry program and orient them to the basic rubrics of the curriculum: *Norms* (DN courses focused on Bible and theology), *Functions* (DF courses focused in ministry skills and competencies, e.g., preaching, teaching, pastoral care, church administration, evangelism, etc.), and *Contexts* (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 Scripture and theology (norms) and the realities of their ministry context in the world (data of contemporary life).
3. To engage in theological dialogue at an advanced level with peers and professor.
4. To refresh and cultivate the skills of careful reading, analytical thinking, and clear writing.
5. To be renewed in one's sense of calling to serve God in ministry.
6. To become a better minister in the service of God.
7. To prepare a paper stating the theological foundations for the practice of ministry in which the student is involved.

#### REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS

1. Edmund P. Clowney, *The Church*. InterVarsity Press, 1995. ISBN-10: 0830815341 ISBN-13: 978-0830815340
2. Mark Driscoll, *Vintage Church: Timeless Truths and Timely Methods*. Crossway Books, 2009. ISBN-10: 1433501309, ISBN-13: 978-1433501302
3. Thomas Oden, *Pastoral Theology: Essentials for Ministry*. HarperOne, 1983. ISBN-10: 0060663537, ISBN-13: 978-0060663537
4. William Willimon, *Pastor: The Theology and Practice of Ordained Ministry*. Abingdon Press, 2002. ISBN-10: 0687045320, ISBN-13: 978-0687045327
5. Jonathan R. Wilson, *Why Church Matters: Worship, Ministry, and Mission in Practice*. Brazos Press, 2007. ISBN-10: 1587430371, ISBN-13: 978-1587430374

*NOTE ON SECURING BOOKS:* Students are expected to secure their own copies of all required textbooks. 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.

## RECOMMENDED BIBLIOGRAPHY

*The course requirements include reading about 2000 pages. The books below are recommended, but you may substitute others upon approval.*

1. Philip D. Douglass, *What is Your Church's Personality? Discovering and Developing the Ministry Style of Your Church*. P & R Publishing, 2008. ISBN-10: 1596380225, ISBN-13: 978-1596380226
2. Thom S. Rainer, *Breakout Churches: Discover How to Make the Leap*. Zondervan, 2005. ISBN-10: 031025745X, ISBN-13: 978-0310257455
3. Steven B. Cowan, ed. *Who Runs the Church? 4 Views on Church Government*. Zondervan, 2004. ISBN-10: 0310246075, ISBN-13: 978-0310246077
4. Eugene Peterson, *Five Smooth Stones*. Eerdmans, 1992. ISBN-10: 0802806600, ISBN-13: 978-0802806604
5. William Willimon, *Pastor: A Reader for Ordained Ministry*. Abingdon Press, 2002. ISBN-10: 0687097886, ISBN-13: 978-0687097883
6. Marva Dawn and Eugene Peterson, *The Unnecessary Pastor: Rediscovering the Call*. Eerdmans 1999. ISBN: 0802846785, ISBN-13: 9780802846785
7. Alistair Begg, *On Being a Pastor: Understanding Our Calling and Work*. Moody Publishers, 2006. ISBN: 0802431194, ISBN-13: 9780802431196
8. John Piper, *Brothers, We Are Not Professionals: A Plea to Pastors for Radical Ministry*. B & H Publishing Group, 2002. ISBN: 0805426205, ISBN-13: 9780805426205
9. Donald G. Bloesch, *The Church: Sacraments, Worship, Ministry, and Mission*. InterVarsity Press, 2005. ISBN-10: 0830827560, ISBN-13: 978-0830827565
10. Mark Dever, *Nine Marks of a Healthy Church*. Crossway, 2004. ISBN-10: 158134631X, ISBN-13: 978-1581346312
11. Naomi K. Paget and Janet R. McCormack, *The Work of the Chaplain*. Judson Press, 2006. ISBN-10: 0817014993, ISBN-13: 978-0817014995
12. Leonard Sweet, ed. *The Church in Emerging Culture: Five Perspectives*. Zondervan, 2003. ISBN: 0-310-25487-6
13. Aubrey Malphrus, *Planting Growing Churches for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century: A Comprehensive Guide for New Churches and Those Desiring Renewal*. Second edition. Baker Books, 1998. ISBN: 0-8010-9053-9
14. Lynne and Bill Hybels, *Rediscovering Church: The Story and Vision of Willow Creek Community Church*. Zondervan, 1995. ISBN: 0-310-21927-2

15. George Barna, *The Second Coming of the Church*. Word Publishing, 1998. ISBN: 0-8499-1490-6
16. Andrew Purves, *Pastoral Theology in the Classical Tradition*. Westminster John Knox Press, 2001. ISBN-10: 0664222412, ISBN-13: 978-0664222413

## COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. **Attendance** – Preparation, attendance, and participation in class sessions are required. Students must arrive on time for class and following breaks. You are expected to remain at each session until it concludes. A student who misses more than one full day of class or the equivalent in late arrival or early departure (*i.e.*, more than 7 hours) will normally be asked to withdraw from the course or receive a failing grade. Exceptions to this policy will be made only in extreme cases. **Attendance at the first day of class is mandatory; no exceptions can be made to this policy.**
2. **Annotated Reading log** – A reading log recording your responses to about 300 pages of reading beyond the assigned texts is required. For each entry in the log (given in standard bibliographic form), a short single-spaced synopsis and response to the reading should be included (about 100 words per entry). This will be worth 20% of your final grade. The reading log should be submitted as an annotated bibliography with the final paper.
3. **Four short papers** – Three short papers are required for this course that will be presented in class. These papers will eventually become part of the final paper.
  - a. Personal statement of calling paper – This is a 5 page paper presenting your calling to ministry. You should include any Scripture passages which have been most formative in your life and call to ministry. You may include any other influences (books, pastors, friends, etc.) that have been significant in your life, but be sure that the Scriptural basis for your calling is the most prominent feature of the paper. This paper is due at the first class session. It will be worth 10% of the final grade.
  - b. Doctrine of the Church paper – This 5 page paper will present your understanding of the doctrine of the church in dialogue with Clowney and Wilson. It will be worth 10% of the final grade.
  - c. Context of Ministry Paper – This 5 page paper will discuss the enduring and the changing features of ministry in your given context. Identify both the “timeless” and the “timely” elements important to your ministry in dialogue with Driscoll, Clowney, and Wilson. It will be worth 10% of your final grade.
  - d. Response paper – From the additional reading you have done, prepare a five page response paper indicating the significant things you have learned from the reading. This paper will be worth 10% of your final grade.

4. **Theology of Ministry paper** – The course culminates in a final paper of about 20 pages presenting a theology of ministry for the specific ministry in which you serve. This will incorporate the previous papers written and the responses in the reading log. It should demonstrate critical reflection on one’s ministry in the light of Scripture and the reading which has been completed, including especially the reading in Oden, Willimon and the additional reading from the recommended bibliography or other resources you have located in your research and included in your reading log. The paper should conform to the seminary standards. It will be worth 40-80% of your final grade (as it incorporates the previous papers). For the 80% of the final grade dependent on written work, a student will receive the higher grade of the total of all papers or the grade on the final paper. Thus, for 80% of the final grade resting on the papers, no student will receive a grade lower than what is received on the final paper. The annotated bibliography will be graded separately and will be worth 20% of your final grade.

IMPORTANT: Before writing a paper, each student should consult the seminary’s approved papers *ETS Style and Form Standards for Papers, Theses, and Dissertations* (<http://www.erskine.edu/library/libinstructionfetcher.htm?igor=229>) and *ETS Writing Theological Papers* (<http://www.erskine.edu/library/libinstructionfetcher.htm?igor=230>) by Dr. Fairbairn. They can be located online at the home page for McCain Library of Erskine College and Seminary, under Library Research Guides, the Seminary Guides.

*GRADING AND EVALUATION*

The grading scale published in the seminary catalog will be used to arrive at your final grade. The assignments will be given letter grades. For letter grades, the scale is:

A	4.0	B+	3.3	B-	2.7	C-	1.7
A-	3.7	B	3.0	C	2.0	F	0.0

SCHEDULE OF ASSIGNMENTS

*The dates given below are when the assignments are due!*

- February 5<sup>th</sup>                      Read Wilson  
 Due: 5 page paper on your calling in ministry. See Course Requirements, 3.a. above.
- March 5<sup>th</sup>                              Read Clowney  
 Due: 5 page paper on the doctrine of the church. See Course Requirements, 3.b. above.
- March 26<sup>th</sup>                            Read Driscoll  
 Due: 5 page paper on the enduring/changing features of your ministry. See Course Requirements, 3.c. above.

April 30<sup>th</sup> Read Oden and Willimon  
Due: 5 page response paper. See Course Requirements, 3.d. above.

May 10<sup>th</sup> Final draft of your Theology of Ministry paper is due

## ERSKINE SEMINARY POLICIES

### **Drop/Add and Course Withdrawal**

Once a student has completed, signed, and submitted his/her registration to the Registrar for this class, it is a binding contract, and billing will be based on this registration. If the student decided not to take this class, he/she must complete a “drop/add” form and secure the appropriate signatures prior to the drop/add deadline during the second week of the semester or term. If one wishes to withdraw from the course after the drop/add deadline, one must complete a withdrawal form, and tuition will be refunded on a pro rated basis. Failure to withdraw from the class properly will result in the student’s receiving a grade of “F” for the course, and full tuition charges will apply. No exceptions will be made to this policy.

### **Language about God and Humanity**

Although God transcends the distinction between male and female, the Bible and the Church’s historic creeds and confessions use masculine language in reference to God. Thus, the Seminary encourages all students to retain this masculine usage when speaking and writing about God. Furthermore, the Seminary recognizes that all human beings, male and female, are created equally in the image of God (Gen. 1:26-27), and believers of both sexes are fellow heirs of the grace of life (1 Pet. 3:7). Accordingly, whenever students are speaking and writing about males and females, they should use language that clearly includes both men and women (for example, by saying/writing "humanity" rather than "man" or "people" rather than "men").

### **Conduct in Theological Discussions**

Erskine Seminary is committed to the one, holy, catholic, and apostolic Church, and it expects its students to show respect for all who identify with that one Church. In all written work, oral presentations, and discussions both inside and outside the classroom, the Seminary expects students to conduct discussions of controversial issues in a context of respect for those with whom one disagrees. Please see the Community Life Statement in the Catalog for more information.

### **Incompletes**

The grade of “I” or incomplete is given at the discretion of the professor. A grade of “I” is normally given when a student has substantially completed the requirements for a course but has been prevented by extraordinary circumstances from completing the remainder of the course requirements. A student who wishes to request an incomplete should normally complete an incomplete form prior to the end of the semester and ask the professor to grant the request. (Under unusual circumstances, the student may communicate with the professor by phone or email rather than in person, and the professor may then agree to fill out the form at the student's request. Under exceptional circumstances, the professor may initiate the process by filling out the form on the student's behalf.) If the professor grants the request, he/she will sign the

incomplete form and turn it in with his/her final grade report. An “I” in any course must be removed by March 1 for the Fall Term, April 1 for the January Term, August 1 for the Spring Term, and November 1 for the Summer Term. Only the Dean may grant extensions of incompletes beyond the established completion date. Otherwise, these grades automatically become “F.”

### **Official Seminary Class Attendance Policy:**

Class participation is considered an important part of the total educational experience at Erskine Seminary. Students are expected to attend classes on a regular basis and are responsible for the mastery of all materials required in the course. Each professor will indicate in writing the specific class attendance policy at the beginning of each course. In general, students are allowed up to three hours of unexcused absence without penalty. Students wishing to take a course which meets four times over the semester **must** attend the first meeting of the course.

### **Policy Regarding Absences**

Students are required to attend all class sessions. Students wishing to take a course which meets four times over the semester **must** attend the first meeting of the course. Students who cannot attend the first course meeting should not register for the course or, if already registered, should drop the course and complete the drop/add form. (If the drop/add form is not completed and turned in to the Registrar, the student will still be charged for the course and will receive an “F” grade.) If students have to be absent for part or all of another class meeting day, they are still responsible for all work missed and all work due. A student who misses as much as one full class day or its equivalent in late arrival or early departure should consult with the professor to see whether it is still possible to pass the course.

### **Plagiarism**

Plagiarism is the use in writing of wording or ideas produced by others without crediting the author and/or source from which the material was taken. As the following statement indicates, plagiarism is a serious offense that undermines both the witness and the integrity of the Christian community:

*Plagiarism injures the community by inhibiting the recognition and cultivation of gifts imparted by the Spirit. Clearly unattributed use of the words and/or ideas of others fails to give appreciative recognition of their gifts. But this illegitimate appropriation of the gifts of others also blocks the recognition and cultivation of the actual gifts of the person engaged in plagiarism.*

*Plagiarism creates an atmosphere of falsehood in the community’s discernment and cultivation of gifts, both within the Christian community and in God’s larger creation. Since freedom comes only by way of truth (Jn. 8:32), such falsehood can only result in captivity, and therefore has no place in the Christian community.*

*On this basis, the Seminary adheres to the following general requirements for the acknowledgement of sources of academic work. These requirements apply to both print and electronic media.*

*1. Quotations. Any sentence or phrase that a student uses from another source must be placed in quotation marks or, in the case of longer quotations, clearly indented beyond the regular margin. Any quotation must be accompanied (either within*

*the text or in a note) by a precise indication of the source.*

*2. Paraphrasing. Any material that is paraphrased or summarized must also be specifically acknowledged in a note or in the text.*

*3. Ideas. Specific ideas that are borrowed should be acknowledged in a note or in the text, even if the idea has been further elaborated by the student.*

*4. Bibliography. All the sources consulted in the preparation of an essay or report should be listed in a bibliography.*

*In addition to plagiarism, the following related practices are also unacceptable compromises of the truth requisite to a free community:*

*1. Multiple submission. Failure to obtain prior written permission of the relevant instructors to submit work which has been submitted in identical or similar form in fulfillment of any other academic requirement at any institution.*

*2. False citation. The deliberate attribution to, or citation of, a source from which the material in question was not, in fact, obtained.*

*3. Submission of work done by someone else, either with or without that person's knowledge. Neither ignorance of the regulations concerning academic violations nor personal extenuating circumstances are an adequate defense against charges of plagiarism. The Seminary's provisions for "due process" apply in cases of alleged plagiarism.*

[The italicized statement above is used by permission of The Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia and Princeton University, Princeton, New Jersey, based upon a document adapted by LTSP, with permission, from "Princeton University Rights, Rules and Responsibilities," 1990 Edition. Princeton University, Princeton, New Jersey.]

For details refer to the Erskine Seminary Handbook under the Honor Code.

**NOTE:** Under no circumstances will the professor accept a paper containing others' work, either downloaded from Internet sites or used from other students' papers. (In other words, the purpose of the assignment is for the student to reflect critically on the topic at hand and to articulate those reflections in writing.) If the student turns in such a paper to the professor, the grade is an automatic "F" or "0". As in scholarly writing, the student may quote from a reference work using proper citations. The student may also reference others' work in the student's own wording but must give proper credit by citing the original source. (See Turabian for instructions on footnotes, parenthetical references, citations, reference lists, and bibliographies.)

If the student is a published author and chooses to cite from his/her copyrighted material, proper citations must be made as well. Not to do so is considered plagiarism.