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THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

*For Christ and His Church*

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**DR 902 FJ The Practice of Ministry**

Fall 2010

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Associate Professor of Systematic Theology

**Class Meeting Times and Location**

Saturdays, 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

September 11<sup>th</sup>, October 2<sup>nd</sup>, October 30<sup>th</sup>, and November 20<sup>th</sup>

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, vehicle registration, and proof of insurance. You should allow an extra fifteen minutes to clear the security gates.*

## CONTACT INFORMATION:

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## OFFICE HOURS

In Columbia: Fridays, 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 Noon.

*My office is located at the Erskine Theological Seminary Columbia Campus, 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 many students, I will do my best to be available. We can meet before or after class, or during lunch. We can also arrange appointments by telephone if that is more convenient.*

## CATALOG DESCRIPTION

In this seminar, students examine the practice of ministry through the Church in the world, in light of the theological foundations of ministry. Special emphasis is given to the careful study of one's ministry context, planning and implementing ministry, conducting research in ministry, and evaluating effectiveness in ministry.

*Required. Three hours.*

## COURSE OBJECTIVES

The mission of Erskine Theological Seminary is to educate persons for service in the Christian Church. The purpose of the D.Min. degree is for qualified persons to increase their effectiveness as servant-leaders in the ministry of the Church, to the glory of God. This course is designed to build upon the work done in DR 901 Theological Foundations of Ministry, taking that course from theory into application to one's personal ministry context. From the lectures, class discussions, readings, and presentations from classmates, the student will develop a plan for ministry in which the opportunities and challenges of that ministry context are clearly identified,

and the standards for a faithful service in that ministry are clearly set forth. In successful completion of the course the student should be able to:

1. State a theology of ministry for the context in which the student serves.
2. Identify the opportunities and challenges present in that ministry context.
3. State the standards of faithfulness for service in that ministry context.
4. Present a plan for faithful service in that ministry context.

### REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS

1. Thabiti M. Anyabwile, *What is a Healthy Church Member?* Crossway, 2008. ISBN-10: 1433502127, ISBN-13: 978-1433502125
2. Alistair Begg, *On Being a Pastor: Understanding Our Calling and Work.* Moody Publishers, 2006. ISBN: 0802431194, ISBN-13: 9780802431196
3. Mark Dever, *Nine Marks of a Healthy Church.* Crossway, 2004. ISBN-10: 158134631X, ISBN-13: 978-1581346312
4. 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

IMPORTANT NOTE: *Students are expected to secure their own copies of all required textbooks. As a convenience, the seminary has a bookstore portal on 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 Student Body Association will receive a modest percentage of the profits from students' and professors' purchases through this portal. This includes all purchases made through this portal, not just required textbooks, but for the ETS SBA to get this benefit, you must enter the vendor's website through the Erskine website 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. Ammerman, Nancy T.; Carroll, Jackson W.; Dudley, Carl S.; and McKinney, William, eds. *Studying Congregations: A New Handbook.* Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1998. ISBN 0687006511, ISBN-13: 978-0687006519

2. Bloesch, Donald G. *The Church: Sacraments, Worship, Ministry, and Mission*. InterVarsity Press, 2005. ISBN-10: 0830827560, ISBN-13: 978-0830827565
3. Cahalan, Kathleen A. *Projects That Matter*. Bethesda, Md.: The Alban Institute, 2003. ISBN 1-5669-9276-1, ISBN-10: 1566992761, ISBN-13: 978-1566992763
4. Clowney, Edmund P. *The Church*. InterVarsity Press, 1995. ISBN-10: 0830815341 ISBN-13: 978-0830815340
5. Dawn, Marva and Peterson, Eugene. *The Unnecessary Pastor: Rediscovering the Call*. Eerdmans, 1999. ISBN: 0802846785, ISBN-13: 9780802846785
6. Oden, Thomas. *Pastoral Theology*. HarperOne, 1983. ISBN-10: 0060663537, ISBN-13: 978-0060663537
7. Paget, Naomi K. and McCormack, Janet R. *The Work of the Chaplain*. Judson Press, 2006. ISBN-10: 0817014993, ISBN-13: 978-0817014995
8. Peterson, Eugene. *Five Smooth Stones*. Eerdmans, 1992. ISBN-10: 0802806600, ISBN-13: 978-0802806604
9. Piper, John. *Brothers, We Are Not Professionals: A Plea to Pastors for Radical Ministry*. B & H Publishing Group, 2002. ISBN: 0805426205, ISBN-13: 9780805426205
10. Rainer, Thom S. *Breakout Churches: Discover How to Make the Leap*. Zondervan, 2005. ISBN-10: 031025745X, ISBN-13: 978-0310257455
11. Willimon, William. *Pastor: A Reader for Ordained Ministry*. Abingdon Press, 2002. ISBN-10: 0687097886, ISBN-13: 978-0687097883

## COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. **Attendance** – Preparation, attendance, and participation in class sessions are required. Bring your Bible to each class. Students must arrive on time for class and following breaks. Attendance at the first day of class is mandatory. **No exceptions can be made to this policy.** 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 a grade. Exceptions to this policy will be made only in **extreme** cases.
2. **Reading log** – This log will be due at the final session of class. It will list all the reading which has been done, along with a short insightful critical response (one or two paragraphs) to each entry in the log. The log should evidence that about 2000 pages of reading has been accomplished, which includes the required reading. It will be worth 10% of the final grade. A proposed bibliography for your final paper should be turned in at the third class session.
3. **Four response papers** – Four papers are required for this course. They will all be incorporated into your final paper and reading log.

- a. Prepare a response paper of 5-7 pages describing and assessing your work as a minister in dialogue with the book by Alistair Begg and Derek Prime. This paper is due at the first class session. It will be worth 10% of the final grade.
  - b. Prepare a response paper of 5-7 pages assessing the “personality” of your church or ministry context in dialogue with the book by Philip Douglass. It will be worth 10% of your final grade.
  - c. Prepare a response paper of 5-7 pages to the books by Mark Dever and Thabiti Anyabwile, presenting and evaluating the ministry context where you are serving. It will be worth 10% of your final grade.
  - d. Prepare a response paper of 5-7 pages on the additional reading you have done. It will be worth 10% of your final grade.
4. **Practice of Ministry Paper** – Prepare a final paper of 18-20 pages on the theology and practice of ministry in your particular ministry context. This paper should incorporate the work of the response papers and reading log, but it should not be simply a pasting together of the response papers. It should be a new paper in which the theology and practice of one’s ministry is presented (giving Biblical foundations), critically analyzed (in light of Scripture, reading, and research), and planned for implementation (goals stated and steps for accomplishing those goals outlined). The final paper should be 18-20 pages of text. It will be worth 50% of the 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, under Library Research 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!*

September 11 <sup>th</sup>	Read the book by Begg and Prime Due: Response paper
October 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Read the book by Douglass Due: Response paper
October 30 <sup>th</sup>	Read the books by Anyabwile and Dever Due: Response paper Due: Proposed bibliography for final paper
November 20 <sup>th</sup>	Complete additional reading Due: Response paper to additional reading
December 7 <sup>th</sup>	Due: Practice of Ministry paper Due: Reading log

## 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 decides 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.

### **Office Hours**

My normal office hours are printed in this syllabus. However, due to meetings and unforeseen circumstances that may arise, my schedule may change. If you need to see me, I strongly recommend that you call or e-mail to schedule an appointment.

### **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.

### **Style and Bibliographical Formatting Requirements**

All papers must be typed/processed (12-point type, double-spaced, one-inch margins) and fully documented, following the standards in the “Style and Form Standards” (Erskine Seminary). In this course, footnotes and a bibliography are required in each paper. The paper’s cover page and bibliography are not counted towards page requirements.