

Christian Commitment and Excellence in Learning

ERSKINE THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

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DR 902 FJ The Practice of Ministry

Fall 2009

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Class Meeting Times and Location

Saturdays, 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

September 12th, October 10th, November 7th, and December 5th

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 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 many students, I will do my best to be available. We can meet before or after class in Columbia. I have a flat rate long distance telephone service, so I shall be happy to bear the cost of long distance telephone meetings if that is more convenient for you.

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. This course is designed to build upon the work done in DR 901 Theological Foundations of Ministry. That course culminated in a paper articulating one's own theology of ministry. In this course application is to be made of that theology to the specific context where the student now ministers. 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. Edmund P. Clowney, *The Church*. InterVarsity Press, 1995. ISBN-10: 0830815341 ISBN-13: 978-0830815340
2. William Willimon, *Pastor: The Theology and Practice of Ordained Ministry*. Abingdon Press, 2002. ISBN-10: 0687045320, ISBN-13: 978-0687045327
3. Mark Driscoll, *Vintage Church: Timeless Truths and Timely Methods*. Crossway Books, 2009. ISBN-10: 1433501309, ISBN-13: 978-1433501302
4. 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 responsible for securing their own required textbooks. As a convenience, there is a bookstore on the seminary's home page. To access this site and its information, locate textbooks, and compare prices, go to <http://www.erskineseminary.org/bookstore.html>. A limited number of copies of each textbook will be available from the Erskine Campus Bookstore, and copies may be ordered through that 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. Thomas Oden, *Pastoral Theology*. HarperOne, 1983. ISBN-10: 0060663537, ISBN-13: 978-0060663537

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

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 and bibliography** – This log and bibliography will be due at the third session of class, November 7th. It will list the reading which has been done, a short insightful critical response (one or two paragraphs) to each entry in the log, and proposed bibliography for the final paper. The log should evidence that about 1500 pages of reading has been accomplished. In the final paper, this reading log should be included as an annotated bibliography supplementing the text of the paper. It will be worth 10% of the final grade.
2. **Three papers** – Three papers are required for this course.
 - a. **Theology of Ministry paper** – Each student shall prepare a paper of 7-8 pages in which one's theology of ministry is presented in dialogue with the view of ministry and the church presented in Clowney's *The Church*. This paper is due at the first class session, September 12th. It will be worth 20% of the final grade.

- b. Context of Ministry paper – Each student shall prepare a paper of 7-8 pages presenting and evaluating the ministry context in which the student now serves, or hopes to serve (as in one’s next place of ministry), in dialogue with Jonathan R. Wilson’s, *Why Church Matters* (or, for chaplains, *The Work of the Chaplain* by Naomi K. Paget and Janet R. McCormack), and either (or both) of the books by Driscoll and Willimon. It will be worth 20% of the final grade.
- c. Practice of Ministry Paper – Each student shall prepare a final paper, incorporating the work of the first two, in which the theology and practice of one’s ministry is theologically presented (given Biblical foundations), critically analyzed (in light of 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. An annotated bibliography (completed reading log with critical responses) should accompany the paper. 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 12th Read Clowney, *The Church*
Due: Theology of Ministry paper
- October 10th Read Wilson, *Why Worship Matters* (or Paget and McCormack, *The Work of the Chaplain*)
Read either Driscoll, *Vintage Church*, or Willimon, *Pastoral Ministry*
Due: Context of Ministry Paper
- November 7th Read the other of Driscoll or Willimon

Complete reading of 1500 pages (includes the books assigned)
Due: Reading log and bibliography

December 5th Complete reading of 2000 pages

December 14th Due: Practice of Ministry paper with annotated bibliography

ERSKINE SEMINARY POLICIES

Drop/Add 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. If students have to be absent for any reason, they are still responsible for all work missed and all work due. A student who misses more than three class sessions for any reason will automatically fail 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.