



Grace Communion Seminary

CM504 The Practice of Ministry

Short Syllabus

Instructor: Larry Hinkle, D.Min.

Course description

This course is designed to help the student think about who Jesus is for humanity in his ministry to the Father and to the world in the communion of the Holy Spirit. That understanding is applied to the practice of preaching, worship, evangelism, discipleship, and the administration of the Church.

Required textbooks

These texts will be necessary for in-depth reading in order to fulfill the requirements in the course. Lower prices can often be found by using bookfinder.com

Purves, Andrew. *The Crucifixion of Ministry*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2007. ISBN 978-0-8308-3439-6. 150 pages. \$10.00.

Purves, Andrew. *The Resurrection of Ministry*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2010. ISBN 978-0830837410. 158 pages. \$11.00

Seamands, Stephen. *Ministry in the Image of God: The Trinitarian Shape of Christian Service*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2005. ISBN 978-0-8308-3338-2. 189 pages. \$12.00.

Optional resources (if you want more reading, pick one or two)

Powers, Bruce P. *Church Administration Handbook*. Broadman and Holman: Nashville, 1997.

Rediger, G. Lloyd. *Clergy Killers: Guidance for Pastors and Congregations Under Attack*. Inver Grove Heights, MN: Logo Productions, 1997.

Torrance, Thomas F. *The Mediation of Christ*. Helmers and Howard, 1992.

Volf, Miroslaf. *Exclusion and Embrace*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1996.

Student learning objectives and course objectives for CM504

GCS Student Learning Objective 3: That students model the love of God the Father, the grace of the Son Jesus Christ, and the communion of the Holy Spirit in congregations.

Course Student Learning Objective 1: Explain who Jesus is for humanity and how that informs their understanding of ministry.

Course Student Learning Objective 2: Validate and revise their ministry strategies and activities based on the vicarious humanity of Jesus.

Success for this objective will be determined through three two-page reflection papers, giving your reflections on each of the assigned textbooks. Students will explore how their ministry practices have been confirmed and/or revised by thinking about the topics raised by these books.

GCS Student Learning Objective 4: That students conduct the work of pastoral ministry in witness to and representation of Jesus Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Course Student Learning Objective 3: Identify the practical aspects of actual ministry activities such as baptism, communion, counseling, etc.

Course Student Learning Objective 4: Describe the meaning of church ceremonies in light of the student's understanding of who Jesus is for humanity.

Success for this objective will be determined through four two-page reflection papers. These will be in response to the ideas discussed in four of the lectures.

Success for this objective will also be determined through an eight-page practice of ministry paper due at the end of the course, in which students will choose any three ministry practices (such as giving a sermon, preparing a Bible study, making a pastoral visit, planning a worship service, etc.) and describe how they would go about conducting each of these activities. In these descriptions students will compare their plans for these activities with the way in which they would have conducted them before taking this class. In this comparison students will note what aspects of the plans have been confirmed by this class and what aspects they would revise based on what they learned in this class.

Success for this objective will also be determined through an online discussion forum. Students will be expected to post one question or comment for discussion each week, and post one response to another student's question or topic each week. Students will be graded on the extent to which their posts thoughtfully reflect on practical aspects of actual ministry activities and reflect on their understanding of what those activities mean and how they should be conducted in light of the student's understanding of who Jesus is for humanity.

Course requirements

1. One eight-page practice of ministry paper. In this paper students will:

- A. Choose three ministry practices and describe how they would go about conducting each of these activities.
- B. In these descriptions students will compare plans for these activities by describing the way they would have conducted them before taking this class and the way they would conduct them after taking this class. In this comparison students will note what aspects of the plans were confirmed by this class and what aspects they would revise based on what they learned in this class.

2. Seven reflection papers

- A. Three three-page reflection papers: one on each of the assigned textbooks for the class. In each paper students will:
 - i. Address which ideas in the book were helpful, encouraging, or personally transformative.
 - ii. Address which ideas in the book the student disagreed with or believe needed further clarification on the part of the author.
 - iii. Explain how what they learned from the book either confirmed their present ministry strategies and activities or may prompt a re-evaluation or revision of ministry strategies and activities.
- B. Four two-page reflection papers in response to the ideas discussed in four of the lectures. In each paper the student will:
 - i. Address which ideas in the lecture were helpful, encouraging, or personally transformative.
 - ii. Address which ideas in the lecture the student disagreed with or believe needed further clarification.

- iii. Explain how what was learned from the lecture either confirmed present ministry strategies and activities or has led to a revision of ministry strategies and activities.

3. Online discussion forum

Students will be expected to post one question or comment for discussion each week (by the end of Thursday) and post one response to another student’s question or topic each week (by the end of Sunday). Students will be graded on the extent to which their posts thoughtfully reflect on practical aspects of ministry activities and reflect on their understanding of what those activities mean and how they should be conducted in light of the student’s understanding of who Jesus is for humanity.

Weekly topics and assignments

Lecture topics	Assignment
1. The Crucifixion of Ministry	Read <i>The Crucifixion of Ministry</i> , pages 1-46 Participate in online discussion forum every week.
2. Preaching	<i>Crucifixion</i> , pp. 47-99 Reflection paper on lecture 1 or 2
3. Baptism	<i>Crucifixion</i> , pp. 100-149
4. Communion	Reflection paper on <i>Crucifixion Resurrection</i> , pp. 1-63
5. Evangelism	<i>Resurrection</i> , pp. 64-113 Reflection paper on lecture 3, 4 or 5
6. Worship	<i>Resurrection</i> , pp. 114-153 Reflection paper on <i>Resurrection</i>
7. Discipleship and Pastoral Care	<i>Image</i> , pp. 1-74

8. Weddings	<i>Image</i> , pp. 75-136 Reflection paper on lecture 6, 7 or 8
9. Funerals	<i>Image</i> , pp. 137-179 Reflection paper on <i>Image</i>
10. Church Administration	Reflection paper on lecture 9 or 10
Week 11	
Week 12-13 / GCS closed week of Thanksgiving, 11/20-26	Practice of Ministry paper due Monday, December 5, 2016

Assignments, estimated hours, and grade weighting

Assignment	Hours*	Percentage of grade
Reading the syllabus and lectures	22	0
Watching video and/or listening to audio	7	0
Reading forum discussions and making responses	15	10
Reading the textbooks	25	0
Writing the practice of ministry paper	32	20
Writing the reflection papers	34	70
Total – about 12 hours each week	135	100

* Some students will complete the requirements in less time, and some will take more time. These are estimates for the hypothetical “average” student.