



CM599 Master of Divinity Capstone

Short Syllabus

Instructors: Russell Duke, PhD., and Lance McKinnon, M.T.S.

Contact: To send a message to the instructors, please communicate through the GCS course link.

GCS mission statement

“Equipping the Saints for Pastoral Ministry.” We are committed to equip the saints for pastoral ministry through graduate-level distance education programs in biblical, theological, ministerial and pastoral studies informed by Trinitarian Incarnational faith.

Course description

This capstone course integrates previous academic work with ministry experience to reflect and evaluate the student’s educational progress towards biblically and theologically informed ministry applied in the student’s cultural context. Reflection will also evaluate the student’s call and giftedness for ministry in Jesus Christ. Throughout the course students will reflect on personal goals achieved in the degree program as well as critique areas of their own strengths and weaknesses. Students will define and analyze the cultural contexts in which they carry out both personal and professional ministry.

Prerequisite

A thesis must have been completed, either in CM519, TM501 option B, or TH519. This course must be taken in the final semester. It may be taken with

another course.

Required textbooks

Purves, Andrew. *The Crucifixion of Ministry*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2007. ISBN 978-0-8308-3439-6. 152 pages. \$12-\$15.

Please obtain this book before the class begins. To find the lowest prices on these books, you may find it helpful to use www.bookfinder.com.

Recommended textbooks

Purves, Andrew. *The Resurrection of Ministry*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2010.

Anderson, Ray S. *The Soul of Ministry*. Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox Press, 1997.

Stone, Howard W. and James O. Duke. *How to Think Theologically*, 3rd ed. Minneapolis: Fortress, 2013.

Student learning outcomes

GCS SLO 3:

Model the love of God the Father, the grace of the Son Jesus Christ, and the communion of the Holy Spirit in congregations.

GCS SLO 5:

Integrate biblical exegesis with sound theological exposition that informs personal spiritual growth and that directs effective ministry in Jesus Christ.

Requirements and assignments

1. **Compile Electronic Portfolio.** Students will compile required artifacts for the purpose of student self-assessment and faculty assessment of student learning outcomes and program outcomes. See instructions under “Electronic portfolio assignment.”
2. **Review of *The Crucifixion of Ministry*.** Write a 5-7 page paper using the following questions to reflect on the depth of this text:
 1. How does Andrew Purves define pastoral work?
 2. How should that resonate in time of trauma and chaos?
 3. Explain your “basis of ministry.” How has your ministry changed through your journey in GCS?
 4. How do you now speak to “Mrs. Smith?”
3. **Write four short evaluation papers.** Write a 2-3 page paper evaluating academic integration of learning for each area of study: Theology, biblical studies, church history, and ministry. Four papers in all.
4. **Write an analysis paper.** Write a 4-6 page paper, evaluating integration of the four academic disciplines with application in your ministry in Jesus Christ.
5. **Conduct two interviews.** Interview two seminary graduates outside GCS of the last five years as to the process and value of his or her experience. Evaluate your own GCS experience relative to the insight gained in these two interviews.

Electronic portfolio assignment

Assessment needs to utilize various courses as common denominators of our graduate education. We are using a collecting point for student papers and projects that will help students develop self-assessment skills as well as provide the corpus for faculty assessment of student learning outcomes and program outcomes. This

assessment of achievement is to be accomplished by electronic portfolios (e-folios).

Assignments, estimated hours, and grade weighting

Assignment	Hours *	Percentage of grade
Reading the syllabus and lectures	15	
Create E-folio	40	40
Interviews and analysis	40	20
Reading textbook	10	
Writing textbook review	5	10
Writing analysis and integration paper	10	10
Writing evaluation papers (4)	20	20
Total – about 12 hours each week	140	100

* Some students will complete the course requirements in less total time, and some will take more time. A student who reads quickly may be slow in writing papers, and vice versa.

Weekly topics and assignments (tentative)

Week	Topic	Assignments to be done during the week
Week 1	Theology	Evaluation paper on Theological Studies
Week 2	Biblical Studies	Evaluation paper on Biblical Studies
Week 3	Church History	Evaluation paper on Church History Studies Complete uploading artifacts from previous courses for the

		e-folio
Week 4	Pastoral Ministry	Evaluation paper on Pastoral Ministry Studies
Week 5		Reflection paper: <i>The Crucifixion of Ministry</i>
Week 6		Complete Interview/Report #1
Week 7		Complete Interview/Report #2
Week 8		
Week 9		Analysis paper: evaluate integration of the four academic disciplines
Week 10		Complete work on e-folio
Week 11		
Week 12		