

Providence Theological Seminary

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SYLLABUS

I. Course Description:

A “hands on” experience in a church, hospital, counselling or parachurch setting under the supervision of a qualified pastor or other ministry professional. Students will be involved in group labs (colloquia) under the direction of a faculty instructor where they will reflect on various dimensions of their supervised field experience.

Note: Students should have their ministry placements confirmed by the first class. The instructor can advise on possible ministry settings but the student must take the initiative in advance of the course to secure a ministry setting.

II. Objectives:

1. The student will enter into practical ministry experiences consistent with their field of service.
2. Students will demonstrate the ability to analyze and reflect on the issues and opportunities specified in their Ministry Experience Covenant (see Handbook).
3. Students will demonstrate a growing awareness of their strongest and weakest skills, gifts and aptitude and demonstrate how they are responding to them in their supervised field experience.
4. Students will reflect on various aspects of ministry which may not be encountered in their supervised field experience. These may be issues raised by the student or the instructor.

III. Course Requirements:

1. Fulfill the obligations of the Supervised Ministry Experience Handbook (can be obtained at the Providence bookstore).
2. Submit reports to the faculty instructor as required, **according to the timetable outlined in this syllabus**, and according to the reports specified in the handbook.

3. Read the textbook, Cole, Allan Hugh, (editor) *From MidTerms To Ministry: Practical Theologians on Pastoral Ministry*. (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2008). Since this text will provide some of the content for discussion in the colloquia, students are asked to make notes (marginal or otherwise) on helpful dimensions of each chapter. These notes will be helpful for recall over the course of the semester.
Students who have already completed a previous semester of Supervised Ministry and who have already read *From MidTerms To Ministry*, may read *Deep Church: A Third Way Beyond Emerging and Traditional*, by Jim Belcher
4. Participate in the discussions of the planned colloquia. Discussions will encompass the student's field experience, their readings, and anything else raised by the instructor.

Note: *Since this is a Pass/Fail course, students must complete all the work including reading the text. Further, no more than two unexcused absences will be permitted.*

IV. Colloquia Dates: Tuesdays, 8:30-11:05

Sept. 13

Sept. 20 - Ministry Covenant due, Ministry narrative due

Oct. 11 - Self assessment due

Oct. 18 - Ministry narrative due, Supervisor evaluation due

Nov. 1

Nov. 22 - Ministry narrative due

Dec. 6 - Self assessment due

Dec. 13 - Ministry narrative due, Supervisor evaluation due

V. Required Reading

Cole, Allan Hugh. *From Midterms To Ministry: Practical Theologians on Pastoral Beginnings* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2008)

VI. Recommended Reading:

Books will be recommended over the course of the semester. Students should also be prepared to recommend books from their own reading.

Three additional books that may be of interest to students are the following:

Conder, Tim. *The Church in Transition: The Journey of Existing Churches Into The Emerging Culture*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2006.

While this is neither the first nor the last word on emerging church issues, it does explore some of the stress and opportunities for existing congregations. Students will discover some of the missional issues that are broadly affecting North American churches, even though some of these issues may not yet be recognized or understood in the student's own church.

Fernando, Ajith. *Jesus Driven Ministry*. Wheaton, Ill. Crossway Books, 2002.

This book serves as a practical application of ministry for pastors and mission minded leaders. Also, its perspective is international and can broaden a student's understanding of how pastoral ministry might be undertaken with those from different cultural backgrounds. Reading this book will help the student appreciate how the fundamentals of pastoral ministry may look different when practiced outside of North America.

Scazzero, Peter. *The Emotionally Healthy Church: A Strategy for Discipleship That Really Changes Lives*. Grand Rapids, Mich: Zondervan, 2003.

This is an excellent book to read with leaders in a church or ministry setting. Focusing on spiritual maturity as including one's emotional health is a significant contribution to discussions on pastoral health. There is a helpful inventory in the book that orients the reader to the content of each chapter. Scazzero also has a sequel to the book called, *Emotionally Healthy Spirituality*.