

CMCM1310 INTRODUCTION TO MINISTRY
New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary

Disclaimer: This syllabus is intended to give the student a general idea of the content, format, and textbooks used for this class. The professor will submit a full syllabus at the beginning of the class which will contain a course schedule and the instructor's information.

Course Description

The purpose of this course is to introduce students to the philosophical and theological aspects of ministry. The primary thrust of the course is to help students develop a practical approach and skills which will enable them to function as under shepherds in various ministry settings. Lectures are devoted to emphasizing a team orientation to the organization and administration of pastoral nurturing. This course is a prerequisite for all other pastoral care classes.

Student Objectives

At the conclusion of this course, the student will:

1. Be acquainted with the basic concepts, methodologies, and resources pertaining to contemporary Christian ministry.
2. Gain personal insight concerning how one's calling, character, spiritual gifts, and personality qualities contribute to Christian ministry.
3. Learn the basic theories, techniques, and leadership methods related to the organization and administration of Christian nurturing.
4. Develop skills of interpersonal relationships with all constituencies in the local ministry setting.
5. **Comprehend basic concepts, methodologies, and resources of ministry**
6. **Value the principles and practice of Christian ministry**
- 7 **Practice ministry.**

Textbooks

Cothen, Joe; Jerry Barlow. *Equipped for Good Work*. New Orleans: Pelican Press, 2001.

Stowell, Joseph M. *Shepherding the Church into the 21st Century*. Wheaton: Victor Books, 1994

Optional texts:

Blackaby, Henry and Richard. *Spiritual Leadership*. Nashville: Broadman and Holman Publishers, 2001.

Hughes, Kent and Barbara. *Liberating Ministry from the Success Syndrome*. Wheaton, Illinois: Tyndale House Publishers, Inc., 1987.

Course Methodology

This course will consist of assigned readings, lectures, class discussion, written assignments, and audio-visual materials.

Course Requirements

Attendance

Class attendance is essential for effective learning. Students will be expected to attend all classes unless prevented by illness or emergency. A grade of "F" will be assigned to students who fail to attend the minimum number of hours. Class periods missed because of late enrollment will be counted as absences. Three occasions of arriving late for a class or leaving early from class will count as one absence. Students should take care to avoid unnecessary absences, so that illness or emergencies will not cause failure in class. The maximum number of absences without failure for this 3-hour course is 9 classroom hours. Roll will be taken at the beginning of each class period. It is the student's responsibility to contact the professor if he/she is tardy and the roll has already been taken. Students are responsible for being in the classroom on time, reading any assigned materials and participating in class discussions. Presence and class participation will have an affect upon your final grade.

Assignment Parameters

All course assignments or their equivalency must be completed in order to receive credit for the course. The student is responsible for scheduling any make-up exams. A student must notify the professor as soon as possible before the exam that the exam cannot be taken. The professor reserves the right to include any material from class lectures on the make-up exam.

INTERNET participants: We will have the discussion board area for our classroom. If at any time the documents and instructions are unclear, please e-mail me and let's clear up confusion. As documents are given to you, I strongly suggest that you download and collect these in a spiral 3 ring notebook.

Your assignments should be collected and kept for future use. I always have students come later (two years after) and ask if I have some documents that we used in this class. Hopefully this will be practical and helpful.

Assignments: (to be collected and maintained in a three ring binder)

- 1) Reading Report: Each student will complete a one page typed single space summary of the two texts. The summary should give major highlights and strengths and weakness: *Shepherding the Church into the 21st Century* and *Equipped for Good Work* need to be read in entirety.

3. You will develop 3 wedding ceremonies (several wedding manuals will be suggested). You will type up and develop an outline for a “house” wedding (extremely informal); an “informal” wedding, and a formal wedding. You can access sample weddings in Hobb’s church manual; Jim Henry has a wedding manual; Morris Chapman has a wedding manual compilation

***Ladies who don’t anticipate being the officiate at a wedding will prepare a guide for one who might be “directing” and coordinating a wedding in a church. Take the participants through the rehearsal and assist the pastor in making the wedding rehearsal a smooth process (consult Dr. Cothen/Barlow’s text for the “steps in a wedding”**

4. You will develop 5 funeral outlines. (some funeral samples will be provided as a guide) You want to have a brief outline so that (you will be ready at a “moment’s notice” when you are called upon to do a funeral

- a. funeral for a baby b. funeral for teen (suicide, car wreck, etc)
- c. funeral for a middle aged person d. funeral for a senior adult Christian
- e. funeral for a non-Christian.

5. Ladies: you may not be asked to ever do a funeral; therefore as a substitute, you may submit the funeral service that you would like performed for your death.

All documents that you prepare will be given back to you for future use.

Netiquette Statement on Appropriate Online Behavior

Each student is expected to demonstrate appropriate Christian behavior when working online on the Discussion Board. The student is expected to interact with other students in a fashion that will promote learning and respect for the opinions of others in the course. A spirit of Christian charity will be expected at all times in the online environment.

Selected Bibliography

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- Barlow, Jerry N. *Pastoral Care PM 0351: A Study Guide*. Nashville: The Seminary Extension of the Southern Baptist Seminaries, 2000.
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Wofford, Jerry C. *Transforming Christian Leadership: 10 Exemplary Church Leaders*.