

Practice of Ministry

Course Description: Practice of Ministry

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 Texts:

These texts will be necessary for in-depth reading in order to fulfill the requirements in the course.

Purves, Andrew. The Crucifixion of Ministry. Downers Grove, IL: Inter Varsity Press, 2007. ISBN 978-0-8308-3439-6

Seamands, Stephen. Ministry in the Image of God: The Trinitarian Shape of Christian Service. Downers Grove, IL: Inter Varsity Press, 2005. ISBN 978-0-8308-3338-2

Recommended Texts:

These texts that are particularly useful for those who wish to expand their library and for use in research, but are not vital to passing this particular course.

Linn, David and Matthew and Sheila Fabricant. Healing the Eight Stages of Life. Paulist Press, 1988.

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 Outcomes: Students will:

1. Reflect on their understanding of who Jesus is for humanity and how that understanding informs their understanding of their ministry.
2. Revise ministry strategies and activities.
3. Think theologically about the practical aspects of actual ministry activities such as baptism, communion, counseling, etc., and reflect on their understanding of those activities in light of understanding who Jesus is for humanity.

Course Assignments

One Research Paper: researching the practice of a specific ministry within another Christian context outside of his or her own context.

Four Reflection Papers:

Two two-page reflection papers on each of the assigned text books for the class.

Two two-page reflection papers in response to the ideas discussed in two of the Lectures 2-10.

Weekly Topics

Course Assignments Chart

Lecture Topics	Assignment for Next Class
1. The Crucifixion of Ministry	Purves, pp. 1-46
2. Preaching	Purves, pp. 47-99
3. Baptism	Purves, pp. 100-149
4. Communion	Reflection Paper on Purves
5. Evangelism	Seamands, pp. 1-52
6. Worship	Seamands, pp. 53-95
7. Discipleship and Pastoral Care	Seamands, 96-136
8. Weddings	Seamands, pp. 137-178
9. Funerals	Reflection Paper on Seamands
10. Church Administration	None
Week 11	
Week 12	Other Reflection Papers and Research Paper Due