



Syllabus: Theology of Ministry

Instructor: Russell Duke

E-mail: russell.duke@gcs.ambassador.edu

Phone: (626) 650-2308

GCS Mission: “*Equipping the Saints for Pastoral Ministry.*” We are committed to equip the saints for pastoral ministry through graduate education in biblical, theological, ministerial and pastoral studies.

Course Description: This course integrates learning from biblical, theological, and ministry studies into a research thesis that expresses one’s theology of ministry. This course is conducted as an independent study under the guidance of the professor as the capstone course for the Master of Pastoral Studies degree.

Required Texts:

Hacker, Diana. *A Writer’s Reference*. 2003. ISBN 0-312-39767-4. See at dianahacker.com/writersref

Niebuhr, H. Richard. *Christ and Culture*, New York: Harper & Row, 1951. ISBN 0-06-130003-9.

Stone, Howard W. and James O. Duke. *How to Think Theologically*, Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1996. ISBN 0-8006-2967-1.

Course Objectives and Student Learning Outcomes

GCS Student Learning Outcomes:

1. Explain the revelation of the Bible in its historical and cultural setting as it relates to God, Jesus Christ and Salvation, and its application for faithful living today.

Course Student Learning Outcomes:

1. Establish biblical foundation for personal ministry (pastoral or support ministry) that addresses the core of your ministry goals (or the societal issue you address).

Course Objectives:

1. Exegete a biblical passage that is core to your ministry or issue you address.
 2. Reference claims arising from biblical concepts.
2. Reason from a sound theological basis as new covenant Christians centered in Trinitarian Incarnational faith.
 2. Explain your theological foundation of God's interaction with humanity through Christ in the Incarnation.
 3. Provide theological development on your topic as it relates to the Church and its role in culture and conduct.
 4. Integrate research on Church fathers and leaders who impact your topic.
 3. Integrate biblical exegesis with sound theological exposition that informs personal spiritual growth and that directs effective ministry in Jesus Christ.
 3. Integrate the first two GCS SLO's into your ministry topic, explaining the relevance to the specifics of your ministry.
 5. Analyze the strengths and weaknesses of your ministry topic (or theological issue as it applies to ministry).
 6. Project the opportunities and threats to your ministry topic (or theological issue as it applies to your ministry).

Course Requirements:

1. Establish the topic for your paper; develop a one to two page synopsis and brief outline of the ideas you plan to research and develop in your paper.
2. Draft a list of at least fifteen texts that will be part of your research. Several of these texts probably will be part of your previous coursework. A list of texts that are predominantly in the realm of Trinitarian Theology accompanies this syllabus; most of them have been used in the curriculum of GCS, so feel free to

draw from this list, but you are not limited to the list and should expand your research beyond them.

Send the topic, brief outline, and research text list to the professor for review and suggestions.

3. Provide an annotated bibliography to the professor before sending any drafts of the paper.
4. Write your theology of ministry paper, using the points in the syllabus on areas to be included in the paper. It should be no more than forty pages, no less than twenty-five, single spaced, with one-inch margins, 12 point font. It must have a bibliography and appropriate citations throughout.

Theology of Ministry Papers should include:

1. A carefully stated thesis (position statement) that concretely expresses where you see your ministry or theological perspective fitting within your culture.
2. A brief introduction that succinctly places you as author in the context of ministry and/or theological perspective; the thesis becomes a part of this contextualization.
3. Development of your theological pretext for ministry; though each biblical assumption should be supported with biblical reference(s), a central passage should be exegeted as foundational to your theological presentation. You should integrate the biblical text with theology.
4. Development of your theological perspective, relative to Trinitarian Incarnational theology while set in broader Christian perspectives.
5. Supportive research and critical response to your positions needs to be integrated into your paper. Research of prominent authors in church history should be included with the development of your topic.
6. Appropriately bridge the gap for the Bible to ministry today, so that contrasts and parallels are apparent. Show how the Bible and theology inform your ministry.

7. If approaching a specific ministry, state the strengths and weaknesses of your ministry; relate how theology and ethics speak to the challenges and opportunities of ministry.

If approaching a topical subject, such as a societal problem, state the problem, objectively state the varying responses to it (both Christian and otherwise), and clearly develop your position with support.

8. Conclude with an encapsulated summary of your paper.
9. A full bibliography must accompany the paper. Use this format: Author listed by last name, first name. Title italicized. City, state of publication: Publisher, year. ISBN number. Using hanging indent if a second line is needed.

List books alphabetically by author's last name.