

THEOLOGY OF MINISTRY

This course invites the student to a survey of important theological expressions and models in the history of Christian ministries from the first century through the present day. We will consider selected themes (WISHMAP), illustrated by classic and contemporary sources, within a chronological framework. The goal is for these “voices” to enlighten and inspire our lives in faithful, fruitful service for Jesus Christ and the Kingdom.

TEXTBOOKS:

- Oden, Thomas. *Pastoral Theology: Essentials of Ministry* (1983)
Nouwen, Henri. *Creative Ministry* (1971)
Willimon, William. *Pastor: A Reader for Ordained Ministry* (2002)

ASSIGNMENTS:

1. Complete assigned readings for informed, in-class discussion (15 points)
2. Offer a three-page response to Nouwen’s “Introduction: Beyond Professionalism” in *Creative Ministry*. What do you agree/disagree with in light of your sense (conceptual/experiential) of gift, vocation and ministry? Due at the beginning of class **April 15** (15 points).
3. Given the biblical and historical images of Christ and the Church, in a four-page paper identify your present or most familiar ministry role and place of service. Then envision the role and place of ministry for which your training is equipping you. Due **April 29** (15 points).
4. Select one historical person in ministry as a mentor, on whom you’ll write a ten-page paper due in the instructor’s box by **May 27**. The approach: why you chose them (1p), their life story (3p), their approach to ministry (4p, utilizing primary sources) and their relevance for the service God is entrusting to you (2p). Please confirm your choice with the instructor by **May 13** (25 points).
5. Take a final examination on **June 10**, reflecting on specific course materials in the context of your ministry path (30 points).

CLASS MEETINGS: Class will meet from 7:15 pm to 10:00 pm on the evenings listed. Typically, the first portion of each section will offer lecture materials which complement and introduce discussion of the assigned historical/topical readings. Then a specific area will be further engaged through interaction with classic texts and selected guests and resources.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY: Written material submitted must be the original work of the student. Academic dishonesty constitutes a serious violation of scholarship standards at Bethel and can result in denial of credit and possible dismissal from the school. Academic dishonesty includes cheating on assignments or exams, plagiarism, fabrication of research, multiple submissions of work in different courses, misrepresentation of academic records, the facilitation of academic dishonesty, and depriving others of necessary academic resources

CLASS SCHEDULE

TUESDAY, APRIL 1

- 1) INTRODUCTION: CHRISTIAN MINISTRIES. There is a wealth of literature across the centuries addressing issues of Christian life and ministry. After introducing the approach of this course, and a survey of Church history, we will be led in reflection on our present ministries and goals. Attention will be given to the importance of vocation: paths we presently follow and historical approaches offering additional perspective and depth.
 - Handout reading: “Pastoralia” in the *Encyclopedia of Christian Literature*

TUESDAY, APRIL 8

- 2) MINISTRY: IMAGES OF CHRIST AND THE CHURCH. There are rich portraits of Jesus as minister in the NT (William Barclay, *Jesus as They Saw Him*) and church history (Jaroslav Pelikan, *Jesus Through the Centuries*). Similarly, there are metaphors and models of the Church in Scripture (Paul Minear, *Images of the Church in the New Testament*) and tradition (Avery Dulles, *Models of the Church*). In this session we’ll explore their theological and practical implications.
 - * Prepared reading: Willimon, 11-45.

TUESDAY, APRIL 15

- 3) WORSHIP IN AN AGE OF PERSECUTION (to AD 313) Christian churches before the early 300s – which brought Constantine and the councils -- were deeply involved in establishing identity and spreading celebration of the One True God in an often hostile Roman culture. Building on a rich Jewish tradition, worship liturgies (with scripture, sacrament, prayer and music) dedicated sacred time and space to exalting the Lord and experiencing authentic Christian community.
 - Prepared reading: Nouwen, 90-123; Oden, 85-126.
 - Source document: Perpetua, *Martyrdom*; Hippolytus, *Apostolic Tradition*
 - Guest: Rev. David Montzingo, St. Dunstan’s Episcopal Church and BSSD

TUESDAY, APRIL 22

- 4) INSTRUCTION FOR THE EMPIRE’S PEOPLES (AD 313-430) With major developments in orthodoxy and orthopraxy, the role of Christian teaching assumed major importance. The roots of what would become Roman Catholic (West) and Orthodox (East) are established. In triumph and tragedy, early believers sought to share the Good News (“credo”) and their gifts with neighbors of various cultures.
 - Prepared reading: Nouwen, 1-20; Oden, 141-152; Willimon, 124-131.
 - Source document: Augustine of Hippo, *On Christian Teaching*
 - * Guest: Dr. Kate Scorgie, Azusa Pacific University

TUESDAY, APRIL 29

- 5) SHEPHERDING IN JESUS' NAME (AD 430-600) With the collapse of the Roman Empire, and emergence of a patchwork politic bringing stress and conflicting loyalties, pastoral care and counsel played a vital role. While some were inspired by the lives of saints, others saw in these the shortfall of sin in their own lives and sought avenues of repentance, healing and empowerment.
- Prepared reading: Nouwen, 41-65; Oden, 49-81; Willimon, 223-236.
 - Source document: Gregory the Great, *Pastoral Care*
 - * Guest: Mary Cipriani-Price, MFT, Institute for Couples and BSSD

TUESDAY, MAY 6 NO CLASS – READING WEEK

TUESDAY, MAY 13

- 6) HOSPITALITY: THE CHURCH AS COMMUNITY (AD 600-1350) With everyday Christian life involving the sharing of limited resources, recognizing and receiving visitors in Jesus' name, and exploring new dimensions of friendship, hospitality was expressed in life-giving ways. Monastic orders offered a communal structure supporting cycles of action and contemplation. The eucharist was seen as the central Table with Christ as Host.
- Prepared reading: Oden, 169-219; Willimon, 96-102.
 - Source document: Benedict, *Rule*; Aelred of Rievaulx, *Spiritual Friendship*

TUESDAY, MAY 20

- 7) MISSION IN NEW WORLDS AND PARADIGMS (AD 1350-1550) As the Roman Catholic Church struggled with the plague and papal turmoil, and the Orthodox East saw Constantinople fall to Islamic forces, the Church turned to new paradigms and priorities. The Age of Discovery brought extraordinary opportunities for cross-cultural engagement, as *The Institutes* and “Council of Trent” inspired communities to seek faithful leadership and witness.
- Prepared reading: Nouwen, 124ff; Oden, 3-46; Willimon, 237-246
 - Source document: Las Casas, *Only Way*; Teresa of Avila, *Interior Castle*
 - * Guest: Dr. Kent Eaton, BSSD

TUESDAY, MAY 27

- 8) ADMINISTRATION: FORMATION OF THE CHURCH (AD 1500-1850) The revolutions in 16th century thought and society brought different concepts of the Church to the fore. The meaning of vocation was reexamined, and clergy/laity roles redefined (e.g. in Richard Baxter's *The Reformed Pastor*). With the increasing urbanization of society, and rise of modern science and technology, questions of authority and autonomy were widely discussed. In the various Protestant denominations, patterns of polity emerged.
- Prepared reading: Nouwen, 66-89; Oden, 153-165; Willimon, 313-321.
 - Source document: Luther, “Ministry”; Geo. Herbert, *The Country Parson*

* Guest: Bruce Robertson, Administrator, College Ave. Baptist Church

TUESDAY, JUNE 3

- 9) **PREACHING THE WORD OF LIFE (AD 1850-today)** Proclamation of the Kingdom of God was central to the early Christian message, and remains so today. Whether recitation, timely translation or prophetic application, the sermon is (especially in this media age) the most public pastoral act. The study of homiletics trains one not only to wrestle with the text, but also to become a prepared instrument through whom the Spirit may speak into the listening culture. Authentic adaptability (see I Cor. 9:19-23; Phil. 4:10-13) remains a key to contextualizing the gospel.
- * Prepared reading: Nouwen, 21-40; Oden, 127-140.
 - * Source document: Martin Luther King, *Strength to Love*

TUESDAY, JUNE 10

- 10) **FINAL EXAMINATION**

EXTENSIONS: There will be no extensions in this class except for extenuating family emergencies or medical reasons. An Incomplete Contract must be drawn up, dated, processed, and then approved by the professor and submitted to the Associate Registrar before the last day of class.

DISABILITIES: Any student who, because of a disability, may require some special arrangements to meet course requirements should contact the instructor and the Access Coordinator for Bethel Office of Disability Services by the second week of class to discuss reasonable accommodations. Please see the student handbook (p.22).

SELECT SUPPLEMENTARY BIBLIOGRAPHY

- GENERAL Bartlett, David. *Ministry in the New Testament*
 Galli, Mark, ed. *131 Christians Everyone Should Know*
 Neill, Stephen and H-R Weber, *The Layman in Christian History*
 Niebuhr, H.R. and D. Williams, *The Ministry in Historical Perspective*
 Osborn, Ronald, *Creative Disarray*
 Purves, Andrew. *Pastoral Theology in the Classical Tradition*
- WORSHIP Jones, Cheslyn, et al. *The Study of Liturgy*
 Webber, Robert. *Worship Old and New* (rev.ed.)
 White, James. *A Brief History of Christian Worship*
- INSTRUCTION Reed, James and R. Prevost. *A History of Christian Education*
 Marthaler, Berhard. *The Catechism Yesterday and Today*
- SHEPHERDING Clebsch, William et al. *Pastoral Care in Historical Perspective*
 Holifield, E. Brooks. *A History of Pastoral Care in America*
 Oden, Thomas. *Classical Pastoral Care* (4 vol.)
- HOSPITALITY Carmichael, Liz. *Friendship: Interpreting Christian Love*
 Nouwen, Henri. *Reaching Out*
 Pohl, Christine. *Making Room: Recovering Hospitality*
- MISSION Dubose, Francis. *Classics of Christian Missions*
 Tucker, Ruth. *From Jerusalem to Irian Jaya*
 Walls, Andrew. *The Missionary Movement in Christian History*
- ADMIN Haight, Roger. *Christian Community in History* (2v)
 Jay, Eric. *The Church: Its Changing Image through Twenty Centuries*
- PREACHING Edwards, O.C. *A History of Preaching*
 Lischer, David. *The Company of Preachers*
 Wilson, Paul Scott. *A Concise History of Preaching*
- MUSIC Hawn, Michael. *Gather into One: Praying and Singing Globally*
 Hustad, Donald. *Jubilate II: Church Music in Worship and Renewal*
 Reynolds, William, et al. *A Survey of Christian Hymnody* (4th rev. ed.)