

Taylor Seminary

PC 431 Personal Development and Ministry

Fall Semester 2011

To develop Christ-minded leaders who make a difference in the world.

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Stefano Piva, D. Min, M.Div.

CREDITS: 3

DESCRIPTION:

An introductory course that focuses on increasing the interpersonal and intrapsychic awareness of the minister. The course is geared to helping pastors become more caring ministers by increasing their self-understanding.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

At the conclusion of this course the student should have:

1. begun a process of self-discovery that will result in a strong sense of personal identity and will have integrated this self-awareness into their preparation for ministry.
2. become aware of the vulnerabilities and temptations pastors face and will understand the importance of finding mentors and remaining teachable in order to maintain ministry health.
3. a better understanding of how their spiritual, relational, psychological, and physical health are intertwined and interrelated.
4. begun to intentionally develop disciplines and life-style habits that will complement their spiritual journey with Christ.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS:

Capps, Donald. *Young Clergy: A Biographical-Developmental Study*. Binghamton, NY: Haworth, 2005.

May, Gerald G. *Addiction and Grace*. New York, NY: HarperSanFrancisco, 1988.

Smedes, Lewis B. *Shame and Grace*. New York, NY: Zondervan, 1993.

Willimon, William H. *Calling and Character: Virtues of the Ordained Life*. Nashville, TN: Abingdon, 2000.

Wilson, Michael Todd and Brad Hoffmann. *Preventing Ministry Failure: A Shepherd Care Guide for Pastors, Ministers and Other Caregivers*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP, 2007.

*Carbonell, Mels and Stanley R. Ponz. *Uniquely You – Discovering*. 2004

ASSIGNMENTS:

1. There will be 10 discussion forums, mostly based on readings from the book *Preventing Ministry Failure*. Each week you will provide an initial response to the question(s) listed in the forum and then another response to someone else's contribution. Each response should be at least 200 words. You will be graded on your first two submissions. (You are free to continue dialoguing after this, but only your first two submissions will be marked). Your submissions are due by the end of the corresponding week (i.e. Saturday at midnight). This will contribute to **40% of your grade**. The 10 discussions are:
 - a) Introduce Yourself
 - b) "Ministry in America Today" survey results
 - c) Intimacy
 - d) Calling
 - e) Stress Management
 - f) Boundaries
 - g) Re-Creation
 - h) People Skills
 - i) Leadership Skills
 - j) Case Study
2. Read Donald Capps' *Young Clergy* and trace your life through the life stages discussed on pages 9-31. Also, if you see any parallels in your journey with any of the stories of the five individuals that Capps studies, make note of them throughout your paper. This paper, however, is your story and not a paper on any of these five individuals. Your paper should be between 10-12 pages and is worth **25% of your grade**. Due by the end of the 10th week of class.
3. Complete the *Uniquely You* gifts and personality test and write a 5 page reflection paper on the things that it revealed and what that may mean for you. This is worth **10% of your grade**. Due by the end of the 11th week of class.
4. Based on the readings, class notes, and class discussions, put together a one-hour interview of about ten questions and interview a minister in a ministry setting (similar to the area of ministry you are pursuing) who has been serving in the same location for five or more years. Record the interview so you can refer to it later when writing your paper. Submit a 5 page reflection on what you learned from the interview. You can call someone and set this up ahead of time, but do not conduct this interview and assignment until after the 8th week of class. This is worth **15% of your grade**. Due by the end of the last week of class.
5. Reading. On the honour system, give yourself a grade for how much of the required reading you completed (i.e. if you finished all the reading, give yourself 100%). This is worth **10% of your grade**. Due by the end of the last week of class.

GRADES will be given accordingly:

What I am looking for in your assignment is your level of personal awareness: How are you wrestling with the issues raised in your own life? How the assignments are challenging your convictions? What kinds of steps you are taking to correct areas of conviction and move towards better health? I will not be looking for book reviews or for a simple restatement of the information presented. Instead, I want you to risk in your vulnerability as you personally engage, wrestle, and interact with the things you are learning. Therefore, the grading for each assignment will be awarded according to the following scale:

- A – Highly responsive and aware
- B – Good responsiveness and awareness
- C – Fairly responsive and aware
- D – Little responsiveness and awareness
- F – No responsiveness and awareness

***No late assignments will be accepted.**

Ethical Considerations:

Due to the highly personal nature of this course and of its requirements the student can expect a high degree of confidentiality by both the professor and the other students. What is said in the discussion forums stays in the discussion forums. The breaking of this by any student or professor could result in disciplinary action taken by *Taylor Seminary*. The student can expect that all personal material that he or she submits will be held in strict confidence with the exceptions of when the law requires the professor to break confidence. The professor also reserves the right to break confidence if there is severe enough behavioural, emotional or spiritual deviance that would render the student unfit for ministry. In both the above scenarios, the student will first be notified by the professor and shall be given a chance to respond on a one-to-one basis before any confidence is broken.

The student should also be aware that in the past a number of students taking this course have found it to be very emotionally stressful. As well, a number of students have sought personal therapy after uncovering some personal issues that God is inviting them to work through. The professor will not engage in personal counselling but will avail himself to advise students on any personal problems they may encounter as a result of this course by helping them seek other resources where such action is deemed appropriate.

ADDITIONAL BIBLIOGRAPHY:

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- Augustine. *On Christian Doctrine*, vol. 2 of *Nicene and Post-Nicene Fathers*, first series. Edited by Philip Schaff and translated by J.F. Shaw. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, 2004: 519-597.
- Baxter, Richard. *The Reformed Pastor*. Carlisle, PA: Banner of Truth, 1999.
- Bonhoeffer, Dietrich. *Life Together*. New York, NY: HarperSanFrancisco, 1954.
- Brooks, Phillips. *The Joy of Preaching*. Grand Rapids, MI: Kregel, 1989.
- Bugg, Charles B. *Preaching from the Inside Out*. Nashville, TN: Broadman, 1992.
- Carnes, Patrick. *Contrary to Love: Helping the Sexual Addict*. Minneapolis, MN: CompCare, 1989.
- Charry, Dana. *Mental Health Skills for the Clergy*. Valley Forge, PA: Judson, 1981.
- Chrysostom, John. *On the Priesthood*, vol. 9 of *Nicene and Post-Nicene Fathers*, first series. Edited by Philip Schaff and translated by W. R. W. Stephens. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, 2004: 33-83.
- Eclov, Lee. "Warning: Preaching can be Hazardous to your Soul." *Leadership*. (Spring, 2007): 43-44.
- Ephraim the Syrian's *Of Pastors*, vol. 13 of *Nicene and Post-Nicene Fathers*, second series. Edited by Philip Schaff and Henry Wace and translated by John Gwynn. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, 2004: 383-387.
- Farra, Harry. "The Danger of Wanting to Preach Well," *Leadership* (Spring, 1990): 188-119.
- Graves, Mike. *The Fully Alive Preacher: Recovering from Homiletical Burnout*. Louisville, KY: Westminster/John Knox, 2006.
- Gregory the Great. *The Book of Pastoral Rule*, vol. 12 of *Nicene and Post-Nicene Fathers*, second series. Edited by Philip Schaff and Henry Wace and translated by James Barmby. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, 2004: 1-72.
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- . *Habits of the Mind: Ten Exercises to Renew Your Thinking*. Dallas, TX: Word, 1996.
- . *The Hidden Link Between Adrenalin and Stress: The Exciting New Breakthrough that Helps you Overcome Stress Damage*. Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson, 1995.
- Hawthorne, Nathaniel. *The Scarlet Letter*. New York, NY: Penguin Classics, 1986.
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- . *Pastors who Stay: Pastor to Pastor*. Colorado Springs, CO: Focus on the Family, 2005.
- . *Restoration: Pastor to Pastor*. Colorado Springs, CO: Focus on the Family, 2008. CD.
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- Massey, James Earl. *The Burdensome Joy of Preaching*. Nashville, TN: Abingdon, 1998.
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Resner Andre (Jr.). *Preacher and Cross: Person and Message in Theology and Rhetoric*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1999.

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Assignment #1 – PMF – pp. 15-16

1. Have been forced out of or fired from a ministry at least once.

5% 10% 15% 25% 35%

2. Feel inadequately trained to cope with ministry demands.

10% 20% 50% 70% 90%

3. Believe that pastoral ministry affects their families negatively.

20% 40% 60% 80% 95%

4. Say they've experienced depression or burnout to the extent that they needed to take a leave of absence.

35% 40% 45% 50% 55%

5. Have a serious conflict with a church member at least once a month.

20% 30% 40% 50% 60%

6. Admit to having an affair while in the ministry.

5% 10% 15% 20% 25%

7. Admit that Internet pornography is a *current* struggle.

10% 22% 37% 47% 62%

8. Do not have someone they consider a close friend.

30% 40% 50% 60% 70%

1. Which statistics surprise you most and why?

2. Which do you identify with the most and why?