

DR901FJ THEOLOGICAL FOUNDATIONS OF MINISTRY

SPRING 2009

Saturdays 7 Feb; 7 Mar; 4 Apr; 2 May, 9AM-5PM

3 Semester Credit Hours

Professor R. J. Gore Jr., Ph.D.

Office: 864.379.6506

e-mail: inaliam@gmail.com

Home: 864.379.2439

SPRING 09 OFFICE HOURS:

Tuesday: 1:30-4:30PM. No appointment needed. If this does not work for you, contact me by email to schedule an appointment.

For e-mail assignments: please forward to: inaliam@gmail.com

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This seminar is designed to help students clarify and articulate a theology of ministry in light of their own theological tradition, in conversation with a wide range of theological perspectives. Students read and discuss significant theological thinkers on the doctrine of the Church and its ministry. The course culminates with a final Theology of Ministry paper in which students describe their own theological perspective on ministry. *Required. Three Hours.*

COURSE GOALS:

1. To orient students to the basic rubrics of the Erskine Doctor of Ministry program, namely, *norms* (of Bible and Theology), *functions* (e.g., preaching, teaching, pastoral care, church administration, evangelism, etc.), and *data of contemporary life* (demographics, historical identity, ethical issues, cultural analysis, event analysis).
2. To help participants *reflect theologically* upon their practice of ministry (functions) as it intersects their understanding of the Church (norms) and the realities of the contemporary world (data of contemporary life), and *to develop a well-written statement of their practice.*
3. To engage in theological dialogue at an advanced level with peers and professor.
4. To refresh and cultivate the skills of careful reading, analytical thinking, and clear writing.

COURSE TEXTBOOKS: To order, go to www.ecampus.com/erskine

Bauerlein, Mark. *The Dumbest Generation*. Tarcher/Penguin. 2008.

Daniels, Aubrey C and James E. Daniels. *Measure of a Leader*. McGrawHill. 2007.

Erickson, Millard et al. *Reclaiming the Center*. Crossway. 2004.

Eswine, Zack. *Preaching To a Post-Everything World*. Baker, 2008.

Peterson, Eugene. *Working the Angles*. Eerdmans, 1987.

OTHER REQUIREMENTS

Packer, J.I. "A Stunted Ecclesiology," *Touchstone*. Internet. Available from <http://www.touchstonemag.com/archives/article.php?id=15-10-037-f> .

Webster, Dan. *The Real Deal*. Available For purchase from <http://www.authenticleadershipinc.com/index.php>

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND EXPECTATIONS:

Attendance

Students are required to attend all class sessions. Anyone who cannot attend the first session will not be permitted to take the class. Students who cannot attend the first meeting should not enroll for the class or, if already registered, should drop the course and complete the drop/add form. A student who misses more than one/half class session for any reason will automatically fail the course.

Grading

Grades are based on class participation and assignments being done:

- a. on time
- b. according to instructions
- c. degree of integration of all aspects of the course
- d. originality of thought in writing and in the projects
- e. grammar, form, and style that conforms to appropriate academic standards

The grade of "A" is given for work which is truly outstanding in depth, detail, or creativity.

The grade of "B" is given for work that adequately meets all the requirements of the assignment.

The grade of "C or D" is given for work that has not adequately met all the requirements of the assignment or that lack appropriate depth, detail, or creativity.

Paper Style

All papers must be typed (Times-New Roman, twelve point font, double-spaced, one-inch margins) and fully documented, following the standards in Kate Turabian, *Manual for Writers*, 7th ed. No parenthetical references. Footnotes only.

COURSE ASSIGNMENTS:

- I. THEOLOGY OF MINISTRY PAPER (first draft)** DUE: 7 Feb (First Class)
- A. Write a five-paged Theology of Ministry that briefly addresses the following issues:
- | | |
|--|-----------|
| 1) Biblical/theological understanding of ministry (models?) | NORMS |
| 2) Context of ministry (church, denomination, culture) | DATA |
| 3) Skills set (which functions come easily to you, which are challenges- and how do you balance them?) | FUNCTIONS |
- B. Make use of Scripture, confessional and constitutional documents, and other sources, including your reading for the first class.
- C. This paper is due at the beginning of the first class.

II. THE MINISTER AS LEADER PAPER

DUE: 7 March

Write a five-paged “The Minister as Leader” paper which interacts with your readings and appropriate biblical texts and theological resources. Particularly address your strengths as a leader and your weaknesses. For weaknesses noted, provide a preliminary plan to address those weaknesses and strengthen your lead.

III. INTEGRITY IN THE PULPIT PAPER

DUE: 4 April

Write a five-paged “Integrity in the Pulpit” paper which interacts with Peterson, your work in *The Real Deal* and appropriate biblical texts. Focus especially on areas where you have identified weaknesses.

IV. THEOLOGY OF MINISTRY PAPER (final draft)

DUE: 2 May (Last Class)

Write a 20-25 page paper that expresses your mature theology of ministry. Make use of your first draft and incorporate work done for the leadership and integrity papers. Be sure to frame your paper in light of the D.Min. rubrics. Explain how you view your ministry in light of the challenges of the contemporary Church and Culture. What is the task of ministry? What are its challenges? What is the relationship between Church and World?

This is not an entirely NEW paper, but should incorporate the work you have been doing all semester into a polished presentation that communicates your theology of ministry.

Grades will be computed according to the following distribution:

Assignment I	-Theology of Ministry (first draft)	15%
Assignment II	-The Minister as Leader	15%
Assignment III	-Integrity in the Pulpit	15%
Assignment IV	-Theology of Ministry (final draft)	50%
	Class participation	5%

CLASS SCHEDULE:

7 February

Assignments Due for this Class:

1. READ: *Reclaiming the Center*
2. PREPARE: Theology of Ministry paper (first draft)

CLASS TOPICS

- A. Introduction to the Course
- B. Introduction to the DMin rubrics
- C. Introduction to a Theology of Ministry
- D. Ministry in the 21st Century

7 March

Assignments Due for this Class:

1. READ: *The Measure of a Leader*
2. READ: *The Dumbest Generation*
3. PREPARE: The Minister as Leader paper

CLASS TOPICS

- A. Leadership
- B. The Challenge of our contemporary Culture

4 April

Assignments Due for this Class:

1. READ: *Working the Angles*
2. READ: “*A Stunted Ecclesiology*”
3. PREPARE: Integrity in the Pulpit paper

CLASS TOPICS

- A. The Character of the Minister
- B. The Challenge of the contemporary Church

5 May

Assignments Due for this Class

1. READ: *Preaching to a Post-Everything World*
2. Complete Dan Webster, *The Real Deal* (turn in statement of completion)
2. Present your final Theology of Ministry Paper

CLASS TOPICS

- A. Preaching in the 21st century
- B. Student Presentations

SEMINARY POLICIES:

Drop/Add/Withdrawal

Once a student has completed, signed, and submitted his/her registration to the Registrar for this class, it is a binding contract and billing will be based on this registration. If the student decides not to take this class, he/she must complete a “drop/add” form and secure the appropriate signatures prior to the drop/add deadline during the second week of the semester or term. If one wishes to withdraw from the course after the drop/add deadline, one must complete a withdrawal form, and tuition will be refunded on a pro rated basis. Failure to withdraw from the class properly will result in the student’s receiving a grade of “F” for the course and full tuition charges will apply. No exceptions will be made to this policy.

Incompletes

The grade of “I” or incomplete is given at the discretion of the professor. A grade of “I” is normally given when a student has substantially completed the requirements for a course but has been prevented by extraordinary circumstances from completing the remainder of the course requirements. A student who wishes to request an incomplete should normally complete an incomplete form prior to the end of the semester and ask the professor to grant the request.

(Under unusual circumstances, the student may communicate with the professor by phone or email rather than in person, and the professor may then agree to fill out the form at the student's request. Under exceptional circumstances, the professor may initiate the process by filling out the form on the student's behalf.) If the professor grants the request, he/she will sign the incomplete form and turn it in with his/her final grade report. An "I" in any course must be removed by March 1 for the Fall Term, April 1 for the January Term, August 1 for the Spring Term, and November 1 for the Summer Term. Only the Dean may grant extensions of incompletes beyond the established completion date. Otherwise, these grades automatically become "F."

Language about God and Humanity

Although God transcends the distinction between male and female, the Bible and the Church's historic creeds and confessions use masculine language in reference to God. Thus, the Seminary encourages all students to retain this masculine usage when speaking and writing about God. Furthermore, the Seminary recognizes that all human beings, male and female, are created equally in the image of God (Gen. 1:26-27), and believers of both sexes are fellow heirs of the grace of life (1 Pet. 3:7). Accordingly, whenever students are speaking and writing about males and females, they should use language that clearly includes both men and women (for example, by saying/writing "humanity" rather than "man" or "people" rather than "men").

Conduct in Theological Discussions

Erskine Seminary is committed to the one, holy, catholic, and apostolic Church, and it expects its students to show respect for all who identify with that one Church. In all written work, oral presentations, and discussions both inside and outside the classroom, the Seminary expects students to conduct discussions of controversial issues in a context of respect for those with whom one disagrees. Please see the Community Life Statement in the Catalog for more information.

Official Seminary Class Attendance Policy

Class participation is considered an important part of the total educational experience at Erskine Seminary. Students are expected to attend classes on a regular basis and are responsible for the mastery of all materials required in the course. As this is a modular class, normally, no one who misses more than three hours will be allowed to continue in this course. If you plan to take this course, clear your schedule. If students have to be absent for any reason, they are still responsible for all work missed and all work due. On another class meeting day, they are still responsible for all work missed and all work due. A student who misses as much as one full class day or its equivalent in late arrival or early departure should consult with the professor to see whether it is still possible to pass the course.

Plagiarism

Plagiarism is the use in writing of wording or ideas produced by others without crediting the author and/or source from which the material was taken. As the following statement indicates, plagiarism is a serious offense that undermines both the witness and integrity of the Christian

community:

Plagiarism injures the community by inhibiting the recognition and cultivation of gifts imparted by the Spirit. Clearly unattributed use of the words and/or ideas of others fails to give appreciative recognition of their gifts. But this illegitimate appropriation of the gifts of others also blocks the recognition and cultivation of the actual gifts of the person engaged in plagiarism.

Plagiarism creates an atmosphere of falsehood in the community's discernment and cultivation of gifts, both within the Christian community and in God's larger creation. Since freedom comes only by way of truth (Jn. 8:32), such falsehood can only result in captivity, and therefore has no place in the Christian community.

On this basis, the Seminary adheres to the following general requirements for the acknowledgement of sources of academic work. These requirements apply to both print and electronic media.

1. Quotations. Any sentence or phrase that a student uses from another source must be placed in quotation marks or, in the case of longer quotations, clearly indented beyond the regular margin. Any quotation must be accompanied (either within the text or in a note) by a precise indication of the source.

2. Paraphrasing. Any material that is paraphrased or summarized must also be specifically acknowledged in a note or in the text.

3. Ideas. Specific ideas that are borrowed should be acknowledged in a note or in the text, even if the idea has been further elaborated by the student.

4. Bibliography. All the sources consulted in the preparation of an essay or report should be listed in a bibliography.

In addition to plagiarism, the following related practices are also unacceptable compromises of the truth requisite to a free community:

1. Multiple submission. Failure to obtain prior written permission of the relevant instructors to submit work which has been submitted in identical or similar form in fulfillment of any other academic requirement at any institution.

2. False citation. The deliberate attribution to, or citation of, a source from which the material in question was not, in fact, obtained.

3. Submission of work done by someone else, either with or without that person's knowledge. Neither ignorance of the regulations concerning academic violations nor personal extenuating circumstances are an adequate defense against charges of plagiarism. The Seminary's provisions for "due process" apply in cases of alleged plagiarism.

[The italicized statement above is used by permission of The Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia and Princeton University, Princeton, New Jersey, based upon a document adapted by LTSP, with permission, from "Princeton University Rights, Rules and Responsibilities," 1990 Edition. Princeton University, Princeton, New Jersey.]

Occurrences of plagiarism shall be considered 'documented' when the instructor is able to produce documentary evidence that plagiarism has occurred, and when the instructor has reason to believe that the plagiarism was motivated by a deliberate attempt to receive credit for ideas or work not the student's own. Where such plagiarism involves the theft of the academic work of another student, whether at Erskine or any other institution, it shall be designated 'documented theft of another student's work.'

The instructor involved, in consultation with the Dean, may recommend measures deemed appropriate. In cases of documented plagiarism or documented theft of another student's work, the offending student will automatically receive the following penalties:

Failure of the course(s) in which plagiarized or stolen work is submitted
Dismissal from the Seminary for a minimum of one semester
Forfeiture of the right to tuition refunds during the semester(s) affected
Before such penalties are imposed, a committee of at least three faculty members must agree that they are appropriate to the case. Appeals in such cases may only be addressed, in writing, to the President of Erskine College and Theological Seminary.

REMEMBER- if you can GOOGLE IT, SO CAN I!

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