

Course: YM459-O Senior Seminar – Youth Ministry

Credit: 3 Semester Hour

Semester: Fall 2023 (Cycles 2-3)

Time: TBD

Location: TBD

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I. Description

An integration of the theoretical and practical skills gained in the program in order to prepare the Youth Ministry student for securing a ministry position upon graduation. The course includes an assessment of the student's cumulative biblical, theological, and practical studies through an oral examination modeled after the kinds of interviews faced in the ministry search process, the preparation of documents used in the normal job search process, and the development of a written philosophy and strategy of ministry appropriate to the kind of youth ministry sought upon graduation.

This course is offered in two formats: in-person and online. Students registered for in-person attend the classes in person, online students attend the classes via the online classroom. For both in-person and online students, assignments and interaction outside of the class period are done in the learning management system.

II. Objectives

A. General competencies to be achieved. The student will be able to . . .

1. Demonstrate preparedness for local church pastoral ministry. (PLO* #1-5) (A:** A, B, C, & D)
2. Begin the pastoral ministry search process. (PLO #1-5)(A:)

B. Specific competencies to be achieved. The student will be able to . . .

1. Defend a personal doctrinal statement and position statements on significant pastoral ministry issues. (PLO #1, 3, &5) (A- A)

2. Study the current context of a pastoral ministry position and develop/refine a personal philosophy of ministry and ministry strategy for the same. (PLO #2 & 5) (A- C)
3. Apply for a pastoral ministry position that corresponds to God's unique calling and gifting. (PLO #2, 3, 4, & 5) (B, D)

III. Assignments (All Assignments Posted Individually in Canvas)

- A. **STATEMENTS:** Prepare a personal doctrinal statement and position statements on ministry issues and defend them in a simulated oral ordination examination.
 1. **DOCTRINAL STATEMENT.** The student will build on work done in systematic theology courses to develop a written doctrinal statement in three stages:
 - a) **STAGE 1:** Develop an outline of the doctrines you believe need to be communicated during the interview process. In other words, what is most important for a church or ministry to know about what you believe.
 - b) **STAGE 2:** The student will write a first draft of the doctrinal statement, then receive input from the course instructor.
 - c) **STAGE 3:** The student will write a second draft of the doctrinal statement after input from the course instructor. The course instructor will decide whether more week is needed after the second draft.
 2. **POSITION STATEMENTS.** The student will develop ministry position statements to include the following, then any other position statements the student believes to be important in current or future ministry:
 - a) Weddings
 - b) Counseling
 - c) Church Discipline
 - d) Worship Services
 - e) Personal Philosophy & Style of Preaching/Teaching
 - f) Financial integrity
 - g) Women and Church Leadership
 - h) Cultural Engagement
 3. **ORAL EXAMINATION:** The student will take a 90-minute oral examination of questions from a panel of ministry leaders chosen by the course instructor. The panel may ask any questions related to the student's doctrinal statement and position statements, and any ministry-related ideas. If the performance is sub-standard, the student could be required to retake all, or part of, this assignment.
- B. **SEARCH DOCUMENTS:** Prepare documents necessary for securing a ministry position.
 1. Student will interview at least three (3) ministry leaders serving in the kind of ministry the student will seek upon graduation in order to discover the search

process used, the kinds of documents needed, and suggestions for conducting a position search.

2. Following those interviews, the student will develop his own “template” copies of the kinds of documents needed for seeking and obtaining a ministry position, such as the following:
 - a) Cover Letter
 - b) Resume
 - c) Acceptance/Decline letters
 - d) Thank-You notes/letters
 - e) Statement of Gifts, Abilities, Experience and Proficiencies (e.g., ability to use applications such as Adobe Photoshop, set up and operate sound equipment, etc.)
 - f) Teaching Video Link (if available)
- C. MINISTRY ANALYSIS PROJECT: Study the context of the ministry setting to be sought upon graduation and develop/refine a philosophy and strategy of ministry for that kind of ministry position.
1. BACKGROUND MINISTRY READING AND PAPER (~5 pages). Read at least two hundred (200) pages of materials (e.g., books, articles, written and online ministry materials) which will enable the student to understand the ministry dynamics and current needs of the kind of ministry to be sought upon graduation and present findings/conclusions in a 5-page paper. (Note: A bibliography of all materials consulted will be submitted to document the reading.)
 2. MINISTRY INTERVIEWS AND PAPERS (~3 pages).
 - a) Interview at least 3 ministry leaders who are actively involved in (or have been actively involved in for a significant time in the past) the kind of ministry to be sought upon graduation.
 - b) Following the interviews, present significant findings from each interview in three, one-page papers.
 3. STRATEGY OF MINISTRY PAPER (~7 pages). Develop a strategy of ministry for the kind of ministry position being sought, by addressing the following questions:
 - a) Why do you want to pursue this kind of ministry position (1 page)?
 - b) What are the present challenges to this kind of ministry (2 pages)?
 - c) How will you go about gaining this kind of ministry (1 page)?
 - d) How will you do this kind of ministry after you’ve obtained the position (3 pages)?
- D. DEPARTMENT INTERVIEWS COHORT MEETINGS
1. Senior Seminar Cohorts will consist of all students enrolled in the Ministry Studies MS459 Senior Seminar in a given semester.

2. Cohorts will primarily share and discuss work done in *Life*ⁿ.
3. Cohorts will complete and discuss the *Life and Ministry Assessment*.
4. AT THE BEGINNING OF THE SEMESTER: Schedule an initial meeting with the Course Instructor (listed at the top of the syllabus) as soon as possible after the course begins, to talk through the Senior Seminar process, syllabus, assignments, etc. (in person or online).
5. AT THE END OF THE SEMESTER:
 - a) Present all course documents to the Course Instructor via Canvas for review two weeks prior to the end of the seminar (Course Instructor will present all the documents to the Ministry Studies Department Chairman for review).
 - b) The student will then be interviewed by the Ministry Studies Department Chairman before the awarding of the final grade.

IV. Grading

- A. Assignment A: Statements
 1. Doctrinal Statement: 200 pts
 2. Position Statements: 135 pts
 3. Oral Examination: 190 pts
- B. Assignment B: Search Documents: 100 pts
- C. Assignment C: Ministry Analysis Project: 325 pts
- D. Assignment D: Department Interviews: 50 pts
- E. Total = 1000 points

V. Materials

- A. Required Textbooks
 1. The Bible is a required textbook in every course at Calvary University. To facilitate academic level study, students are required to use for assignments and research an English translation or version of the Bible based on formal equivalence (meaning that the translation is generally word-for-word from the original languages), including any of the following: New American Standard (NASB), English Standard Version (ESV), New King James (NKJV), or King James (KJV). Other translations and versions based on dynamic equivalence (paraphrases, and thought-for-thought translations like NLT and NIV) may be used as supplemental sources. Please ask the professor if you have questions about a particular translation or version.
 2. Ryrie, Charles C. *Basic Theology: A Popular Systematic Guide to Understanding*

Biblical Truth. Chicago: Moody Publishers, 1999. **ISBN:** 978-0802-4273-42,
Retail price: \$35.99

3. Background reading materials for ministry research (at least 200 pages).

VI. NOTES

- A. * PLO = Program Learning Objectives (see Calvary University Catalog, p.142)
- B. ** A = Assignments; showing how the assignments for this course are directly linked to the objectives.
- C. All written assignments must follow Turabian style — title page, footnotes and bibliography. See the “Clark Academic Center” page on the CU website for a “Turabian Help” (<https://www.calvary.edu/clark-academic-center/>).
- D. Punctual reading and writing will allow the student to get the most out of the course.
- E. Late assignments could result in grade penalties unless the professor is made aware of a ministry commitment or an emergency beyond the student’s control.
- F. Students with disabilities have the responsibility of informing the Accommodations Support Coordinator (aso@calvary.edu) of any disabling condition that may require support.
- G. The Clark Academic Center (learning@calvary.edu) is dedicated to providing free academic assistance for Calvary University students. Student tutors aid with all facets of the writing process, tutor in various subject areas, prepare students for exams and facilitate tests. Please take advantage of this service.
- H. The instructor reserves the right to make changes to this syllabus at any time during the course, but any changes made will only be done after clearly communicating the need for the change and the specific change to be made via in- class announcement and Canvas announcement.
- I. Plagiarism is defined as copying any content without identifying the source. This also includes taking another person’s or AI entity’s ideas or constructs and presenting them as your own. The use of AI generated content in student work is prohibited (even if cited) as it does not represent original work created by the student and is an unreliable aggregate of ideas from other sources. Plagiarism of any kind will not be tolerated.