

Course: BI699-O Oral Defense of Statement of Faith and Ministry Practices
Credit: 0 Semester Hours
Semester: Fall 2026 (Session 1, Aug 17–Oct 09)
Time: Meetings as scheduled
Instructor: Dr. Michel Dodds, (816) 322-5152 ext. 1348, mike.dodds@calvary.edu (913) 638-3291 (cell)

**About Disabilities: Students with disabilities have the responsibility of informing the DSS Director (dss@calvary.edu) of any disabling condition that may require support.*

**About Assistance for All Course Assignments: The Clark Academic Center (learning@calvary.edu), located in the library building, is dedicated to providing free academic assistance for all CU 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.*

**About Changes to this Syllabus: 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. DESCRIPTION

During the semester prior to graduation, students will prepare and orally defend their personal Statement of Faith and statements of Ministry Practices. This course is an assessment of the student's cumulative biblical and theological understanding as well as the student's ministry preparedness through an oral examination conducted by Seminary Faculty.

II. OBJECTIVES

A. General competencies to be achieved.

1. Review the essential disciplines of systematic theology. (PLOs- #2 & 3) (A- A, B, & C)
2. Review positions on matters of pastoral theology and practice. (PLOs- #1, 2, 3, & 5) (A- A, B, & C)
3. Be exposed to the categories and kinds of questions asked during an ordination examination. (PLOs- #2, 3, 4, & 5) (A- A, B, & C)
4. Experience a mini-ordination oral examination process. (PLOs- #1, 2, 3, 4, 5) (A- A, B, & C)

B. Specific competencies to be achieved.

1. Write and defend his personal doctrinal convictions. (PLOs- #2 & 4) (A-A & B)
2. Write and defend his personal position on significant pastoral issues. (PLOs- #3 & 4) (A- A & B)

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3. Successfully pass a simulated oral ordination examination. (PLOs- #1, 2, 3, 4, 5)
(A- C)

III. Requirements.

[**Note:** Specific instructions for each assignment are posted in Canvas.]

A. Participate in discussions with the course instructor.

1. Be prepared to discuss assigned area of theology and pastoral issues with the course instructor at scheduled meetings.
2. Handouts will be given to guide the student's preparations and writing.
3. Discussion sessions will be scheduled as needed.

B. Prepare a written personal statement of faith and statements on personal ministry practices.

1. Prepare a written personal statement of understanding of the areas of theology or personal ministry practices as assigned by the course instructor.
2. These written statements will be due one week prior to the scheduled oral examination (i.e., for dissemination to the faculty examination committee members).

C. Take a simulated oral ordination examination.

1. The student will take an approximately three-hour oral examination of questions from a committee of faculty (chosen by the course instructor).
2. The student will bring his own Bible and be prepared to use it, giving brief, succinct answers to the questions asked.
3. This examination will be scheduled during the final month of Cycle in which the course is taken and at a time convenient for the faculty committee members and the student.
4. **Note:** If the performance is sub-standard, the student will be required to retake all, or part of, this oral examination.

IV. METHODS

A. In-class aspects to this course include as-needed conferences with the course instructor to ensure preparation for the oral defense and then the oral examination before a committee of faculty.

B. Out-of-class methods include personal study, writing of the personal statement of faith and ministry practices, and preparation for the oral examination.

***About written assignments:** Unless directed otherwise, all written assignments must follow the Turabian style according to *A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*, 8th edition and the Calvary Style Guide, 2019 update.

***About Plagiarism:** 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. Plagiarism of any kind will not be tolerated. Most assignments at Calvary require the student to produce

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original work. Therefore, unless specifically permitted by the instructor, the use of AI-generated content 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. AI, however, may be utilized in cases where the instructor has explicitly permitted its use to accomplish specific tasks. It is only in these cases that AI-generated (or modified) content may be submitted by the student. If there are any questions as to the permissibility of AI use for an assignment, please ask your instructor for clarification. Any assignment that includes plagiarism will receive a **zero (0) grade**. (**Note:** Turn-It-In.com will be used to verify plagiarism.)

C. Grading.

1. Faculty committee will assign a pass/fail grade for the student's performance on the oral examination as well as the quality of the written statement of faith and ministry practices.
2. If the student fails the examination, further study will be directed, and another oral examination will be scheduled before the course ends.
3. If after the second attempt to pass the oral examination, the student and course instructor will evaluate where a course extension will be pursued for a third attempt, or the course will be retaken in a future Cycle.

V. MATERIALS

A. Required:

1. Bible.

-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. [Other resources from all Bible/Theology and Professional Ministry courses as well as other appropriate materials at the student's access.]