

Wesley Theological Seminary Course of Study School

CS 524: Theological Reflection: Practice of Ministry **Winter Hybrid 2017**

Instructor Information

Faculty: The Reverend Audrey C. Price

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Term: January online; in person February 24-25, 2017

Course Information

Course Session Dates: online in January; in person on February 24-25, 2017 (Wesley).

Course Description: The course is the capstone to the student's basic course of study. Its focus is the integration of the biblical, theological, and practical aspects of ministry.

Course Objectives: Students will be able to:

1. State clearly the nature and mission of the Church and its relation to pastoral ministry.
2. Demonstrate the ability to reflect theologically.
3. Develop a plan for lifelong theological reading, reflection, and growth.

Course Expectations: Students are expected to engage the online content and attend the September residency to receive full credit in the class. While the resident component is a normal instructional model including lecture and class time together, the online content will be asynchronous and may require further instruction. For the online portion, please take notice of the following considerations:

- a. Students will need working access to the internet and specifically Blackboard for this course;
- b. Students will need updated/current versions of Microsoft Word® and Microsoft PowerPoint®. Please consult Microsoft guidelines to address issues of system compatibility and performance if encountered; and
- c. If you have difficulties with education technology and/or Blackboard, please contact the Seminary's office of Education Technology and/or Blackboard support (see information below). If you have any questions about class information or instruction, please contact the professor: awiggins@wesleyseminary.edu

Prerequisites: See COS Curriculum

Textbooks and Supplementary Materials

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS:

1. Willimon, William H. *Pastor: The Theology and Practice of Ordained Ministry*, Revised Edition (Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2016)
2. Cahalan, Kathleen. *Introducing the Practice of Ministry*
3. Wood, Charles M. and Blue, Ellen. *Attentive to God: Thinking Theologically in Ministry* (Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2008)
4. Bonhoeffer, Dietrich. *Life Together: The Classic Exploration of Christian Community* (New York: HarperOne, 1954)

SUPPLEMENTAL TEXTBOOKS:

Assignments and Participation

Online Assignments: Post all online assignments on Blackboard under the “Assignments” tab. There will be a submission portal for the assignments listed below.

Assignment to prepare for the on-line January portion:

- A) Read **Chapters 1-7 and Interludes** (pg. 9-196) in *Pastor: The Theology and Practice of Ordained Ministry*. Write a 5-page paper responding to these questions:
 1. Willimon presents different models for pastoral ministry. Evaluate these models. Outline the strengths and weaknesses you assess in each model. Explain why.
 2. Which of these models are reflected in your ministry? Explain how is reflected in your ministry. What resonates with you about that model. What does Willimon have to say about this model that you find helpful? What does he say that challenges the importance you place on this model?
 3. Of these models, which is most important to you? Why? Which model seems the least interesting or the least like your pastoral ministry? Why do you think this is the case?
- B) Using an online generator such as www.wordle.net or www.worditout.com (or search for “word cloud generator” to find your own),
 1. Create and submit a single word cloud based on your **10 most recent** sermons.
 - (a) Copy and paste the text of **all** 10 sermons into a single word cloud generator (*don't do a separate word cloud for each sermon*).
 - (b) Generate the word cloud, save it (and print), and submit.
 - (c) if you normally only use outlines for your sermons, you may copy your outlines into the generator instead.
 2. Examine your word cloud and write a 2-page response, considering the following questions:
 - (a) Which words are the largest?
 - (b) Which are the smallest?
 - (1) The larger the word, the more frequently it appears in your sermons/outlines.
 - (c) What surprises do you find in your word cloud?
 - (d) Were there words you expected to be there that were absent or smaller than you expected?

(e) What does your word cloud suggest about your recent preaching?

Blackboard Tracking:

Blackboard tracks student activity when logged in and accessing our course via Blackboard.

Grading Procedure:

Grading

Online Participation

 Self-Introduction

 Blog/Discussion

Class Participation

Pre-Course Assignment

Sermon Series Outline

Reflection Paper

Late Assignments

Assignments not received by the due date will have the grade lowered according to the policy noted below.

Grades will be reduced:

- a step (e.g. from B to a B-) for assignments (a) posted after the date and time due on Blackboard; and (b) handed in after the start of class (for in person class assignments),
- and a full letter grade for any assignments 24 hours past due.
- Assignments over 48 hours past due will be lowered two letter grades.
- We need to talk if an assignment is over 72 hours past due.

**Grades will be on Blackboard and can be accessed by clicking MyGrades in the course menu.*

Grading Scale:

The instructor assumes that everyone in the class is capable of the work required to receive a “**B**” grade for each assignment. The following interpretations of the meaning of each grade have been developed to help class members review their work to identify strengths and problems.

B means that the basic elements of the assignment have been faithfully included, the argument is internally coherent, and clearly articulated.

B+ means the assignment is also well crafted.

A- means that the assignment is not only well crafted, but it also probes the issues with considerable insight.

- A** means the assignment is well crafted, reveals considerable insight, and moves beyond the range of the student's prior knowledge to begin to construct new perspectives and meanings for the subject. In other words, it shows the student's imagination at work; it has a creative edge.
- C+** means that the assignment lacks clarity or focus, tends to reveal more the writer's opinions than the results of the writer's analysis, and lacks reflective insight into the issues being discussed.
- C** means that the assignment does not move beyond the reporting of information from readings and/or class discussions to engaging them with issues being discussed; it may indicate inappropriate or misuse of data and readings.
- C-** means that despite some moments of focused discussion and insight, major gaps exist in the development of the argument or discussion.
- F** means the individual needs to see me immediately.

Students With Disabilities

If you have a physical, psychological, or learning disability and might require accommodations in this course, please contact the Office of Community Life early in the semester regarding Wesley's policies and procedures for documenting and accommodating disabilities at ext. 86 The seminary allows accommodations only through this policy.

Technical Support

Students are responsible for meeting course deadlines. If you experience technical problems, please exercise one or all of the following options:

- Blackboard Support at blackboardsupport@wesleyseminary.edu
- By phone at (202) 885-6091
- Blackboard/E Support Ticket at <http://blackboardsupport.wesleyseminary.edu> or <http://www.wesleyseminary.edu/MyWesley/eSupport.aspx>

Please let me know when you contact Blackboard support as well so I will be aware you are having technical problems.

Technical Considerations

Blackboard site requires use of:

- An Internet connection. A high speed Internet connection is highly recommended
- An Internet browser (supported browsers include: Internet Explorer, Firefox, and Safari).
- An appropriate web browser configuration.

Any computer capable of running a recently updated web browser should be sufficient to access our Blackboard site. However, bear in mind that processor speed, amount of RAM and Internet connection speed can greatly affect performance. Those using dial-up connections will experience longer page load times and much slower performance.

For Blackboard Support: (202) 885-6091 or blackboardsupport@wesleyseminary.edu

Academic Misconduct

All students have signed the Covenant of Professional Ethics and Behavior. This must be adhered to, particularly in regards to academic honesty and plagiarism.

Plagiarism is regarded as a serious offense and will result in substantial penalties, including the possibility of academic dismissal. The Faculty regards the following as forms of plagiarism or dishonesty:

- copying from another student's paper
- giving or receiving unauthorized assistance to or from another student during an examination
- using unauthorized material during an examination
- borrowing and presenting as one's own (i.e., without proper attribution) the composition or ideas of another.

The mutilation, defacement, or stealing of library materials are examples of academic dishonesty and/or professional misconduct and are also subject to disciplinary action.

A Note on Plagiarism

There are two kinds of plagiarism, both equally serious. First, there is plagiarism that occurs when a student uses someone else's work word-for-word without placing the cited material in quotation marks. Even if you cite sources in a bibliography at the end of your paper, if you have used someone else's words and have not properly placed those words in quotation marks (and cited the course appropriately in a footnote or parentheses), you have plagiarized.

Second, there is plagiarism that occurs when you use someone else's ideas without acknowledging that you have done so. For example, if you find some really interesting information on the Internet, change the wording a bit, and put that information into your paper without properly acknowledging (in a footnote or parentheses) that you have used this source, you have plagiarized.

In both cases, the work that you have turned in is not your own, original work, but someone else's work that you have copied. Please note well that plagiarism will not be tolerated in any Course of Study course.

Weather Policy

Include the Seminary's weather policy: If the seminary is open we will have class. If the seminary is closed, class is cancelled. If the seminary is closed there will be a recorded message at the main switchboard number: 202-885-8600.

Inclusive Language Policy

Bearing in mind that language reflects, reinforces, and creates social reality, the Seminary expects class conversation and written work to employ language that respects the equal dignity and worth of all human beings. In particular, linguistic sexism and racism are to be avoided.