Wesley Theological Seminary
Course of Study School

CS 524: Theological Reflection: Practice of Ministry
Summer Hybrid 2017

Instructor Information

Faculty: Reverend Audrey C. Price, Ph.D.
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Term: August online; in person September 13-14, 2019

Course Information

Course Session Dates: online in August; in person on September 13-14, 2019 (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.

Pre-Course Assignment due August 17, 2019

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?

Paper Guidelines

◊ 12-pt font; Times New Roman, Century Schoolbook, or Cambria
◊ Double-spaced, 1" margins (all sides)
◊ Page numbered
◊ Usage of a formal citation style is mandatory; parenthetical in-line citations are permissible. Students must provide proper bibliographical citations for works consulted.
◊ **Submit paper on Blackboard.** Instructions on posting to Blackboard are on the COS webpage. If you experience any difficulty with posting, please contact blackboardsupport@wesleyseminary.edu.

Online Assignments

Prior to August 19, 2019

1. Read Willimon, *Pastor* p. 196-339 in preparation for Discussion questions online.

August 19, 2019

1. Post Self-Introduction. Instructions on Blackboard.
2. Respond to Discussion question(s) online **before 3:00 p.m.**
3. Respond to **two classmates**' posts *by 10:30 p.m.*

August 20, 2019

1. Respond to Discussion question(s) online **before 3:00 p.m.**
2. Respond to **two classmates**' post from 08/20/2019 *by 10:30 p.m.* Reflect upon what classmate posted, ask thoughtful/engaging questions and/or explore/challenge assumptions.

August 21, 2019

1. Respond to Discussion question(s) online **before 3:00 p.m.**
2. Respond to **two classmates**' post from 08/21/2019 *by 10:30 p.m.* Reflect upon what classmate posted, ask thoughtful/engaging questions and/or explore/challenge assumptions.

August 22, 2019

1. Respond to Discussion question(s) online **before 3:00 p.m.**
2. Respond to **two classmates**' post from 08/22/2019 *by 10:30 p.m.* Reflect upon what classmate posted, ask thoughtful/engaging questions and/or explore/challenge assumptions.