

BRIERCREST

CM/LE 661 Issues in Ministry Leadership Fall 2020

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Course Dates: October 26 – October 30, 2020

3 Credit Hours

COURSE DESCRIPTION

An in depth focus on a particular emphasis of Christian ministry. This leadership focus will vary from year to year.

COURSE INTEGRATION

This is a course specializing in dealing with issues (including organizational health, personal leadership, organizational leadership, staffing, conflict, change, and current cultural issues) that are commonly encountered by ministry leaders. A theology of the church will be examined along with an analysis of systems theory. There will be extensive use of case studies in the exploration of these issues.

COURSE TEXTS

Lott, David B., ed. *Conflict Management in Congregations*. Bethesda: Alban Institute, 2001.

Oswald, Roy M., and Johnson, Barry. *Managing Polarities in Congregations: Eight Keys for Thriving Faith Communities*. Herndon, VA: The Alban Institute, 2010.

Steinke, Peter L. *Healthy Congregations. A Systems Approach*. Bethesda: Alban Institute, 1996.

Personal Profile System. Version 8.0.1. Minneapolis: Inscape Publishing, 2001.

Students are expected to refer Briercrest Seminary's Format and Style Guides and Guide for Writing Research Papers, available as PDF documents here: <http://briercrest.ca/current/seminary/academics/important-documents/>.

These texts are available in store and online at the Briercrest Bookstore: <http://briercrest.ca/bookstore>.

Students are responsible for course materials and communication on Canvas (<https://briercrest.instructure.com>); cf. <http://briercrest.ca/online/canvas>) and their myBriercrest.ca email account.

COURSE OUTCOMES

A. KNOW AND UNDERSTAND:

1. The systemic nature of the unique organism called the Church.
2. The systemic dynamics of group interaction and their effect on congregational/ministry life.
3. The complexities of pastoral leadership and ministry.
4. Procedures for dealing with a variety of issues experienced in ministry leadership.
5. The dynamics of change in a congregational/ministry context.
6. Sources of conflict in congregations and be better prepared to initiate proactive steps.
7. Your own leadership style and behaviour in given situations.
8. The importance of self-understanding for effective leadership.
9. The varying contextual dynamics of leadership.

B. VALUE:

1. The wisdom and strength which Christ gives those leading in a ministry.
2. The need for confidence and personal readiness to lead through crises.
3. The role of the Scriptures in guiding your leadership.
4. Your own strengths and weaknesses in leading others.
5. Your own self-leadership and the disciplines necessary to stay the course.
6. The rewards that come by working through issues in leadership.

C. LIVE AND SERVE:

1. By guiding others through conflict management.
2. By providing leadership in responding to situations requiring church discipline.
3. By relating scriptural principles to actual church situations involving change, conflict, and discipline.
4. By responding practically and effectively to a variety of ministry leadership issues and situations with leadership styles which are appropriate to those unique situations.
5. By emulating the examples of Jesus and Paul in leading others.

COURSE OUTLINE AND CONTENT

Monday October 26, 2020

9:00 – 12:00 Introduction to the Course
 Building a Framework for navigating Issues
 Biblical Theology of the Church
 Identity of the Church
 Beginnings of the Church
 Images of the Church
 Theology of the Church as a System
 Introduction to Systems Theory

1:00 – 5:00 Organizational Design models
 Leadership in a System
 Loosely Coupled Systems
 How to do case study

Tuesday October 27, 2020

9:00 – 12:00 Theology of Leadership
 Leadership Best Practices
1:00 – 5:00 Self-Leadership Issues

Wednesday October 28, 2020

9:00 – 12:00 Common Leadership Issues
1:00 – 5:00 Common Leadership Issues

Thursday October 29, 2020

9:00 – 12:00 Leadership in a Time of Crisis (with focus on the COVID-19 Pandemic)
1:00 – 5:00 Case Study Presentations

Friday October 30, 2020

9:00 – 12:00 Case Study Presentations
 Q. and A., and open discussion

ASSIGNMENTS

Please submit written assignments to Canvas.

Pre-Course Assignments:

1. **Book Reviews:** *Healthy Congregations, Managing Polarities, and The Epistle to the Ephesians.* Read all three books and write a six-page interactive book review. Identify the central thesis of each work. Compare, contrast, and interact with the material from the perspective of a ministry leader using Ephesians as your biblical anchor.

Due: October 26, 2020

2. **Reflection and Application.** Based on your reading, diagnose the health of your church congregation (or the church you know best) using a systems paradigm. Be sure to address: (1) areas of perceived health, (2) areas of perceived illness, (3) leadership, (4) congregational culture, and (5) environmental factors at work. This reflection paper should be between four and six pages.

Due: October 26, 2020

Mid-Course Assignments:

1. **Situational Case Study.** Take a situation from your own experience in ministry leadership (or one with which you are personally familiar) and present this case to the class, guiding the process of evaluation and possible actions to be taken. Please include a one or two-page outline of the case study and action plan. These cases will be presented in class on the last two days of class.

Due: October 28, 2020

Post-Course Assignments:

1. **Personal Leadership Development.** Reflect also on the role of pain and disappointment in your life (cf. class material). Integrate this with your completed DISC instrument (i.e. Personal Profile System) and write a reflection paper (ten-twelve pages) on their implications for your personal leadership style. Discuss (1) who you are and why, (2) how you lead, (3) how you plan on refining your leadership (self-leadership) as you face issues.

Due: December 23, 2020

2. **Conflict Management Case Study.** Read *Conflict Management in Congregations* and then respond to a specific case study distributed in class or to a real conflict that you are very familiar with. Evaluate the dynamics of the situation as well as suggest a process to deal with the situation drawing on principles from the text (four-six pages).

Due: December 23, 2020

COURSE GRADING:

Book Reviews Paper	20%
Reflection and Application Paper	20%
Situational Case Study and Class Interaction	20%
Personal Leadership Development Paper	20%
Conflict Management Case Study Paper	<u>20%</u>
	100%

SEMINARY CALENDAR

Students are expected to be aware of the policies that govern course work at Briercrest Seminary, all of which are published in the current Seminary Calendar:

<https://www.briercrestseminary.ca/academics/calendar/>.

Attendance Policy

In order to benefit fully from a seminary education, to be good stewards of time and finances, and to be considerate of their classmates and faculty members, students must be in class at every opportunity.

Modular Courses

Students are expected to attend 100 per cent of each modular for which they register. If this is impossible due to extenuating circumstances, arrangements must be made with the course

professor before the first day of class. If extenuating circumstances prevent a student from attending class, a maximum of one (1) full day of class can be foregone. If additional time is missed, the student will fail the course unless they first request to withdraw from the course or move the course to an audit.

Online Courses

If extenuating circumstances prevent a student from attending scheduled meeting times, then up to 20% of meeting time can be foregone. Students missing scheduled meeting times should make every effort to inform the course professor prior to any time missed. If additional time is missed, the student will fail the course unless they first request to withdraw from the course or move the course to an audit.

Semester-Based Courses

All students missing more than two full weeks of a particular course from registration to the last day of classes will receive an automatic fail (0%). A student may appeal a course failure due to excessive absences. Successful appeals will be granted only in rare cases where all absences are clearly beyond the student's control. Appeals must be made through the Academic Appeal Process.

Course Schedules

Classes begin at 9:00 a.m. on Monday morning and run a minimum of 30 hours through the course of the week. The schedule is determined by the course professor. Students should check the syllabus for specifics. When the syllabus does not state class times, students are responsible to check with the professor prior to making travel plans.

Assignment Submission

All assignments must be submitted no later than eight weeks after the last day of class as stated in the syllabus. The correct due dates will be clearly noted in the syllabus and each faculty member will state in their syllabus how assignments should be submitted. Assignments submitted within a week after the due date will be accepted with a 10 per cent penalty. For additional information refer to the late assignment policy or the extension policy in the [academic calendar](#).

Return of Graded Assignments

Professors are expected to return graded assignments within six weeks of the due date. If they fail to do so, students may submit an inquiry to the [Seminary](#). If an extension is granted, the professor is no longer obligated to meet this deadline.

Academic Honesty

Students are accountable to perform each task according to principles of academic honesty. Please refer to pages 24-25 in the [academic calendar](#) for more information.

Academic Accommodations

Any student with a disability, injury, or health condition who may need academic accommodations (permanent or temporary) should discuss them with the course instructor after contacting the Director of the Academic Resource Centre in person (L234 in the Library), by telephone (1-306-756-3230) or by email (academicresourcecentre@briercrest.ca). Documentation from a qualified practitioner will be required (i.e., medical doctor, psychologist, etc.).

BIBLIOGRAPHY

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