

BRIERCREST

CM 601 Philosophy and Foundation for Ministry Spring 2021

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Course Dates: May 3-7, 2021

3 Credit Hours

COURSE DESCRIPTION

An introduction to understanding and developing a biblical theology or philosophy of ministry. This course will explore the biblical foundations of ministry, the identification of calling, the development of missions, vision and core values statements and the role of ministry in the midst of rapid and challenging changes in church and societal cultures.

COURSE INTEGRATION

This course assists students in responding, according to sound scriptural principles, to a rapidly changing culture and often confounding church scene. Attention is given to the biblical foundations of ministry, the development of mission, vision, and cultural responsiveness, the identification of calling, and the formation of core values. Students are guided through the process of developing a well-articulated philosophy of ministry that will serve as a summary of ministry convictions, a guide to the practice of ministry and a statement to assist in communicating with others.

COURSE TEXTS

Belcher, Jim. *Deep Church: A Third Way Beyond Emerging and Traditional*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 2009.

Stott, John. *The Living Church: Convictions of a Lifelong Pastor*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2011.

Van Gelder, Craig. *The Essence of the Church: A Community Created by the Spirit*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2000.

Wright, N. T. *God and the Pandemic: A Christian Reflection on the Coronavirus and Its Aftermath*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2020.

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

Upon successfully completing this course the student will have taken the opportunity to:

1. Thinking

- Understand the biblical mission of the church
- Understand the place of vision and philosophy of ministry in giving effective leadership to the church and other organizations
- Grapple with the complexity of responding to the ministry context

2. Valuing and Feeling

- Value the necessity of personal spirituality to ministry fruitfulness
- Appreciate the cultural context facing Canadian churches and the challenge of that context
- Commit with passion to Christ's work in the world through his church

3. Skill

- Articulate his/her own sense of ministry calling
- Identify and clearly express personal core values
- Move beyond motivation based upon personal preference toward that which is more deeply theological and strategic
- Integrate biblical principles for ministry within a particular ministry setting
- Work with leaders and church members to identify and implement a philosophy of ministry

COURSE OUTLINE AND CONTENT

I. The importance and value of a philosophy of ministry

- A. What is this course all about?
- B. An overview of the issues
- C. How to form a philosophy of ministry

II. Theme One: Establishing a biblical foundation for ministry

- A. Biblical themes that shape a philosophy of ministry
- B. Forming a Mission Statement

III. Theme Two: Investigating the theological, historical and cultural context

- A. The theological perspective
- B. The historical perspective
- C. The cultural perspective

IV. Theme Three: Exploring values, calling and vision

- A. Values
- B. Calling
- C. Vision

V. Theme Four: Examining ministry-related issues

ASSIGNMENTS

All assignments are to be submitted to dlee@briercrest.ca.

Pre-Course Assignments:

All pre-course assignments are due on the first day of class (**May 3, 2021**).

1. Read the four required texts prior to the first day of class and be familiar with them for class discussion.
2. Dialogue with the Belcher, Stott and Van Gelder textbooks in three 5-page papers (totalling 15 pages). Identify and discuss the key ideas developed by the authors and share how these ideas will shape your approach to ministry. This assignment will be due on the first day of class. There will be a late penalty on any work submitted after the first day.

Value: 30%

3. Write a 2-page reflection on N. T. Wright's *God and the Pandemic* answering the question: "How might this book help guide your ministry—and the ministry of God's people—during and following the pandemic?" I'm not asking for a theological analysis on the book, but rather your insights into what you have gained as you live out your calling to serve in the world during a time of crisis. This assignment is due on the first day of class.

Value: 5%

Mid-Course Assignments:

1. Attendance and active participation.
2. You will have the opportunity to participate in small group discussions. Time will be given during class time to discuss questions arising from the course material. You will then write a brief paper (3-5 pages)—which can be submitted on the last day of class or with your post-class assignments—summarizing your reflections on these questions.

Value: 10%

Post-Course Assignments:

All post-course assignments are due **July 2, 2021**.

1. Do an evaluation (5 pages) of your home church or parachurch organization (or another church of your choosing). Examine church literature (including its on-line presence), interview church leadership, and if possible conduct an on-site visit. In this evaluation:
 - a) give a brief description of the congregation or parachurch organization and the community where it is located
 - b) determine if there is a well-defined mission, vision, and philosophy of ministry

- c) try to determine what stated and unstated values shape the congregation/organization
- d) evaluate how the mission, vision and values shape such things as the priorities, the decision-making process, objectives, worship, outreach and programming
- e) observe the facility to determine its appropriateness in helping the congregation/organization fulfill its mission
- f) indicate ways in which the church/organization might improve its effectiveness

Value: 10%

2. Prepare a 12-page paper outlining your own philosophy of ministry based upon the strategies learned in class.

Value: 40%

3. Read 250 pages from two different books directly related to your ministry situation. You should analyze each reading and respond in 1 to 2 pages itemizing:

- a) Bibliographic data
- b) Number of pages read
- c) Purpose of the author
- d) Highlights and/or notable quotations

Value: 5%

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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