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## IR 750 Senior Closure

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Course

### **IR 750/780 Senior Closure**

A senior reflection group for students in the MA program in Christian Education or Youth Ministries, with the objective of facilitating an integrative closure to the Seminary experiences and aiding the student in the formulation of an inclusive theory of ministry.

#### **Goals and Objectives**

##### **Goal I: Participants will develop and strengthen relationships with each other and with God.**

Students will share their seminary spiritual life journey.

Students will affirm and support each other through fellowship and acts of Christian community.

Students will design and covenant to maintain a personal and corporate devotional practice.

##### **Goal II: Participants will continue to gain a better understanding of themselves and their vocation.**

Students will reflect on what they have learned about themselves, their gifting for ministry, and areas of needed growth.

Students will develop a list of questions regarding their first year in ministry.

Students will develop spiritual, intellectual, personal, and vocational goals for their first year in ministry, with beginning projections for year two and beyond.

Students will prepare a resume.

Students will write a theology of ministry.

##### **Goal III: Participants will continue the process of integration.**

Students will reflect on and respond to a given case study, demonstrating their ability to integrate and apply in a ministry setting insights from various fields of study.

Students will formulate ministry principles from reflecting, in the light of their seminary studies, on input from guest resource persons.

### **Assignments**

**Attendance:** Seminar attendance and participation is required. Any unavoidable absences are to be discussed with the professor.

**Reflections:** Prior to each group meeting, reflect on the scripture passage and the question(s) noted for the class session. Record insights and come prepared to share your reflections.

**Devotional Leadership:** Each participant will lead a **15-minute** devotional time during one class session. The focus of the devotion will be the passage from John designated for that day. Involve group members in the processing of the passage, and also share personal insights. To provide constructive feedback, each devotional leader will be evaluated, on the following criteria.

Skill in leading interactive discovery. **(Cont'd)**

Ability to lead participants in discovering insights meaningful for their lives.  
Appropriate use of the biblical passage.  
Use of creative methods.  
Ability to provide a meaningful experience within the time allotted.

**Reading:** Read *Working the Angles* by Eugene H. Peterson. Note due dates on the Reflection Group Schedule.

**Resume:** Prepare a resume. **Due: March 1.**

**Theology of Ministry:** Prepare a paper in which you develop your theology of ministry following the instructions that will be provided. **Due: April 12.**

**Goals:** In a brief paper outline your ministry, professional, and personal goals for your first year in ministry. Identify additional goals that would be part of a five-year plan. **Due: April 26.**

**Case Study:** Respond to a case study. Based on what you have learned from the social sciences, Bible, and theology, identify the key issues in the case and describe how you would minister in that situation. The case study and further instructions will be distributed later in the semester. **Due: May 3.**

**Devotional Covenant:** Prepare a devotional covenant to guide your spiritual discipline during your first year in ministry. **Due: May 10.**

### Reflection Group Schedule

February 9 - Getting Started

February 16 - Working the Angles

John 13:18-30

What experiences in your life have been particularly formative -- in a positive or negative way?

**Read:** *Working the Angles* - Introduction

February 23 - Finding a Place of Ministry

John 13:31-38

What have been the significant elements in your spiritual pilgrimage while in seminary? What have you learned about yourself, God, others, or ministry?

**Read:** *Working the Angles* – Chapter 1

**Due:** Learning Contract

March 1 - Defining the Job

John 14:1-14

**Read:** *Working the Angles* – Chapter 2

**Due:** Resume

- March 8 - Reflections on Ministry – Panel of Guests  
 John 14:15-31  
 What are the experiences through which you have grown most while in seminary? What does that suggest about spiritual formation?  
**Read:** *Working the Angles* – Chapter 3
- March 15 - Theological Foundations for Ministry  
 John 15:1-17  
 What significance for ministry do you see in your Myers/Briggs profile?  
 Holy Communion  
**Read:** *Working the Angles* – Chapter 4  
**Due:** Mid-term Reflections
- March 22 - The First Year in Ministry - Goal Setting  
 John 15:18--16:4  
 What gifts do you believe God has entrusted to you?  
**Read:** *Working the Angles* – Chapter 5
- March 29 - Strategies for Reaching Goals  
 John 16:5-16  
 What gifts do you see in other group members?  
 Love Feast  
**Read:** *Working the Angles* – Chapter 6
- April 12 - Issues in Ministry  
 John 16:17-33  
 What devotional practices have been most meaningful to you? What devotional resources have been most helpful?  
**Read:** *Working the Angles* – Chapter 7  
**Due:** Theology of Ministry Paper
- April 19 - Reflections on Ministry – Guest Panel  
 John 17:1-5  
**Read:** *Working the Angles* – Chapter 8
- April 26 - Open Agenda  
 John 17:6-19  
**Read:** *Working the Angles* – Chapter 9  
**Due:** Goals
- May 3 - Theology of Ministry II  
 John 17:20-26  
 What are your deep desires for God's continued work in your life?  
**Due:** Case Study
- May 10 - Covenant Service  
**Due:** Long Term Devotional Covenant  
 Final S.Min. Evaluation
- May 15-19 - Individual Conferences