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IS 502 Christian Formation: Vocation of Ministry

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Syllabus

Course: IS502 W4 (SP 2009)
Title: Christian Formation: Vocation of Ministry
Hours: 3.00
Published: Yes, on 02/03/2009
Prerequisites:

None

Department: Integrative Studies
Faculty: Dr. James Hampton



Email: james.hampton@asburyseminary.edu
 Office: FM
 SPO: 932

Meetings:

During 02/09/2009 to 05/22/2009 on Wednesday from 8:00a to 10:45a in M202.

Maximum Registration: 50

Catalog Description: This course seeks to ask and address the question, How is our vocation as those called to Christian ministry discerned, shaped, and sustained? The purpose of this course is to explore from a Wesleyan perspective the biblical and theological foundations of Christian personhood and vocation by examining the nexus between call to ministry and formation of persons in ministry.

Objectives:

IS502 Vocation of Ministry

IS502 Christian Formation: Vocation of Ministry
Spring 2009 (February-May)
8:00-10:45:am - Wednesday
3 Semester Units
Anticipated Class Enrollment: 40 students

Co-faculty:

James Hampton
 Office: FM 107
 Office Hours: Wed. 1-4pm
James_Hampton@asburyseminary.edu
 858-2367

Steve Seamands
 Office: AD 409
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 858-2107

Course Description

This course seeks to ask and address the question, How is our vocation as those called to Christian ministry discerned, shaped, and sustained? The purpose of this course is to explore from a Wesleyan perspective the biblical and theological foundations of Christian personhood and vocation by examining the nexus between call to ministry and formation of persons in ministry.

Course Objectives

Having successfully completed this course, you should:

1. Understand the nature of Christian vocation (including God's call of all Christian disciples to ministry in

church and world) from a Wesleyan perspective;

2. Grasp the relationship between spiritual growth and theological reflection in the practice of ministry.
3. Demonstrate sensitivity to cultural, ethnic, and gender issues with regard to their importance for the vocation of ministry;
4. Understand the importance of moral formation and integrity for Christian ministry, with a clear understanding of boundary issues related to ethical conduct;
5. Demonstrate commitment to a life of personal and social holiness through immersion in the means of grace and development of a "Rule of Life."
6. Be able to articulate a coherent narrative of one's own call into God's ministry as well as one's God-given gifts and graces for ministry.
7. Project a personal vision for ministry and a curricular plan consistent with one's vocational discernment and vision (known as a *Rule of Life*).

Mode of Instruction

1. This course will be co-taught by two professors.
2. The class will be taught using three modes of instruction: (a) We will meet together as one large group for differing levels of instruction, interaction and discussion; (b) The class will be organized into covenant discipleship groups that will emphasize "means of grace", which are integral to the course. At least part of the covenant group meeting time will overlap with scheduled course time; (c) Experiential activities will be utilized through the social justice project (as a group) and cross-cultural experiences (as an individual).

Means of Student Evaluation

1. Student Participation - 40% of Final Grade

Related to course instruction

- Your attendance at all class sessions is expected. If you are absent (for whatever reasons) for more than three class sessions (or the equivalent) you will receive a failing grade. An attendance sheet will be provided for class sessions.
- You are expected to attend your covenant discipleship group. Every group member will have the opportunity to lead a group meeting. Meeting time is built into our Wednesday class period. Specific guidelines and expectations are presented below under the heading "Covenant Discipleship Group Guidelines". (15%)
- You will attend twice the worship services of a church where the church is ethnically different from yourself or engage in two one hour conversations with two persons from different ethnic backgrounds than yours. You'll then write a paper which focuses on your awareness of your own prejudicial beliefs or myths, and how you plan to address them. Also, focus on what you learned from the worship services you participated in or conversations you engaged in. Finally, in this paper you are to reflect on your relative ease or discomfort of working with women in ministry. Be sure that you clearly integrate information from the required readings and lecture information. This information is to be referenced following the MLA format. Typed-double space, 1" margins, 12cpi font 5-page limit. (**portfolio piece**). **Due April 15**. (10%)
- Participate in a 4-hour social justice project with your covenant discipleship group. Specific guidelines and expectations are presented below under the heading "Social Justice Project Guidelines". (5%)
- The reading requirements for this course are listed under "Required Texts" and "Required Reading". You will prepare a report to document the degree of your completion of required course reading and listening on the appropriate form in the course/group notebook. This reading report is due at the end of the semester. (10%)

2. "In-Process" Papers - 60% of Final Grade

You will prepare three five-page "in-process" papers that integrate course content, your understanding of your vocation of ministry and assessment survey where appropriate. The first paper (18%) is due at the end of Module 1 and the second paper (17%) is due at the end of Module 2. The third paper (25%) is due at the end of Module 3. Each student will be provided clear guidelines for paper expectations and criteria for grading. These guidelines are presented on the handouts entitled, "Expectations and Grading Criteria for IS 502 VOM Module Papers". These will be posted on the class Moodle site.

Module 1 paper is due on March 25, 2009

Module 2 paper is due on April 29, 2009

Module 3 paper is due on May 18, 2009

Required Texts

- Arterburn, Stephen, Fred Stoeker and Mike Yorkey (2000) Every Man's Battle. Colorado Springs: WaterBrook Press, (235 pages). *Men Only Read This Text*.
- Barton, Ruth (2006) Sacred Rhythms: Arranging Our Lives for Spiritual Transformation. Downers Grove, IL: IVP, (195 pages).
- Belleville, Linda L., Craig L. Blomberg, Craig S. Keener, Thomas R. Schreiner, James R. Beck (Editor) (200 Two Views on Women in Ministry. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan.
- Ethridge, Shannon and Stephen Arterburn (2003) Every Woman's Battle: Discovering God's Plan for Sexual and Emotional Fulfillment. Colorado Springs: WaterBrook Press, (193 pages). *Women Only Read This Text*.
- Scazzero, Peter (2006) Emotionally Healthy Spirituality. Nashville: Thomas Nelson. (220 pages)
- Seamands, Stephen (2006) Ministry in the Image of God: The Trinitarian Shape of Christian Service. Downers Grove, IL: IVP, (189 pages).
- Smith, G. (1999). Courage and Calling: Embracing Your God-Given Potential, Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press. (1997)

Grading Policy

Papers

All papers must be typed, double-spaced, 1" margin all around, using a 12-point font, such as Times New Roman. Papers must adhere to MLA (Modern Language Association Style) format according to Slade [available in the ATS bookstore and in the library].

Professors Seamands and Hampton will provide both "timely" and "substantive" feedback to students regarding their assignments. "Timely" response means that for assessments of student work during the course of the academic term, the professors will have work marked, graded, and returned within one week of its submission; if the class has more than 40 students (and this one does), the professors may take up to two weeks. In addition, the professors will provide "substantive" feedback that alerts students to what they have done well and how they might improve their performance in subsequent work. A 1/3 deduction in grade will be assessed for every workday that your paper is late. Late papers receive a grade, but no written feedback. If you need to negotiate an alternate due date with us, please see one of us BEFORE the assignment is due.

Grading Guidelines

The grading guidelines found in the 2006-2008 ATS academic catalog will be used for grade assignment.

A = exceptional work: surpassing, markedly outstanding achievement of course objectives

B= Good work: strong, significant achievement of course objectives

C = Acceptable work: basic, essential achievement of course objectives

D = Marginal work: inadequate, minimal achievement of course objectives

F = Unacceptable work: failure to achieve course objectives

The specific grade format for this course is:

A	95	C	73
A-	90	C-	70
B+	87	D+	67
B	83	D	63
B-	80	D-	60
C+	77	F	below 60

Incomplete Policy

A grade of "I" denotes incomplete work. This grade is rarely given; it denotes that the work of a course has not been completed **due to an unavoidable emergency**, which does not include delinquency or attending to church work or other employment. If the work of a course is incomplete at the end of a term without an emergency, a letter grade will be given based on the grades of work done, with incomplete work counted as "F". From ATS 2007-08 Catalog page 31 (emphasis added)

Covenant Discipleship Group Guidelines

1. During the first week of class, students will be placed in Covenant Discipleship Groups of 4-6 persons. Because teamwork and spiritual formation are important parts of this course, time will be built into every weekly session for group work together in a Covenant Discipleship format.
2. The groups will meet for one introductory meeting, then for the remainder of the semester the groups will focus on the nine dimensions that tie this course together. Every small group session should be explicitly focused upon holiness of heart and life (personally and socially), both as a gift from God, and as a personal responsibility. Group members are expected to contribute biblical references, resources from reading and personal experiences that are directly related to the topic of discussion for that day.
3. Each group will be student led and leadership will be shared among all group members. At the conclusion of each session another group member will be assigned to lead at the next session.
4. In order to effectively participate in group discussions each group member should read in advance the material to be discussed and complete all written group assignments.
5. Each group should covenant to keep group conversations confidential among group members.
6. One student in each group will take attendance. Attendance is to be documented on the appropriate form in the course/group notebook. Please NOTE that if you miss more than three discipleship group meetings (for whatever reasons), you will not receive credit for this component of the course.

Social Justice Project Guidelines

A commitment to social justice is one of the emphases of our Wesleyan tradition. Each group will select a service/mission project. The project is to be completed AS A GROUP and must involve at least 4 hours of service outside the Asbury Seminary community. For example, your group can serve dinner at the Ronald McDonald House in Lexington, work for a soup kitchen, help out at God's Pantry, provide housekeeping or lawn care for a homebound person, etc. Please clear your project with either Prof. Hampton or Prof. Seamands. The group is to document on the appropriate forms in the course/group notebook: 1) the attendance of each member, 2) the nature of the project, 3) a group statement (1 or 2 paragraphs) describing how this chosen project is understood theologically as an expression of the groups/individuals participation in the "Kingdom of God", and 4) a group statement about what 3 aspects of the experience stands out for them as significant. This is due at the end of the semester.

MODULES:

Module 1: Understanding the Nature of Christian Call and Vocation from a Wesleyan Perspective

Goals:

1. Have a clear understanding of core Christian values.
2. Articulate your personal core values and how they influenced your call to ministry.
3. Discuss how your values influenced your call to ministry and share how you responded to a perceived call of God.
4. Relate your calling to your understanding of a personal mission in life and how this connects to the mission of God.

February 11: The Nature of Vocation and Call. - This session provides an introduction to the concept of "call." We will also get organized!

Reading List: Smith, Introduction and Chapters 1-2; Seamands, Chapter 1

Covenant Group Focus: Please introduce yourself by sharing your spiritual journey and the shift in values that influenced your call to ministry. Be prepared to share with your covenant group your key values. Answer the question: "How do my values relate to how I got to seminary and how will my values guide my future ministry?"

February 18: Vocation, Call, and Me

This session introduces you to the idea of personal vocational strengths, spiritual gifts, and their relationship to vocation and call

Reading List: Smith, Chapters 3-4; Seamands, Chapter 2; Barton, Chapter 1

Covenant Group Focus: Discuss questions found on pages 169-170 of the Barton text.

DISC inventory - to be completed by March 3

February 25: Biblical and Wesleyan Perspectives on Vocation and Call

This week focuses on a biblical and Wesleyan understanding of vocation and call.

Reading List: Smith, Chapter 3; Seamands, Chapter 3; Barton, Chapter 2

Covenant Group Focus: Discuss questions on page 171 of the Barton text.

Projective Assessment: "DISC " This assessment must be completed by March 3. You will receive an e-mail link and instructions from Misty Yeich. Bring a copy of your results with you to class next week..

March 4 DISCovering the Way we Lead

You will discover more about yourself through the DISC survey and combine this practical information with the previous lectures and discussions to reflect upon your call to ministry.

Reading List: Smith, Chapter 4; Seamands, Chapter 4; Barton, Chapter 3

Covenant Group: Please discuss questions on page 172-174 of the Barton text.

March 11 Articulating A Vision for Ministry

This class will focus on the various forms of ministry through which persons can fulfilling their calling and enable you to articulate where you currently believe God has called or is calling you and what that means for you in terms of vocation.

Reading List: Barton, Chapter 4, Seamands, Chapter 5

Covenant Group: Please discuss questions found on page 175-176 of the Barton text.

March 18 Critical thinking and Ministry

Today we will explore the role of critical thinking in the vocation of ministry.

Reading List: Smith, Chapters 5 & 7; Barton, Chapter 5

Covenant Group: Please discuss questions found on page 176-177 of the Barton text.

Means of Evaluation for Module 1- First "In-Process" Position Paper - DUE on March 25, 2009

Using the material from the first five weeks, develop a vocational position paper that reflects your current understanding of the nature of Christian ministry, your call to the vocation of ministry, your sense of spiritual gifting and your personal limitations. Be sure that you clearly integrate information from the required readings and lectures. This information is to be referenced following the MLA format. Typed-double space, 1" margins, 12 cpi font 7-page limit.

Module 2: Understand the importance of character, moral formation and integrity for Christian ministry, with

a clear understanding of boundary issues related to ethical conduct

Goals:

By the completion of the module, you should

1. Discuss the importance of the character of and the maintenance of a sense of wholeness by a Christian minister;
2. Identify ways to maintain emotional and physical boundaries with people;
3. Identify ways in which boundary violations occur;
4. Explain the relationship between moral formation, individual integrity, and the vocation of ministry.

March 25: The Call to Holiness: Character, Moral formation & integrity

Reading List: Smith, Chapters 6, 8-10; Barton, Chapter 6

Covenant Group: Please respond to the questions on page 177-178 of the Barton text.

READING WEEK MARCH 30 – APRIL

April 8: Emotional Wholeness in Ministry

Reading List: Scazzero, Chs. 1-5; Seamands, Ch. 6; Barton, Ch. 7

Covenant Group: Please focus on the questions found on page 179-180 of the Barton text.

April 15: Morality & Boundaries, Part I

Reading List: Barton, Chapter 8

Men: Read all of *Every Man's Battle*

Women: Read all of *Every Woman's Battle*

Covenant Group: Please discuss the questions found on page 180-181 of the Barton text.

April 22: Boundary issues, Part II

Reading List: Scazzero, Chapter 6-7; Barton, Chapter 9

Covenant Group Focus: Please discuss the questions found on page 181-183 of the Barton text.

Means of Evaluation for Module 2 – Second "In-Process" Position Paper – Due on April 29, 2009.

Using the material from the class (especially from this module), write an integrative paper that answers the question:

"How can a life of personal and social holiness help develop a life of integrity and emotional wholeness in ministry?"

Pay particular attention to the boundaries that you need to establish in your life and ministry to help you stay pure and be effective.

Module 3: Demonstrate sensitivity to cultural, ethnic, and gender issues with regard to their importance for the vocation of ministry.

Goals:

At the completion of this module, you should

1. Explain the reality of racism and gender issues, their origins and the negative impact they have on building the Kingdom of God;
2. Delineate the importance of spiritual disciplines to pastoral ministry;
3. Decide on the commitments you are making to yourself, others and institutions.
4. Clearly define a Rule of Life that will help set the compass for your life and ministry.

April 29: Ministry in the Worldwide Kingdom of God: Gender, Ethnicity and Vocation

Vocation of ministry in the global Kingdom of God

Reading List: Belleville, Blomberg, Keener and Schreiner, entire book;
Barton, Chapter 10

Covenant Group Focus: please share the most joyful commitments you anticipate making in your future ministry roles as well as the most difficult commitments.

May 6 Means of Grace: Spiritual Disciplines

Reading List: Scazzero, Chapters 8-9; Seamands, Chs. 7-8

Covenant Group Focus: This is the last meeting of the semester. Share with your group what are the two items you will take away from this class which have most impacted your call to ministry, and how will they change your approach to ministry.

May 13 - Mission Statement/Rule of Life

Reading List: Scazzero, Chapter 10

Means of Evaluation for Module 3 - Third "In-Process" Position Paper - "A Rule of Life" - Due on May 18, 2009.

Develop a vocational position paper that reflects your current understanding of your call to the vocation of ministry in light of the place of moral character, integrity and appropriate boundaries in ministry. This is commonly referred to as a "Rule of Life." Your specific "Rule of Life" must not be longer than one page (Examples will be distributed). The remaining five pages will both add support to your rule as well as demonstrate a thorough integration of the course materials (readings and lectures) into your personal life. Describe the present state of your vision for your future in ministry, particularly the kind of personal, family and institutional commitments you are willing to make to fulfill your calling to ministry.

The completion of this document will allow you to meet a graduation requirement of constructing a "Rule of Life" paper; and it should help you choose Seminary courses that will best prepare you for fulfilling your vision for ministry. It will also provide material for responding to written and personal interview questions regarding your call, motivation and preparation for ministry. Instructions on creating a Rule of Life will be given in class. The paper is to be referenced following the MLA format. Typed-double space, 1" margins, 12 cpi font. 6-page limit.

Additional Bibliography

Drury, Keith (2004) Holiness for Ordinary People. Indianapolis, IN: Wesleyan Publishing House.

Foster, Richard J. (1998) Celebration of Discipline: The Path to Spiritual Growth. San Francisco: Harper.

Gill, David W. (2000). Becoming Good: Building Moral Character Downers Grove, Illinois: InterVarsity Press.

- Grenz, Stanley and Roy D. Bell (2001) Betrayal of Trust: Sexual Misconduct in the Pastorate. Downers Grove, Ill: InterVarsity Press.
- Groothuis, Rebecca Merrill. (1997) Good News for Women: A Biblical Picture of Gender Equality. Grand Rapids: MI: Baker Books.
- Guinness, O. (1998). The Call: Finding and Fulfilling the Central Purpose of Your Life, Waco, TX: Word.
- Hampton, Jim. (2007). Everyday Saint: Rejecting Sin, Choosing Love. Kansas City: Barefoot Ministries.
- Samson, Will & Lisa. (2007) Justice in the Burbs: Being the Hands and Feet of Jesus Wherever You Live. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books.
- Sire, James W. (2000) Habits of the Mind: Intellectual Life as a Christian Calling. Downers Grove, IL.: InterVarsity Press.
- Stevens, R. Paul. (1999) The Other Six Days: Vocation, Work, and Ministry in Biblical Perspective. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans.
- Webb, William J. (2001) Slaves, Women & Homosexuals: Exploring the Hermeneutics of Cultural Analysis. Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press.
- Wesley, John. (1977) A Plain Account of Christian Perfection. Kansas City, MO: Beacon Hill Press, 1777.
- Willimon, William H. (2000) Calling & Character: virtues of the Ordained Life. Nashville, TN: Abingdon Press.