

1-1-2009

IS 502 Christian Formation: Vocation of Ministry

Beverly C. Johnson-Miller

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Syllabus

Course: IS502 W2 (SP 2009)

Title: Christian Formation: Vocation of Ministry

Hours: 3.00

Published: Yes, on 02/05/2009

Prerequisites:

None

Department: Integrative Studies

Faculty: Dr. Beverly Johnson-Miller



Email: beverly.johnson-miller@asburyseminary.edu

Office: FM

SPO: 1301

Meetings:

During 02/09/2009 to 05/22/2009 on Wednesday from 1:00p to 3:45p in M103.

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
Spring 2009
Wednesdays 1 – 3:45 pm

Professor:

Beverly Johnson-Miller, Ph.D.

Beverly.Johnson-Miller@Asburyseminary.edu

Phone: (Office) (859) 858-2092

Office hours by appointment

Appointments made via E-mail

****This syllabus is subject to minor changes prior to the first day of class. The required reading list will NOT change. Go ahead and start reading. The books are enjoyable and potentially life-changing. Enjoy!

Course Description

This course addresses the question, "How is a vocation to Christian ministry discerned, shaped, and sustained?" The purpose of the course is to explore the biblical and theological foundations of Christian vocation by examining the connection between a call to ministry and the formation of persons for 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 the church and in the world.
2. Grasp the relationship between the personal habits, spirituality and theological reflection in the practice of ministry;
3. Demonstrate sensitivity to cultural, ethnic, and gender issues with regard to the vocation of ministry;
4. Understand the importance of integrity for Christian ministry through the development of virtues, character and moral formation, with a clear understanding of their relationship to 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 service;
6. Be able to articulate a coherent narrative of one's own call, gifts and graces for ministry; and

7. Project a personal vision for ministry and a curricular plan consistent with one's vocational discernment and vision.

Mode of Instruction

The class will be taught using these modes of instruction: (a) We will begin each class meeting together as one large group for some interactive instruction; (b) Each afternoon, the class will be organized into growth groups that will involve personal reflection and discussion with guidance from your professor; and (c) Growth groups will work outside of the classroom to complete their PSDA's (Personal Spiritual Development Analysis), Service project, and to fulfill their Cross-cultural worship experience.

Means of Student Evaluation

- **ATTENDANCE** - Your attendance at all class sessions is expected. If you will need to be absent for any reason please clear that absence with the professor. Only unexcused absences will negatively impact your course grade.
- **CROSS CULTURAL WORSHIP EXPERIENCE** - DUE: Before April 15. You will be expected to attend one worship service in a church that is ethnically different from your own. If you are currently worshipping in a cross-cultural setting, or have had significant cross-cultural worship experiences over a long period of time, speak with the instructor about ways to adjust this assignment. You will complete and submit a one-page reflection form, provided by your professor (5 points of final grade).
- **GROWTH GROUPS** - You are expected to attend and actively participate in all of your growth group meetings for the time that they meet. Your professor will provide clear guidance for these group sessions, and meeting time built into our regular class period each day. If you miss more than three sessions you will not receive credit for this component of the course. A group attendance form due May 13 (15 points of final grade).
- **SOCIAL JUSTICE PROJECT** - DUE: Before March 4. Participate in a 4 to 8 hour social justice project with your growth group during the first three weeks of the semester. Each group will select a service/mission project. The project is to be completed as a group and must involve 4 to 8 hours of service outside the Asbury Seminary community. For example, work for a soup kitchen, help out at Bread of Life, provide housekeeping or lawn care for a homebound person, etc. Please clear your project with the instructor. Each group will collectively complete, and submit, a participation reflection form provided by your professor (10 points of final grade).
- **READING REFLECTION FORMS** - DUE: See Class Schedule. The reading requirement for this course is a minimum of 1200 pages. Reading Reflection forms provided by your professor for designated texts are due as listed in the course schedule. These reflection forms will guide your reading and prepare you for the growth group discussion assignments. They will also contribute substantially to your final integrative paper. Some of the Reading Reflections will be completed during your growth group sessions in class. All Reading Reflections will be submitted (20 points of final grade).
- **DISC ASSESSMENT** - DUE: By February 25. DISC Assessment to be completed on-line. You will receive an email link and instructions from Misty Yeich. (5 points of final grade)
- **PSDA (Personal Spiritual Development Analysis)** – This project represents 15 points of your final grade. DUE: March 25.

The purpose of this exercise is to help you to recognize God's work of grace in your life over time. Your personal spiritual development analysis is a personal time line of your life to-date. However, rather than trying to write a spiritual autobiography of your entire life, this assignment is limited to those events which have special significance in your faith walk and spiritual formation. The procedures for developing your PSDA are explained for you in the required PSDA textbook by Dr. Rick Gray. You will complete an abridged version of the PSDA for this class. Instructions are as follows:

- Your PSDA should include the following:
 1. A Title Page – see Gray text, page 10
 2. A Personal Time Line – see pages' 13-20, example of completed timeline on page 20.
 3. Nine to twelve Formative Encounters (2 to 4 for each major developmental era) – see pages' 27-32, example of completed Formative Encounter on pages 31& 32.
 4. A Reflective Summary (1-3 pages) – This summary will include a brief reflective response to your experience of completing the PSDA. This summary is not discussed in Rick Gray's textbook. Respond to the following questions: 1) What are the major themes, patterns, and/or insights unveiled in your formative encounters? 2) What did you learn about yourself, God, the process of spiritual growth? 3) How has this PSDA assignment impacted your understanding, feelings, concerns, and or enthusiasm related to your call/vocation?
 5. Staple/compile pages in the order listed above. Use a folder of your choice if you wish, but a folder is not required and will not impact your grade. (15 points of final grade)
- **GROWTH GROUP JOURNAL** – You will be expected to document your growth group discussions in a journal during your in-class group time. Your professor will provide guidance for this process. (To be checked during class at end of semester. This will not be reviewed in detail due to the potential personal nature of your reflections. 10 points of final grade)
- **RULE OF LIFE** – DUE: April 22. Instruction for the development of your Rule of Life will be provided in class. The Rule of Life developed in this class can be submitted for your Christian Formation portfolio. (5 points of final grade)
- **FINAL INTEGRATIVE PAPER** – DUE: May 20 . The central theme of the paper is your calling. In this paper you will

incorporate insights from all aspects of the course: class lectures and discussions, reading reflections, DISC assessment, and other assignments as appropriate. In this paper you will answer the questions below. This paper represents 15 points of your final grade.

1. How do I understand and or imagine my call at this point in my journey?
2. What are the major forces and factors that shaped the current understanding I have of my call?
3. How will growth in personal and social holiness influence my values, help me fulfill my calling in light of God's mission in the world? (What personal strengths and limitations do I bring to my vocation of ministry? How will I embrace my strengths and respond to these limitations?)
4. How will your values support your vocation in light of God's mission in the world? Discuss what you learned from the results of your DISC instrument, your sense of your spiritual gifts, talents and work experience that will help, or hinder, your future vocation, and how you see your seminary education preparing you to live out your calling in Christ.

***These questions may be modified and others may be added to this list as the course progresses throughout the semester.

Vocation of Ministry

Required Texts

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Samson, Will & Lisa. (2007) Justice in the Burbs: Being the hands of Jesus Wherever You Live, Grand Rapids: Baker Books, ISBN: 978-0-8010-6809-6. (202 pages)

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Jones, Kirk Byron (2007) holy play: The Joyful Adventure of Unleashing Your Divine Purpose. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass/Wiley, ISBN: 978-0-7879-8452-6. (186)

Dawn, Marva J. (2006) The Sense of the Call: A Sabbath Way of Life for Those Who Serve God, the Church, and the World.. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans Publishing House, ISBN: 978-0-8028-4459-0. (295)

***An additional 150 pages of reading will be assigned in order to complete the accreditation requirement of 1200 pages.

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 format according to Slade [available in the ATS bookstore and in the library]. The pages of the paper must be numbered. Review the grading rubric provided by the instructor before you write your papers. A 1/3 deduction in grade will be assessed for every week that your paper is late. Late papers receive a grade, but little written feedback. If you need to negotiate an alternate due date, consult with the Professor BEFORE the assignment is due.

*** In this class your papers are personal reflections. They should be written with first person pronouns without an attempt at speaking to, or preaching to, others.

Incomplete Policy

A grade of "I" denotes course work has not been completed due to an unavoidable emergency, which does not include failure to turn in course work or attending to church work or other employment. Incompletes are determined by the Dean; not your professor. See the Asbury Seminary Catalog for further clarification.

GRADING PROCEDURES

The grade descriptions written in italics have been determined by the faculty at Asbury Theological Seminary and provide the guidelines for grading. The explanations that follow clarify the meaning of each grade designation.

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

Exceptional work is constituted by such things as: substantive reflection that reveals engagement with the "big ideas" of scripture and/or the "big ideas" represented in the existing body of knowledge from the social sciences in a particular area of study and represented via assigned texts and presentations; thorough and penetrating personal insights gained from a sustained consideration of one's experience through; and excellence in grammatical, stylistic and communicative aspects of writing.

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

Good work is constituted by: solid reflection on the assigned readings and presentations in response to the given questions for a particular unit; the capacity to utilize classroom discussions and readings to understand and critically engage one's own story; accurate ability to name specific ministry implications from one's processing of information; and carefulness in grammatical, stylistic and communicative aspects of writing.

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

Acceptable work is constituted by: obvious acquaintance with the assigned readings and classroom discussions at a level that allows for reflection and thought in response to the questions posed for a particular unit, references to one's own story at a level that makes application of truth and would interest another individual in the insights being expounded; capacity to communicate grammatically and stylistically without detracting from the presentation.

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

Cursory rendering of the assignment that fail to represent the instructor's intent; a flat restatement of the instructor's work void of any personal appropriation of the material; grammatical or stylistic errors that frustrate the reader and detract from the thought of the paper; or other failures to fulfill reasonable expectations flowing from a seminary course of this nature.

F = Unacceptable work: failure to achieve course objectives

Unacceptable work is usually willful, unexplained, or inexcusable lack of fulfillment of class assignments

A = 94-100
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 B+ = 87-89
 B = 84-86
 B- = 81-83
 C+ = 77-80
 C = 74-76
 C- = 71-73
 D+ = 68-70
 D = 64-67
 D- = 61-63
 F = 60 and below

Group Guidelines

1. At the beginning of class, you will be placed in a Growth Group of 4-6 persons. Because teamwork and spiritual formation is an important part of this course I have also built time for group work into our class schedule. You will rarely have to juggle your schedule to find a meeting time outside of class time.
2. An attendance sheet will be provided for each group, and the group will appoint someone in the group to keep track of the attendance of each participant, and submit the completed attendance sheet at the end of the semester.

 *** Please note that if you miss more than three sessions (for whatever reasons), you will not receive credit for this component of the course.
3. Each group will be student led. Shared leadership is anticipated.
4. In order to effectively participate in the group discussions, each group member should read in advance the material to be discussed. Your investment in preparation for the group will determine the personal and academic quality of your group time.
5. Each group should covenant to keep group conversations confidential among group members.

Class Schedule

Feb. 11 Focus I: Course Introduction
 The Purpose of VOM
 Syllabus Review
 Teaching for Information or Transformation
 Growth Groups: Focus, Expectations, and Organization

Focus II: Clarifying Your Call

**Bring PSDA textbook by R. Gray to first class

Feb. 18 Focus: Living Into Your Call: a holy adventure

**Read: Holy Play by Kirk Byron Jones, entire book
 ***Bring textbook to class.
 **Due: Reading Reflection #1

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**Due: DISC Assessment; Bring results to class

Mar. 4 Focus: Holy Habits, Values & Virtues
 Narcissism, Illusions, and Maturity

**Read: A Hidden Wholeness by Parker Palmer, pages 1-87
 ***Bring textbook to class
 **Due: Reading Reflection # 2 - Growth Group
 **Due: Social Justice Project Report

Mar. 11 Focus: Integrity: Holy Whole

**Read: A Hidden Wholeness by Parker Palmer, pages 89-186
 ***Bring textbook to class
 **Due: Reading Reflection # 3 – Growth Group

Mar. 18 Focus I: Sexual Integrity and Social Consciousness

Focus II: "Weaving Community in a Wounded World"
 ***Bring the following textbook to class:
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**Read: The Sense of the Call by Marva Dawn, pages 1-71

**Due: Reading Reflection # 4 – Growth Group

Mar. 25 Focus: Defining or Re-defining Spiritual Discipline

**Read: The Sense of the Call by Marva Dawn, pages 72-117

**Due: Reading Reflection #5 – Growth Group

**Due: PSDA

Apr 1 Reading Week – No Class

Apr. 8 Focus: Christian Formation and Your Rule of Life

**Read: The Sense of the Call by Marva Dawn, pages 121-176

**Due: Reading Reflection #6 – Growth Group

Apr. 15 Focus: Your Spiritual Pathway

**Read: The Sense of the Call by Marva Dawn, pages 179-226

**Due: Reading Reflection #7 – Growth Group

**Due: Cross-Cultural Worship Experience Reflection Form

Apr. 22 Focus: Diversity, Acceptance, and Integration: beyond racism, sexism and ageism

**Read: The Sense of the Call by Marva Dawn, pages 229-295

**Due: Reading Reflection #8 – Growth Group

**Due: Rule of Life

Apr. 29 Focus: Diversity, Acceptance, and Integration: beyond racism, sexism and ageism

May 6 Focus: Course Integration: How do all the pieces of this VOM course contribute to my current understanding of my call?

May 13 Focus: Course Integration: Where do I go from here?

May 20 Finals Week

*****Final Integrative Paper DUE: May 20

Required Texts:

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Spring 2009
Wednesdays 1 – 3:45 pm

Professor:

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C+ = 77-80

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**Due: PSDA

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**Due: Reading Reflection #6 – Growth Group

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**Read: The Sense of the Call by Marva Dawn, pages 179-226

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May 20 Finals Week

*****Final Integrative Paper DUE: May 20

IS502 - Vocation of Ministry
Spring 2009
Wednesdays 1 – 3:45 pm

Professor:

Beverly Johnson-Miller, Ph.D.
Beverly.Johnson-Miller@Asburyseminary.edu
Phone: (Office) (859) 858-2092
Office hours by appointment
Appointments made via E-mail

****This syllabus is subject to minor changes prior to the first day of class. The required reading list will NOT change. Go ahead and start reading. The books are enjoyable and potentially life-changing. Enjoy!

Course Description

This course addresses the question, "How is a vocation to Christian ministry discerned, shaped, and sustained?" The purpose of the course is to explore the biblical and theological foundations of Christian vocation by examining the connection between a call to ministry and the formation of persons for 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 the church and in the world.
2. Grasp the relationship between the personal habits, spirituality and theological reflection in the practice of ministry;
3. Demonstrate sensitivity to cultural, ethnic, and gender issues with regard to the vocation of ministry;
4. Understand the importance of integrity for Christian ministry through the development of virtues, character and moral formation, with a clear understanding of their relationship to 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 service;
6. Be able to articulate a coherent narrative of one's own call, gifts and graces for ministry; and
7. Project a personal vision for ministry and a curricular plan consistent with one's vocational discernment and vision.

Mode of Instruction

The class will be taught using these modes of instruction: (a) We will begin each class meeting together as one large group for some interactive instruction; (b) Each afternoon, the class will be organized into growth groups that will involve personal reflection and discussion with guidance from your professor; and (c) Growth groups will work outside of the classroom to complete their PSDA's (Personal Spiritual Development Analysis), Service project, and to fulfill their Cross-cultural worship experience.

Means of Student Evaluation

- **ATTENDANCE** - Your attendance at all class sessions is expected. If you will need to be absent for any reason please clear that absence with the professor. Only unexcused absences will negatively impact your course grade.
- **CROSS CULTURAL WORSHIP EXPERIENCE - DUE:** Before April 15. You will be expected to attend one worship service in a church that is ethnically different from your own. If you are currently worshipping in a cross-cultural setting, or have had significant cross-cultural worship experiences over a long period of time, speak with the instructor about ways to adjust this assignment. You will complete and submit a one-page reflection form, provided by your professor (5 points of final grade).
- **GROWTH GROUPS** - You are expected to attend and actively participate in all of your growth group meetings for the time that they meet. Your professor will provide clear guidance for these group sessions, and meeting time built into our regular class period each day. If you miss more than three sessions you will not receive credit for this component of the course. A group attendance form due May 13 (15 points of final grade).
- **SOCIAL JUSTICE PROJECT - DUE:** Before March 4. Participate in a 4 to 8 hour social justice project with your growth group during the first three weeks of the semester. Each group will select a service/mission project. The project is to be completed as a group and must involve 4 to 8 hours of service outside the Asbury Seminary community. For example, work for a soup kitchen, help out at Bread of Life, provide housekeeping or lawn care for a homebound person, etc. Please clear your project with the instructor. Each group will collectively complete, and submit, a participation reflection form provided by your professor (10 points of final grade).
- **READING REFLECTION FORMS - DUE:** See Class Schedule. The reading requirement for this course is a minimum of 1200 pages. Reading Reflection forms provided by your professor for designated texts are due as listed in the course schedule. These reflection forms will guide your reading and prepare you for the growth group discussion assignments. They will also contribute substantially to your final integrative paper. Some of the Reading Reflections will be completed during your growth group sessions in class. All Reading Reflections will be submitted (20 points of final grade).
- **DISC ASSESSMENT - DUE:** By February 25. DISC Assessment to be completed on-line. You will receive an email link and instructions from Misty Yeich. (5 points of final grade)

- PSDA (Personal Spiritual Development Analysis) – This project represents 15 points of your final grade. DUE: March 25.

The purpose of this exercise is to help you to recognize God's work of grace in your life over time. Your personal spiritual development analysis is a personal time line of your life to-date. However, rather than trying to write a spiritual autobiography of your entire life, this assignment is limited to those events which have special significance in your faith walk and spiritual formation. The procedures for developing your PSDA are explained for you in the required PSDA textbook by Dr. Rick Gray. You will complete an abridged version of the PSDA for this class. Instructions are as follows:

- Your PSDA should include the following:
 1. A Title Page – see Gray text, page 10
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 5. Staple/compile pages in the order listed above. Use a folder of your choice if you wish, but a folder is not required and will not impact your grade. (15 points of final grade)
- GROWTH GROUP JOURNAL – You will be expected to document your growth group discussions in a journal during your in-class group time. Your professor will provide guidance for this process. (To be checked during class at end of semester. This will not be reviewed in detail due to the potential personal nature of your reflections. 10 points of final grade)
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- FINAL INTEGRATIVE PAPER – DUE: May 20 . The central theme of the paper is your calling. In this paper you will incorporate insights from all aspects of the course: class lectures and discussions, reading reflections, DISC assessment, and other assignments as appropriate. In this paper you will answer the questions below. This paper represents 15 points of your final grade.
 1. How do I understand and or imagine my call at this point in my journey?
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 4. How will your values support your vocation in light of God's mission in the world? Discuss what you learned from the results of your DISC instrument, your sense of your spiritual gifts, talents and work experience that will help, or hinder, your future vocation, and how you see your seminary education preparing you to live out your calling in Christ.

***Theses questions may be modified and others may be added to this list as the course progresses throughout the semester.

Vocation of Ministry

Required Texts

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***An additional 150 pages of reading will be assigned in order to complete the accreditation requirement of 1200 pages.

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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 format according to Slade [available in the ATS bookstore and in the library]. The pages of the paper must be numbered. Review the grading rubric provided by the instructor before you write your papers. A 1/3 deduction in grade will be assessed for every week that your paper is late. Late papers receive a grade, but little written feedback. If you need to negotiate an alternate due date, consult with the Professor BEFORE the assignment is due.

*** In this class your papers are personal reflections. They should be written with first person pronouns without an attempt at speaking to, or preaching to, others.

Incomplete Policy

A grade of "I" denotes course work has not been completed due to an unavoidable emergency, which does not include failure to turn in course work or attending to church work or other employment. Incompletes are determined by the Dean; not your professor. See the Asbury Seminary Catalog for further clarification.

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The grade descriptions written in italics have been determined by the faculty at Asbury Theological Seminary and provide the guidelines for grading. The explanations that follow clarify the meaning of each grade designation.

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Cursory rendering of the assignment that fail to represent the instructor's intent; a flat restatement of the instructor's work void of any personal appropriation of the material; grammatical or stylistic errors that frustrate the reader and detract from the thought of the paper; or other failures to fulfill reasonable expectations flowing from a seminary course of this nature.

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Unacceptable work is usually willful, unexplained, or inexcusable lack of fulfillment of class assignments

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A- = 90-93
B+ = 87-89
B = 84-86
B- = 81-83

C+ = 77-80
 C = 74-76
 C- = 71-73
 D+ = 68-70
 D = 64-67
 D- = 61-63
 F = 60 and below

Group Guidelines

1. At the beginning of class, you will be placed in a Growth Group of 4-6 persons. Because teamwork and spiritual formation is an important part of this course I have also built time for group work into our class schedule. You will rarely have to juggle your schedule to find a meeting time outside of class time.
2. An attendance sheet will be provided for each group, and the group will appoint someone in the group to keep track of the attendance of each participant, and submit the completed attendance sheet at the end of the semester.

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4. In order to effectively participate in the group discussions, each group member should read in advance the material to be discussed. Your investment in preparation for the group will determine the personal and academic quality of your group time.
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*****Final Integrative Paper DUE: May 20

Evaluation:

IS502 - Vocation of Ministry
Spring 2009
Wednesdays 1 – 3:45 pm

Professor:
Beverly Johnson-Miller, Ph.D.
Beverly.Johnson-Miller@Asburyseminary.edu

Phone: (Office) (859) 858-2092
 Office hours by appointment
 Appointments made via E-mail

****This syllabus is subject to minor changes prior to the first day of class. The required reading list will NOT change. Go ahead and start reading. The books are enjoyable and potentially life-changing. Enjoy!

Course Description

This course addresses the question, "How is a vocation to Christian ministry discerned, shaped, and sustained?" The purpose of the course is to explore the biblical and theological foundations of Christian vocation by examining the connection between a call to ministry and the formation of persons for 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 the church and in the world.
2. Grasp the relationship between the personal habits, spirituality and theological reflection in the practice of ministry;
3. Demonstrate sensitivity to cultural, ethnic, and gender issues with regard to the vocation of ministry;
4. Understand the importance of integrity for Christian ministry through the development of virtues, character and moral formation, with a clear understanding of their relationship to 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 service;
6. Be able to articulate a coherent narrative of one's own call, gifts and graces for ministry; and
7. Project a personal vision for ministry and a curricular plan consistent with one's vocational discernment and vision.

Mode of Instruction

The class will be taught using these modes of instruction: (a) We will begin each class meeting together as one large group for some interactive instruction; (b) Each afternoon, the class will be organized into growth groups that will involve personal reflection and discussion with guidance from your professor; and (c)

Growth groups will work outside of the classroom to complete their PSDA's (Personal Spiritual Development Analysis), Service project, and to fulfill their Cross-cultural worship experience.

Means of Student Evaluation

- **ATTENDANCE** - Your attendance at all class sessions is expected. If you will need to be absent for any reason please clear that absence with the professor. Only unexcused absences will negatively impact your course grade.
- **CROSS CULTURAL WORSHIP EXPERIENCE** - DUE: Before April 15. You will be expected to attend one worship service in a church that is ethnically different from your own. If you are currently worshipping in a cross-cultural setting, or have had significant cross-cultural worship experiences over a long period of time, speak with the instructor about ways to adjust this assignment. You will complete and submit a one-page reflection form, provided by your professor (5 points of final grade).
- **GROWTH GROUPS** - You are expected to attend and actively participate in all of your growth group meetings for the time that they meet. Your professor will provide clear guidance for these group sessions, and meeting time built into our regular class period each day. If you miss more than three sessions you will not receive credit for this component of the course. A group attendance form due May 13 (15 points of final grade).
- **SOCIAL JUSTICE PROJECT** - DUE: Before March 4. Participate in a 4 to 8 hour social justice project with your growth group during the first three weeks of the semester. Each group will select a service/mission project. The project is to be completed as a group and must involve 4 to 8 hours of service outside the Asbury Seminary community. For example, work for a soup kitchen, help out at Bread of Life, provide housekeeping or lawn care for a homebound person, etc. Please clear your project with the instructor. Each group will collectively complete, and submit, a participation reflection form provided by your professor (10 points of final grade).
- **READING REFLECTION FORMS** - DUE: See Class Schedule. The reading requirement for this course is a minimum of 1200 pages. Reading Reflection forms provided by your professor for designated texts are due as listed in the course schedule. These reflection forms will guide your reading and prepare you for the growth group discussion assignments. They will also contribute substantially to your final integrative paper. Some of the Reading Reflections will be completed during your growth group sessions in class. All Reading Reflections will be submitted (20 points of final grade).
- **DISC ASSESSMENT** - DUE: By February 25. DISC Assessment to be completed on-line. You will receive an email link and instructions from Misty Yeich. (5 points of final grade)
- **PSDA (Personal Spiritual Development Analysis)** – This project represents 15 points of your final grade. DUE: March 25.

The purpose of this exercise is to help you to recognize God's work of grace in your life over time. Your personal spiritual development analysis is a personal time line of your life to-date. However, rather than trying to write a spiritual autobiography of your entire life, this assignment is limited to those events which have special significance in your faith walk and spiritual formation. The procedures for developing your PSDA are explained for you in the required PSDA textbook by Dr. Rick Gray. You will complete an abridged version of the PSDA for this class. Instructions are as follows:

- Your PSDA should include the following:
 1. A Title Page – see Gray text, page 10
 2. A Personal Time Line – see pages' 13-20, example of completed timeline on page 20.
 3. Nine to twelve Formative Encounters (2 to 4 for each major developmental era) – see pages' 27-32, example of completed Formative Encounter on pages 31& 32.
 4. A Reflective Summary (1-3 pages) – This summary will include a brief reflective response to your experience of completing the PSDA. This summary is not discussed in Rick Gray's textbook. Respond to the following questions: 1) What are the major themes, patterns, and/or insights unveiled in your formative encounters? 2) What did you learn about yourself, God, the process of spiritual growth? 3) How has this PSDA assignment impacted your understanding, feelings, concerns, and or enthusiasm related to your call/vocation?
 5. Staple/compile pages in the order listed above. Use a folder of your choice if you wish, but a folder is not required and will not impact your grade. (15 points of final grade)

 - GROWTH GROUP JOURNAL – You will be expected to document your growth group discussions in a journal during your in-class group time. Your professor will provide guidance for this process. (To be checked during class at end of semester. This will not be reviewed in detail due to the potential personal nature of your reflections. 10 points of final grade)

 - RULE OF LIFE – DUE: April 22. Instruction for the development of your Rule of Life will be provided in class. The Rule of Life developed in this class can be submitted for your Christian Formation portfolio. (5 points of final grade)

 - FINAL INTEGRATIVE PAPER – DUE: May 20 . The central theme of the paper is your calling. In this paper you will incorporate insights from all aspects of the course: class lectures and discussions, reading reflections, DISC assessment, and other assignments as appropriate. In this paper you will answer the questions below. This paper represents 15 points of your final grade.
 1. How do I understand and or imagine my call at this point in my journey?
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 4. How will your values support your vocation in light of God's mission in the world? Discuss what you learned from the results of your DISC instrument, your sense of your spiritual gifts, talents and work experience that will help, or hinder, your future vocation, and how you see your seminary education preparing you to live out your calling in Christ.
- ***Theses questions may be modified and others may be added to this list as the course progresses throughout the semester.

Vocation of Ministry

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***An additional 150 pages of reading will be assigned in order to complete the accreditation requirement of 1200 pages.

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 format according to Slade [available in the ATS bookstore and in the library]. The pages of the paper must be numbered. Review the grading rubric provided by the instructor before you write your papers. A 1/3 deduction in grade will be assessed for every week that your paper is late. Late papers receive a grade, but little written feedback. If you need to negotiate an alternate due date, consult with the Professor BEFORE the assignment is due.

*** In this class your papers are personal reflections. They should be written with first person pronouns without an attempt at speaking to, or preaching to, others.

Incomplete Policy

A grade of "I" denotes course work has not been completed due to an unavoidable emergency, which does not include failure to turn in course work or attending to church work or other employment. Incompletes are determined by the Dean; not your professor. See the Asbury Seminary Catalog for further clarification.

GRADING PROCEDURES

The grade descriptions written in italics have been determined by the faculty at Asbury Theological Seminary and provide the guidelines for grading. The explanations that follow clarify the meaning of each grade designation.

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

Exceptional work is constituted by such things as: substantive reflection that reveals engagement with the "big ideas" of scripture and/or the "big ideas" represented in the existing body of knowledge from the social sciences in a particular area of study and represented via assigned texts and presentations; thorough and penetrating personal insights gained from a sustained consideration of one's experience through; and excellence in grammatical, stylistic and communicative aspects of writing.

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Acceptable work is constituted by: obvious acquaintance with the assigned readings and classroom discussions at a level that allows for reflection and thought in response to the questions posed for a particular unit, references to one's own story at a level that makes application of truth and would interest another individual in the insights being expounded; capacity to communicate grammatically and stylistically without detracting from the presentation.

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

Cursory rendering of the assignment that fail to represent the instructor's intent; a flat restatement of the instructor's work void of any personal appropriation of the material; grammatical or stylistic errors that frustrate the reader and detract from the thought of the paper; or other failures to fulfill reasonable expectations flowing from a seminary course of this nature.

F = Unacceptable work: failure to achieve course objectives

Unacceptable work is usually willful, unexplained, or inexcusable lack of fulfillment of class assignments

A = 94-100

A- = 90-93

B+ = 87-89

B = 84-86

B- = 81-83

C+ = 77-80

C = 74-76

C- = 71-73

D+ = 68-70

D = 64-67

D- = 61-63

F = 60 and below

Group Guidelines

1. At the beginning of class, you will be placed in a Growth Group of 4-6 persons. Because teamwork and spiritual formation is an important part of this course I have also built time for group work into our class schedule. You will rarely have to juggle your schedule to find a meeting time outside of class time.
2. An attendance sheet will be provided for each group, and the group will appoint someone in the group to keep track of the attendance of each participant, and submit the completed attendance sheet at the end of the semester.

*** Please note that if you miss more than three sessions (for whatever reasons), you will not receive credit for this component of the course.
3. Each group will be student led. Shared leadership is anticipated.
4. In order to effectively participate in the group discussions, each group member should read in advance the material to be discussed. Your investment in preparation for the group will determine the personal and academic quality of your group time.
5. Each group should covenant to keep group conversations confidential among group members.

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**Due: PSDA

Apr 1 Reading Week – No Class

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**Read: The Sense of the Call by Marva Dawn, pages 229-295

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**Due: Rule of Life

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May 6 Focus: Course Integration: How do all the pieces of this VOM course contribute to my current understanding of my call?

May 13 Focus: Course Integration: Where do I go from here?

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