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## IS 502 Christian Formation: Vocation of Ministry

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**SENIOR REFLECTION COMMUNITY**  
**IR700 – LEADER SYLLABUS**  
**SPRING 2004**

The Senior Reflection Seminar serves as an integrative closure to the Seminary experiences of spiritual, intellectual, personal and vocational formation. The experience is designed to foster a sense of community through peer reflection and group interaction. Major components of the course include case studies, and a Theology of Ministry paper. It is required in the final semester of a student's degree program. Two hours of credit will be given for the seminar.

The goals and objectives listed in the syllabus are to be followed, however the resources and activities listed under each objective are recommended and will be given only to the faculty leading the IR groups. It will be at the discretion of the individual faculty member to give the listing to the group.

**ATTENDANCE:** Since an inherent value of the IRC resides in the group experience, attendance is mandatory for credit in the course. The only absences allowed will be for personal or family emergencies and unavoidable church responsibilities (e.g., funerals and mandatory attendance at denominational meetings for ordination).

**GOALS/OBJECTIVES**

**GOAL #1:** PARTICIPANTS WILL CONTINUE TO DEVELOP/STRENGTHEN THEIR RELATIONSHIP WITH EACH OTHER AND WITH GOD.

Objective A: Students will share their seminary spiritual life journey.

Suggested resources or activities:

1. Describe a day they will never forget at ATS.
2. Share greatest insight received while at seminary.
3. Share most meaningful worship experience during seminary years.
4. Share area of greatest change in their life.

Objective B: Students will affirm and support each other through fellowship and acts as a Christian community.

Suggested resources or activities:

1. Individual prayer requests.
2. Group prayer.
3. Share personal celebrations.
4. John Wesley Class Meeting.
5. Communion Service, Love Feast, or Footwashing.
6. Fellowship Meals (in cafeteria or covered dish).
7. Retreat.
8. Activity together (ballgame, Shakertown, etc.).

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

Suggested resources or activities:

1. Keep journal.
2. Design plan for devotions to be used during the course of the class (prayer rotation, scripture selection, etc.).
3. Covenant together for individual and group devotional practice.
4. Develop accountability model.

**GOAL #2: PARTICIPANTS WILL CONTINUE TO GAIN A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF THEMSELVES AND THEIR VOCATION.**

Objective A: Students will develop spiritual, intellectual, personal and vocational goals for their first year in ministry.

Suggested resources or activities:

1. Use group to prioritize goals for ministry.
2. As a group devise strategies for meeting specific goals.
3. Formulate long-term goals to compliment first year goals.

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

Suggested resources or activities:

1. As a group develop list of questions about ministry to be answered at a later date by a guest pastor.
2. Divide up questions and let students research answers for questions.

**GOAL #3: PARTICIPANTS WILL CONTINUE THE PROCESS OF INTEGRATION**

Objective A: Students will reflect on their seminary training and assigned case studies, interacting with other students in their IRC community.

Suggested resources or activities:

1. Students will reflect on how their seminary training informs and shapes ministry.
2. Given an event, do an in class analysis and selection of issue.
3. Select an issue and have students do integration, interaction outside of class.

4. Evaluate case studies based on the method used by Asbury Theological Seminary.
5. Use student written scenarios for discussion of issues.

Objective B: Students will write a Theology of Ministry.

Suggested resources or activities:

1. Break into small groups for discussion of individual Theology of Ministry papers.
2. Schedule individual conference with faculty advisor to discuss paper.
3. Share highlights of paper with group.

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Depending upon how the group is structured, some objectives may recur additional times during the semester.

Case studies should be distributed to your students on the week before they are processed. There are enough copies enclosed for all of the students in your class.

The Theology of Ministry paper is a requirement to complete the course. That assignment has been standardized by a faculty committee, as called for in the self study. A case event has been developed to serve as the basis for writing the paper. Criteria have also been developed to measure the adequacy of the paper. The assignment will not only measure how well the student has been able to integrate seminary studies and to apply them to a concrete situation, but will also serve to measure the effectiveness of the seminary educational program. The paper will be due at class time on the eighth week of class in order to allow time for grading and any necessary rewrite.

## **IR700 SCHEDULE**

FEBRUARY 11 INTRODUCTIONS, GOALS 1-A, B

### **CASE I (THEOLOGY OF MINISTRY PAPER)**

*LEADER: HAND OUT “7 BASIC RESPONSE QUESTIONS” SHEET TO STUDENTS FOR DISCUSSION ON September 18th.*

18 INTRODUCTIONS, GOALS 1-A, B, C

25 DISCUSSION OF “TOM” PAPER CASE STUDY USING “7 BASIC RESPONSE QUESTIONS” SHEET

MARCH 3 GOAL 3-A

10 SETTING GOALS FOR MINISTRY, GOALS 2-A, B

17 THEOLOGY OF MINISTRY/INTEGRATING SEMINARY TRAINING AND THE PRACTICE OF MINISTRY, GOAL 3

### **THEOLOGY OF MINISTRY PAPER DUE**

24 THEOLOGY OF MINISTRY PROGRESS, GOAL 3-B

### **FULL DISCUSSION OF THEOLOGY OF MINISTRY PAPER**

31 **READING WEEK – NO CLASS**

APRIL 7 **CASE II (VIDEO), GOAL 3-A**

14 **CASE III, GOAL 3-A**

21 **CASE III, GOAL 3-A Continued**

28 **SHARING GOALS, 2-A A**

MAY 5 CASE IV, GOAL 3-A

12 TRANSITIONING TO MINISTRY VOCATION, GOAL 2-A, B/1-B

**17-21 EXAM WEEK**

**SENIOR REFLECTION COMMUNITY**  
**IR700 -- STUDENT SYLLABUS**  
**SPRING 2004**

The Senior Reflection Seminar serves as an integrative closure to the Seminary experiences of spiritual, intellectual, personal and vocational formation. The experience is designed to foster a sense of community through peer reflection and group interaction. Major components of the course include case studies, and a Theology of Ministry paper. It is required in the final semester of a student's degree program. Two hours of credit will be given for the seminar.

**ATTENDANCE:** Since an inherent value of the IRC resides in the group experience, attendance is mandatory for credit in the course. The only absences allowed will be for personal or family emergencies and unavoidable church responsibilities (e.g., funerals and mandatory attendance at denominational meetings for ordination). All absences should be negotiated with your seminar leader.

**GOALS/OBJECTIVES**

**GOAL #1:** PARTICIPANTS WILL CONTINUE TO DEVELOP/STRENGTHEN THEIR RELATIONSHIP WITH EACH OTHER AND WITH GOD.

Objective A: Students will share their seminary spiritual life journey.

Objective B: Students will affirm and support each other through fellowship and acts as a Christian community.

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

**GOAL 2:** PARTICIPANTS WILL CONTINUE TO GAIN A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF THEMSELVES AND THEIR VOCATION.

Objective A: Students will develop spiritual, intellectual, personal and vocational goals for their first year in ministry.

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

**GOAL #3.:** PARTICIPANTS WILL CONTINUE THE PROCESS OF INTEGRATION

Objective A: Students will reflect on given case studies and interact with other students in their IRC community.

Objective B: Students will write a Theology of Ministry.

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## IR700 SCHEDULE

- FEBRUARY      11   INTRODUCTIONS, GOALS 1-A, B
- CASE I (THEOLOGY OF MINISTRY PAPER)**
- LEADER: HAND OUT “7 BASIC RESPONSE QUESTIONS” SHEET TO STUDENTS FOR DISCUSSION ON September 18<sup>th</sup>..*
- 18   INTRODUCTIONS, GOALS 1-A, B, C
- 25   DISCUSSION OF “TOM” PAPER CASE STUDY USING “7 BASIC RESPONSE QUESTIONS” SHEET
- MARCH            3   GOAL 3-A
- 10   SETTING GOALS FOR MINISTRY, GOALS 2-A, B
- 17   THEOLOGY OF MINISTRY/INTEGRATING SEMINARY TRAINING AND THE PRACTICE OF MINISTRY, GOAL 3
- THEOLOGY OF MINISTRY PAPER DUE**
- 24   THEOLOGY OF MINISTRY PROGRESS, GOAL 3-B
- FULL DISCUSSION OF THEOLOGY OF MINISTRY PAPER**
- 31   **NO CLASS – READING SPRING WEEK**
- APRIL            7   **CASE II (VIDEO), GOAL 3-A**
- 14   **CASE III, GOAL 3-A**
- 21   **CASE III, GOAL 3-A Continued**
- 28   **SHARING GOALS, 2--A**
- MAY              5   **CASE IV, GOAL 3-A**
- 12   TRANSITIONING TO MINISTRY VOCATION, GOAL 2-A, B/1-B
- 17-21   EXAM WEEK**