



Introduction to Ministry
MIN110 [all sections]
Southwestern College Professional Studies

COURSE SYLLABUS

I. Course Catalog Description

An orientation course to equip learners with skills for vocational discernment and readiness for ministry education. As they explore the various forms of ministry practice historically and today, learners will investigate their own sense of calling and will develop an understanding of the opportunities and challenges that may arise during the educational process and their chosen career. Course must be taken within the first twelve credit hours of the program.

II. Required and Supplementary Instructional Materials

Ivory, Luther D. (2008). *The rhythm of discipleship*. Louisville, KY: Geneva Press.
Messer, Donald E. (1989). *Contemporary images of Christian ministry*. Nashville, TN: Abingdon.
Nouwen, Henri. (1979). *The wounded healer: Ministry in contemporary society*. New York: Image Books.
Palmer, Parker J. (2000). *Let your life speak: Listening for the voice of vocation*. San Francisco, CA: Jossey-Bass.

III. Learning Outcomes

Learning outcomes describe the knowledge, skills, values, and attitudes that learners gain as the result of a particular learning experience. Southwestern College Professional Studies has learning outcomes specific to each course and each [undergraduate](#) and [graduate](#) program of study, as well as [institution-wide outcomes](#) related to the mission and vision of the college. Outcomes can help learners and instructors focus on the big picture of the learning experience and can help inform potential employers about a graduate's knowledge and skills.

Upon successfully completing this course, the learner will be able to:

1. Discuss historical and contemporary contexts of the church.
2. Develop spiritual practices of prayer and study for the purpose of vocational discernment.
3. Recognize and examine different ministry models and settings.
4. Develop skills to nurture ecumenical and interfaith relationships.
5. Approach ministry education with an understanding of what to expect and what will be expected of them in the remainder of the program.

At the end of the course, learners may vary in their ability to achieve these outcomes. You are more likely to achieve these outcomes only if you attend class and/or online activities as required by the syllabus, complete the requirements for all assignments to the best of your ability, participate actively in class activities and group work as directed, and study diligently for exams.

IV. Course Policies

Students are expected to read and abide by the course policies in the instructor-specific syllabus located in the Blackboard course.

V. Course Requirements:

Requirements	Number of Assignments	Points Possible	Percent of Grade
Discussions 1 and 3	2	100	20%
Discussions 2, 4, 5 and 6	4	80	16%
Unit 1 Assignment	1	25	5%
Unit 2 Writing Assignment	1	50	10%
Unit 3 Assignment	1	25	5%
Unit 4 Writing Assignment	1	50	10%
Unit 5 Case Study	1	50	10%
Unit 6 Final Paper	1	120	24%
Total Points		500	100%

VI. Course at a Glance:

Unit	Reading & Preparation Activities	Graded Work Due
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Messer, foreword – chapter 4. Ivory, foreword – chapter 2. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unit 1 Discussion Unit 1 Assignment
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Messer, chapters 5-10 Ivory, chapters 3-4 United Methodist Church Exploring a Call website 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unit 2 Discussion Unit 2 Writing Assignment
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ivory, chaptrs 5-7 “Discerning Your Call and Gifts for Ministry of Word and Sacrament” Roman Catholic Diocese of Sacramento “Vocations” “Theological Foundations for Ministry” Document United Church of Christ “Questions and Answers” 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unit 3 Discussion Unit 3 Assignment
4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nouwen, introduction – conclusion Messer, chapter five “Agreeing and Disagreeing in Love” Watch “Ecumenical Sunday” “How Not to Say the Wrong Thing” “How can we pursue hospitality” “It’s Not About the Nail” video “The Lost Art of Democratic Debate” video 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unit 4 Discussion Unit 4 Writing Assignment
5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Palmer, gratitudes – chapter 6 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unit 5 Discussion Unit 5 Case Study
6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> “Yet Ye Shall Be Different” 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unit 6 Discussion Unit 6 Final Paper

VII. Other Policies and Requirements

Follow this link to the Southwestern College Professional Studies [Standard Syllabus](#) in Blackboard. You may be required to log in.