



Introduction to Ministry
SMIN501
Southwestern College Professional Studies

COURSE SYLLABUS

I. Course Catalog Description

This course will explore several themes that are foundational to ministry including the notions of call, conversion, prayer, and leadership in the church. Learners should be prepared to engage the practical dimensions of spiritual formation and to apply them to a variety of social scenarios.

II. Required and Supplementary Instructional Materials

Bonhoeffer, D. (1959). *The cost of discipleship*. New York, NY: Touchstone, Simon & Schuster.
Knight, H. H. (2001). *Eight life-enriching practices of United Methodists*. Nashville, TN: Abington Press.
Kouzes, J. M., & Posner, B. Z. (Eds.). (2004). *Christian reflections on the leadership challenge*. San Francisco, CA: Jossey-Bass, John Wiley & Sons.
Placher, W. C. (Ed.). (2005). *Callings: Twenty centuries of Christian wisdom on vocation*. Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing.

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:

- Evaluate different models of ministry
- Discuss issues of ministry related to one's calling to ministry, one's gifts and graces for ministry given by God.
- Discuss with others important issues of ministry in a spirit of collegiality and grace.
- Articulate his/her own Theology of Ministry.

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 located in the instructor-specific syllabus in the blackboard course.

V. Course Requirements:

Requirements	Number of Assignments	Points Possible	Percent of Grade
Discussions	5	250	25%
Assignments	5	500	50%
Final Paper	1	250	25%
Total Points		1000	100%

VI. Course at a Glance:

Unit	Reading & Preparation Activities	Graded Work Due
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Read Bonhoeffer, <i>The Cost of Discipleship</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introductions Discussion Unit 1 Assignment
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Read Knight, <i>Eight Life-Enriching Practices of United Methodists</i> Read Exodus 18:1-26 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unit 2 Discussion Unit 2 Assignment
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Read Callings: <i>Twenty centuries of Christian wisdom on vocation</i>, chapters 1 - 2 Read 2 Corinthians chapters 4 - 6 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unit 3 Discussion Unit 3 Assignment
4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Read Placher, <i>Callings: Twenty centuries of Christian wisdom on vocation</i>, chapters 3 – 4 Read Timothy 1 & 2 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unit 4 Discussion Unit 4 Assignment
5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Read Kouzes & Posner, Eds., <i>Christian Reflections on the Leadership Challenge</i> Read Matthew 10 and 16:13-28 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unit 5 Discussion Unit 5 Assignment
6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review course readings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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.