

**Course of Study School of Ohio**  
**524 – Theological Reflection: Practice of Ministry**

Fall 2021: **Zoom sessions on Sept. 24-25 and Oct. 22 (see below)**

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This course is the capstone to the student's basic course of study. Its focus is the integration of the biblical, theological, and practical aspects of ministry.

Students will be able to:

1. Articulate a Trinitarian theology for the practice of ministry.
2. State clearly the nature and mission of the Church and its relation to pastoral ministry.
3. Demonstrate the ability to reflect theologically.
4. Develop a plan for lifelong theological reading, reflection, and growth.

### **Texts**

Steve Seamands, *Ministry in the Image of God: The Trinitarian Shape of Christian Service*. ISBN 978-0830833382.

Jason E. Vickers, *Minding the Good Ground: A Theology for Church Renewal*. ISBN 978-1602583603.

William Willimon, *Pastor: The Theology and Practice of Ordained Ministry*. ISBN: 978-1501804908.

### **Assignments:**

- a. **Critical Book Reviews (3)** – Students will write critical book reviews of the Seamands, Vickers, and Willimon, texts. Critical book reviews should be no less than 5 and no more than 7 pages (typed, double-spaced). No cover pages. Simply put your first and last name at the top and the title of the volume you will be summarizing. The next line should be the beginning of your critical summary. Critical summaries should provide a narrative overview of the whole of the book. Provide summaries of each chapter rather than focusing your summary on one or two chapters of the book. Do not use lengthy quotations from the book. No other sources should be consulted or referenced.

In the final ½ page to page, identify what you take to be the strengths and weaknesses of the book. Also indicate what relevance the book has for Christian life and ministry.

- b. **Zoom Participation and Discussion** – Students will attend 5 two-hour Zoom sessions on Sept. 24-25 and Oct. 22. Attendance at these sessions is mandatory.

- c. **Final Paper** – Students will write a 5-7 pp. paper (typed, double-spaced, no cover page) entitled *Theology for the Practice Ministry: A Personal Vision*. In this paper, students will draw on the readings to articulate a personal theological vision for ministry. The paper should include your understanding of the relationship between God and the work of ministry, focusing especially on the work of Christ and the work of the Holy Spirit. The professor will discuss this assignment in greater detail during the first Zoom session.

**Due Dates:**

**Critical Book Review #1** (*Ministry in the Image of God*) will be due on **Sept. 24**. Students should submit their reviews by the start of Zoom session on that date. A submission folder will be available in Populi prior to that date in the online classroom. Late work will not be accepted.

**Critical Book Review #2** (*Minding the Good Ground*) will be due on **Oct. 22**. Students should submit their reviews by the start of the Zoom session on that date. A submission folder will be available prior to that date in Populi. Late work will not be accepted.

**Critical Book Review #3** (*Pastor: The Theology and Practice of Ordained Ministry*) will be due on **Oct. 29** (one week after the conclusion of the second Zoom weekend of class. A submission folder will be available prior to that date in Populi. Late work will not be accepted.

**Final Paper:** Nov. 1. Late Work will not be accepted.

### Course Schedule

**Sept. 7-11 – Online Discussion Module #1 (discussion of Seamands, chapters 1-3, discussion prompt will be provided)**

**Sept. 13-18 – Online Discussion Module #2 (discussion of Seamands, chapters 4-6, discussion prompt will be provided)**

**Sept. 20-24 - Online Discussion Module #3 (discussion of Seamands, chapters 7-8, discussion prompt will be provided)**

**Sept. 24-25 – Zoom Weekend One**

**Friday afternoon, Sept. 24, Zoom Session #1, 1:00-3:00 pm (eastern time)**

**Saturday morning, Sept. 25, Zoom Session #2, 8:30-10:30 am (eastern time)**

**Saturday afternoon, Sept. 25, Zoom Session #3, 1:00-3:00 pm (eastern time)**

**Oct. 4-9 – Online Discussion Module #4 (discussion of Vickers, Introduction and chapter 1, discussion prompt will be provided)**

**Oct. 11-16 – Online Discussion Module #5 (discussion of Vickers, chapter 2, discussion prompt will be provided)**

**Oct. 18-22 – Online Discussion Module #6 (discussion of Vickers, chapter 3, discussion prompt will be provided)**

**Oct. 22 – Zoom Weekend Two**

**Friday afternoon, Oct. 22, Zoom Session #4, 1:00-3:00 pm (eastern time)**

**Friday evening, Oct. 22, Zoom Session #5, 6:30-8:30 pm (eastern time)**

### **Participation and Grading**

Grades will be based on participation and assignments. Since this is an online course, class participation will take place in the Zoom sessions and in work including discussions on Populi. Faithful and authentic engagement with the issues of the course is expected. Participation and engagement will determine 15% of your grade. Assignments will constitute 85% of your final grade for the class. Grading will be based on articulation of the faith (biblical and theological). Late assignments will not be accepted.

### **COURSE OF STUDY SCHOOL OF OHIO ATTENDANCE POLICY**

National policy from the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry (GBHEM) states that a student is expected to attend every class session. Unexcused absences may be cause for loss of credit or dismissal from the school. A student missing 20% or more of the classroom work shall not receive credit for the class. In the event of extenuating circumstances which require the student to miss up to 20% of a course (4 hours for an in-person class or 20% of synchronous time on Zoom for an online course), the student should contact both the instructor and the Director prior to the start of the class to get approval and discuss make-up work. Extenuating circumstances include emergency situations, illness, and dire circumstances, for example.

#### **CANCELLATION AND WITHDRAWAL**

Student must notify the COSSO office if they will be unable to attend class for which they are registered. Although there is no penalty when withdrawing more than two weeks in advance of the beginning of a term, registration fees are nontransferable and nonrefundable. A \$25.00 late withdrawal fee is charged for all withdrawals within two weeks of the start of a class. All tuition and housing payments are applied to a future term.

Students withdrawing after the start of a term will be assigned a grade of AW (Administrative Withdrawal) and will be responsible for the full \$270 tuition amount. Any annual conference scholarship applied to the student billing record becomes the student's responsibility and is due by the end of the term. Housing payment is non-refundable.

## **NO SHOWS**

Except in cases of immediate and dire emergencies, if a student misses any class without notifying the COSSO office, tuition and housing fees are due immediately, a \$25.00 no show fee is charged, and the student will receive an "F" in the class.

## **ACADEMIC HONOR POLICY**

The Course of Study School of Ohio requires that all material submitted by a student in fulfilling his or her academic requirements be the original work of the student.

Violations of academic honor include any action by a student indicating dishonesty or lack of integrity in academic ethics. Violations in this category include, but are not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, or knowingly passing off work of another as one's own.

Cheating includes seeking, acquiring, receiving or passing on information about the content of an examination prior to its authorized release or during its administration. Cheating also includes seeking, using, giving or obtaining unauthorized assistance in any academic assignment or examination.

Plagiarism is the act of presenting as one's own work with the work of another whether published or unpublished (including the work of another student). A writer's work should be regarded as his or her own property. Any person who knowingly uses a writer's distinctive work without proper acknowledgement is guilty of plagiarism.

A student found guilty of a violation of the academic honor code, after a review of the case, may be subject to one or more of the following sanctions:

- (1) warning;
- (2) failing grade for the assignment and/or course;
- (3) probation;
- (4) suspension;
- (5) dismissal from the Course of Study School of Ohio.

In severe or repeat cases (regardless of the sanctions) a letter will be sent to the student's District Superintendent and Board of Ordained Ministry representative.