THEOLOGY OF MINISTRY
Doctor of Ministry (Core Course) 2DM801
July 29-August 2, 2013
Justin Holcomb

Course Description
This course will be a study of the nature and work of the Christian leader from a theological perspective. This course provides participants the opportunity to discuss contemporary challenges to traditional models of pastoral ministry, to interact with new developments in hermeneutics, to develop a variety of ways for assessing recent cultural developments in the West, and to renew interest in prayer as a part of the ministry of the Word.

This course will be a study of the biblical and Reformed view of integrating theology into ministry in a way that results in the transformation of lives and culture. Students will be taught how to use ministry as a means to integrate their studies in exegesis, systematic theology, church history, and the social sciences. Students will also be taught how to develop a working theology of ministry in order to apply the practical results to the practice of ministry and to evaluate their ministries in which they are now engaged.

Course Instructor
Justin is Theologian in Residence at Mars Hill Church, where he serves as the Executive Director of Resurgence and Leadership Development. He is also Adjunct Professor of Theology and Culture at Reformed Theological Seminary and he previously taught at the University of Virginia. Justin has two masters degrees from Reformed Theological Seminary and a Ph.D. from Emory University.

Justin is the author of On the Grace of God. He and his wife, Lindsey, are the authors of Rid of My Disgrace: Hope and Healing for Victims of Sexual Assault and Save Me from Violence: Hope and Healing for Victims of Domestic Violence. Justin is also the editor of Christian Theologies of Scripture, Christian Theologies of Salvation, Christian Theologies of Sacraments. He serves on the boards of REST (Real Escape from the Sex Trade) and GRACE (Godly Response to Abuse in Christian Environments). He also serves on the council board of the Biblical Counseling Coalition.
Course Objectives

The course objectives include equipping the students to:

- formulate a theology of ministry that will guide their lives and ministry practices.
- review the historical underpinnings of developing a theology of ministry and determine issues that inform and enlighten their ministry practice.
- relate major themes of Christian theology to the practice of ministry.
- formulate exegetical arguments for their theology of ministry.
- evaluate their ministry in light of their theology of ministry.
- recognize the role of the social sciences in ministry and compare the value of social sciences with exegetical and theological sciences.
- embrace their ministry roles in the church and set an example that reflects the Bible’s teaching about the role of the church leader.

Course Requirements

Grades are based on class participation, reading reports and the integration paper.

Pre-Class Reading Assignments & Reports: Due First Day of Class

Students are required to read 2000 pages of new reading and will submit a “Reading Report” (RR) by the first day of class. This Word document begins with a “Summary Sheet” and is followed by a one-page standard report for each book or article more than 50 pages in length (see sample below). Please separate the summary and each one-page book report with a “page-break”. This document must be received (via email) by the first day of class (July 29, 2013). Students will receive a grade reduction for late reading reports.

Reading Reports not submitted by the first day of class are to be submitted with the course integration paper no later than November 1, 2013. Please submit to dmin.orlando@rts.edu and identify your reading report document as Yourlastname.TheologyofMinistry.S13.RR (for Reading Reports). Non-credit (audit) students do not submit reports. If “Required Reading” texts have already been read or cannot be found (out of print,) the student may substitute books from the ‘Recommended Reading” list below. All readings for the course must be taken directly from these two lists unless otherwise approved by the professor.
Post-Class Integration Paper: Due November 1, 2013

Students are required to write a 20-page (5000-word, double-spaced, 12 point font) course integration paper. This paper must reflect new work done by the student as a result of this course. This paper must demonstrate how the course readings, lectures, and discussions can be integrated/applied to the student's life and ministry.

This paper should reflect good scholarship, including accurately quoted credible sources (8 minimum references/footnotes) and a References Cited section at the end of the paper. This is good preparation for writing a dissertation. The paper must also include a specific plan for the student’s continued application of the course concepts to his/her future personal life and ministry.

This paper will include the student’s personal “Philosophy and Theology of Ministry” (PTM) based on their engagement with class lectures and assigned readings. After writing their PTM, students will describe a real problem (conflict, pitfall, failure, etc.) in their ministry and show how their PTM provides them with direction for practical solutions.

In this paper the student will describe how “believing the gospel” should influence his/her response (and others) and hopefully the outcome—including practical examples of how the student’s responses to the problem could have exhibited greater empowerment by and freedom in the gospel, e.g. repentance, patience, mercy, etc.

The paper will be graded on the basis of how clearly the problem in the church is described, the extent to which pertinent issues in the student’s PTM are expounded and applied to the problem, and the usefulness of the solution. Consideration will also be given to the extent that the paper reflects the reading done by the student, integrates material from class lectures, and reflects serious thought about how theology of ministry can and should guide ministry practice.

The integration paper is due November 1, 2013. Please include a cover sheet with the name and number of the course, professor, your name and contact information (sample below). If your work is not received by the due date, you may have an additional month to complete your paper (December 1, 2013) and you will be assessed a $120 late fee. Please save your electronic document as: Yourlastname.TheologyofMinistry.S13.IP and email it to dmin.orlando@rts.edu. Your work will be forwarded to the professor.
Course Registration & Cancellation Policies

Enrolled credit students may register online at https://selfservice.rts.edu/Home.aspx. Audit students may register by emailing the RTS-Orlando registrar, Lanny Conley, at lconley@rts.edu. NOTE: The registration deadline for this course is June 15, 2013.

IMPORTANT: If at least eight (8) credit students are not enrolled by June 15, 2013, RTS will, regrettably, have to cancel the course. If the course must be cancelled, RTS will contact all registered students by June 17, 2013 and refund the registration and tuition fees. So students making travel and housing arrangements should wait until after June 17, 2013 to confirm travel reservations.

Required Reading (If not previously read)


Holcomb, Justin. Reading Packet (22p). Electronic version will be made available.


McGrath, Alister, “Crux sola est nostra theologia: The Emergence of the Theology of the Cross 1514-19” and “The Origins and Significance of the Theology of the Cross,” in Luther’s Theology of the Cross (34p). Electronic version will be made available.

Ridderbos, Herman, “Fundamental Structure,” in Paul: An Outline of His Theology (47p). Electronic version will be made available.


Wilson, Jared, “Gospel-Driven Sanctification,” in Gospel Wakefulness (15p). Electronic version will be made available.
Recommended Reading (to complete 2000-page requirement)


---

**Sample Reading Report Summary**

**Theology of Ministry 2DM801**

Reading Report Summary

BY (Insert Your Name)

(Insert Contact Information)

DATE: (Insert date completed)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Author</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th># pages read</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total Pages Read**

<Insert page break and begin one-page report of each book>
Sample Reading Report

Enter Book Title
& Bibliographic Reference

Overview—Give a brief overview of the book, including its theme, perspective and approach.

Critique—Offer a brief critique of the book, including elements of strength and weakness.

Application—Offer specific application to your own life and ministry demonstrating the value and relevance of the material in this book.

Best Quote—Include the page number where the quote can be found.

<Insert page break and enter your next report with page breaks after each book.>
Sample Cover Sheet for Integration Paper

THEOLOGY OF MINISTRY 2DM801
INTEGRATION PAPER

Presented to
Dr. Justin Holcomb

By
Add Your Name
& Contact Information

In Partial Fulfillment of the
Requirements for the Degree Doctor of Ministry
REFORMED THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY ORLANDO

Completed __________ (Add date)
### DMin* Student Learning Outcomes

In order to measure the success of the DMin curriculum, RTS has defined the following as the intended outcomes of the student learning process. Each course contributes to these overall outcomes. This rubric shows the contribution of this course to the DMin outcomes.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rubric</th>
<th>Mini-Justification</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Strong</td>
<td>Students will be shown the significance of integrating Biblical and theological foundations to a well-formulated theology of ministry.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moderate</td>
<td>Students will be taught how to use ministry as a means to integrate their studies of exegesis, church history, and the social sciences in a way that transforms lives and culture.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minimal</td>
<td>Students will be taught how to develop a working theology of ministry in order to apply the practical results to the practice and evaluation of their ministry.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>None</td>
<td>Students will be taught to embrace their roles in the church and set an example for parishioners and colleagues that reflects the Gospel.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Biblical/ Theological Foundations:</th>
<th>Significant knowledge of biblical and theological foundations for pastoral ministry. (This includes interaction with Biblical texts, as well as awareness of Reformed Theology.)</th>
<th>Strong</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Historical/ Contemporary Practices:</td>
<td>Significant knowledge of historical and contemporary practices of pastoral ministry.</td>
<td>Strong</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Integration:</td>
<td>Ability to reflect upon and integrate theology and practice, as well as implementation in a contemporary pastoral setting.</td>
<td>Strong</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sanctification:</td>
<td>Demonstrates a love for the Triune God that aids in the student’s sanctification.</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>