



Williams Baptist College

Introduction to Christian Ministry, RL 2113 A
Fall 2011, Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, Maddox 104

Robert Lee Foster

Maddox 106

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Office Hours: See schedule on door for specific times. I am usually in my office or class from 7:15 AM until 4:00 PM.

Course Catalog Description

An introduction to the issues related to ministry including basic discipleship, the minister's call, leadership, and the relationship between ministers and their congregation and other denominational agencies.

Academic Integrity

Students are expected and required to uphold the highest standards of academic honesty in this and all courses. Students should be familiar with the College's policies concerning academic integrity (*Catalog*). Students requiring any clarification of these policies should consult their academic advisor or the Office of Academic Affairs.

Course Objectives

The following objectives will serve as a summary for the content of the course. The Learning Activities which are discussed in this syllabus will measure the achievement of these objectives. Furthermore, these objectives are intended to assist students in accomplishing the “Institutional Academic Goals” of Williams Baptist College (*Catalog*).

1. The student will understand the nature of a “calling” into the Christian ministry and be able to evaluate his/her own personal experience in this light.
2. The student will understand the process of how one is “called” to a local church position.
3. The student will describe several models for ministry and consider which might best suit her/his talents.
4. The student will evaluate his/her need for continual spiritual growth in the ministry.
5. Students will be able to communicate a personal plan for integrating Christian thought, passion, and action in their lives and ministries.
6. The student will be able to describe the moral formation of a minister as well as common moral pitfalls.
7. The student will understand the basis for authority and its’ proper exercise in the local church.

*Learning Activities and Grading Scale**Attendance (25 points)*

Students are expected to attend every class session.

Absences equal to a week’s worth of class will require a meeting with the Academic Dean. Absences equal to two weeks of classes will result in removal from the class. No excused absences are allowed. Students who are involved in college required activities such as Williams Singers, Athletic Competitions, etc. will not be counted absent when the student submits a note

to the professor including the date and reason for the absence. Please see the current Academic College Catalog for additional information.

Students will lose 10 points from their Attendance and Participation grade for each absence. Students will lose 5 points for any late arrivals or early departures. If a student loses 25 points because of late arrivals, they will be required to meet with the Academic Dean.

Late Assignments: Assignments and exams may be accepted late if submitted in a reasonable amount of time, except where otherwise noted. The grade received on any regular assignment turned in after the due date will be reduced by 10% for each class session it is late. Example: An assignment submitted one class period late will receive no more than 90% of its graded value. Assignments more than four class periods late will receive zeros.

Mid-Term Exam (100 points) and Final Exam (100 points)

These exams will cover both the material which has been presented in class as well as the reading material which has been assigned. The Final Exam will be comprehensive.

Book Review (100 points)

After reading the book, each student will write a three page book review of *Celebration of Discipline* by Richard Foster. The review will follow the written guidelines presented in class. A guide for writing book reviews and a grading rubric are located on the class website.

Written Projects (25 points each; 150 total points)

NOTA BENE: All written assignments must be typed and conform to the *Manual of Form and Style*. Turning in an assignment is no guarantee of receiving full point value. Only assignments done in a professional, error-free manner with excellence in thought and organization will receive full point values.

1. Each student must complete a Basic Inductive Bible Study Worksheet for one of the passages that will be discussed in the lecture “A Biblical View of Call” (see Assignments for September 16). This assignment will only be submitted in written form. Please print the form out as a two-sided document from the form provided on the PeacePage. It will be completed in handwriting.
2. Each student must complete a Degree Plan. Further instructions for this assignment will be given in class. This assignment will be submitted in written and digital form. Bring the written copy to class and submit the electronic copy to Turnitin.com.
3. Each student will write a two page essay describing their call to ministry. This assignment will be submitted in written and digital form. Bring the written copy to class and submit the electronic copy to Turnitin.com.
4. Each student will write a two page reaction to a chapter in *Celebration of Discipline*. The reactions will be written as a book review. Please see the instructions on book reviews above. This assignment will be submitted in written and digital form. Bring the written copy to class and submit the electronic copy to Turnitin.com.
5. Each student will complete a worksheet on the book *Head, Heart and Hands*. This assignment will be submitted in written and digital form. Bring the written copy to class and submit the electronic copy to Turnitin.com.
6. Each student will write a three page essay answering numbers 3 and 4 on page 193 in *Head, Heart and Hands*. This assignment will be submitted in written and digital form. Bring the written copy to class and submit the electronic copy to Turnitin.com.

Reflection in Ministry (100 points)

Christian Ministry and Church Music students are expected to be active in the ministry.

Students are asked to write a paragraph each week about their ministry involvement. This paragraph should be a brief reflection of the previous week. Paragraphs should consist of at least 5 substantive sentences. At the end of the paragraph, students should also list all church services

that they have attended since their last Reflection. These paragraphs will be submitted electronically to rfoster@wbcoll.edu. Please put “Reflection” and your full name in the subject line. Reflections should be submitted before 11:00 PM each Wednesday. *Any Reflections received after this time will be counted toward the next week. Only one Reflection per week will be counted for credit.* You may miss two submissions with out penalty.

While this assignment will be graded on completion please see *Nota Bene* above. The total number of submissions (only one submission is allowed per week) will be divided by the number of weeks to determine the grade for this assignment. For example, a student who submits 11 Reflections when 13 were expected should expect to receive 84/100 points ($11/13=.846$).

Grading Scale

| | |
|------------|-------------------------------------|
| 25 points | Attendance |
| 100 points | Mid-Term Exam |
| 100 points | Final Exam |
| 100 points | Book Review |
| 150 points | Written Projects (25 each) |
| 100 points | Practice and Reflection in Ministry |
| <hr/> | |
| 575 | Total Possible Points |

A 100-90%; **B** 89-80%; **C** 79-70%; **D** 69-60%; **F** 59-0%

Please note that the cut off for each letter grade is a whole number. I do not round up when figuring grades, for example, a 89.9 is a “B,” not an “A.’ In order to earn and “A” you must average at least 90 %. Obviously, the same principle applies to the other letter grades.

I will update the Moodle grade book after each exam. If you have any additional questions about your grade, please contact me by personally or by phone, note left on my office door, or e-mail. These methods of contact will be our acceptable forms of contact.

Required Texts

Foster, Richard. *Celebration of Discipline: The Path to Spiritual Growth*. San Francisco: Harper, 1988.

Hollinger, Dennis P. *Head, Heart, and Hands, Bringing Together Christian Thought, Passion, and Action*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity, 2005.

Turabian, Kate L. *A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*, 7th ed. Chicago: University of Chicago, 2007.

A modern translation of the bible such as NKJV, NASB, NRSV, NIV, *etc.*

Disabilities

The student has the responsibility of informing the professor of any medically documented disabling condition that will require modifications to avoid discrimination. All requests for special accommodations must be approved in consultation with the Director of Counseling Service. Reasonable accommodations will be jointly developed between student and professor after consultation with the Director of Counseling. It is the student's responsibility to initiate any request for accommodations. Documentation will be required.

Disclaimer

This syllabus is intended to reflect accurately the course description, content outline, course objectives, grading criteria, activities to be evaluated, major exam dates, policy on absences, course bibliography and other information necessary for students to appraise the

course. However, during the course of the semester the professor reserves the right to modify any portion of this syllabus as may appear necessary because of events and circumstances that change during the semester.

READING AND HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENTS

CD = Foster, *Celebration of Discipline*HHH = Hollinger, *Head, Heart and Hands*

| | Monday | | Wednesday | | Friday | |
|---|--------|---|-----------|--|--------|--|
| S e p t e m b e r | | | Aug 31 | Introduction to the Course | 2 | Introduction to the Course <i>Williams Catalog</i> , see link "Department of Christian Ministries" on the PeacePage |
| | 5 | LABOR DAY, No Class | 7 | Degree Plans <i>Williams Catalog</i> , see link "Department of Christian Ministries" on the PeacePage | 9 | Manual of Format and Style Handout available on PeacePage INDUCTIVE BIBLE STUDY WORKSHEET DUE ○ |
| | 12 | Manual of Format and Style Turabian 133-159 | 14 | How to Write a Book Review Handout available on PeacePage Turabian 373-408 DEGREE PLAN DUE ○ | 16 | A Biblical View of Call Exodus 3:1-6; Jonah 3:10-4:11; Luke 1:5-25; Mark 5:1-20; 1 Timothy 4:11-16 |
| | 19 | Spiritual Development CD x-11 Colossians 2:8-3:17 | 21 | Moral Issues in the Ministry Ephesians 5:1-20 | 23 | Meditation CD 13-32 CALL ESSAY DUE ○ |
| | 26 | Psalm 119:97-120 | 28 | Prayer CD 33-46 | 30 | Matthew 6:5-15 Mark 1:35 |
| O c t o b e r | 3 | Fasting CD 47-61 | 5 | Matthew 6:16-18 | 7 | Study CD 62-76 |
| | 10 | CD REACTION DUE ○ | 12 | Simplicity and Solitude CD 77-109 | 14 | Philippians 4:10-14 |
| | 17 | MID-TERM EXAM ○ | 19 | Submission and Service CD 110-140 | 21 | FALL BREAK, No Class |
| | 24 | Mark 8:34-38 | 26 | Confession CD 141-157 1 John 1:5-2:2 | 28 | Worship CD 158-174 Deuteronomy 12:1-12 |
| N o v e m b e r | Oct 31 | Arkansas Baptist State Convention, No Class | 2 | Arkansas Baptist State Convention, No Class | 4 | Guidance and Celebration CD 175-201 |
| | 7 | Acts 6:1-7; John 15:11 | 9 | Class Discussion CD 202-210 | 11 | How Does "Being Called to a Church Happen"? |
| | 14 | Baptist Polity See "Axioms of Religion" link on PeacePage | 16 | Baptist Faith and Message See link on PeacePage | 18 | CD BOOK REVIEW DUE ○ |
| | 21 | Introduction to HHH HHH 9-34 | 23 | THANKSGIVING BREAK No Class | 25 | THANKSGIVING BREAK No Class |
| | 28 | HHH: Faith and the Head HHH 35-71 | 30 | HHH: Faith and the Heart HHH 72-106 | Dec 2 | HHH: Faith and the Hands HHH 107-142 HHH WORKSHEET DUE ○ |
| D e c | 5 | HHH: Class Discussion HHH 143-174 HHH ESSAY DUE ○ | 7 | HHH: Class Discussion HHH 175-193 | 9 | REVIEW |
| FINAL EXAMS DECEMBER 12 – 15 | | | | | | |