

## MINI 207, Practical Ministry, Syllabus (3 credits)

### COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course explores foundational ministry issues from a Christian, socio-cultural perspective. It seeks to equip spiritually whole and practically skilled ministers of the Gospel who are prepared to build up the Church in a rapidly changing world. The study provides opportunities for students to cultivate theory and practice of ministry in the multicultural American society, as well as the Church around the world.

### REQUIRED TEXTS & RESOURCES

Derek Tidball. *Ministry by the Book: New Testament Patterns for Pastoral Leadership*. Publisher: Intervarsity Press (2008)

Guthrie Veech. *Christian Minister's Manual*, Revised and Expanded. Cincinnati: Standard Publishing, 2012. 288 pp.

**NOTE:** The Point University Bookstore may offer this textbook (s) in other formats. Information can found at [www.pointuniversityshop.com](http://www.pointuniversityshop.com).

### COURSE SCHEDULE

Each course begins on a Wednesday with a Getting Started module before moving into the week 1-7 content. The introduce yourself forum is required during the Getting Started module in order to be counted present during this half-week of instruction. The introduce yourself forum is open from the start of the course to the first Sunday. All posts are due by Sunday at 11:59 p.m. Participation is required to be marked present for this time period. Keep in mind that in future weeks, forum due dates may be different.

Unless stated otherwise, graded assignments are due on the last day of the course week (Sunday). <http://point.edu/course-schedules/>

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS** - Students will be required to:

1. **Read the textbooks.** Students are required to read the course textbook in its entirety.
2. **New Testament Author Ministry Analyses.** Students will be required to write a 250 word summary analysis for each of these New Testament contributors: Matthew, Mark, Luke (Luke and Acts), John, Paul (2), Peter, James, and the writers of Hebrews and Revelation. Each of these summary analyses must highlight ministry models, themes, or issues addressed by that writer. (measures first outcome)
3. **Discussion Forums.** Complete seven discussion forums. These forums will require the student to develop a biblical understanding of key ministry practices in the local congregation. Try to help each other in this pursuit. Also use the ministry manual as a resource. For each forum students will post one original post and at least one response to another student. 100 words per post. (measures outcome 2)
4. **Three Essays.** All essay papers should be submitted in MLA format, 1" margins, double-spaced (see the MLA formatting and style guide at: <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/section/2/10/>).

- a. **PAPER 1 (Due on Sunday of Week 2):** Write a paper on “MY VISIT WITH AN ELDERLY PERSON” - Length: 3-4 page paper.
- i. **First:** Conduct an interview of a senior-citizen in a nursing home, a hospital, or an assisted living facility. This interview should be about a half-hour and should attempt to discover the person’s reflections on his/her life. The purpose of this assignment is to experience engaging a particular people group to understand the lifestyle, culture, values, customs, and worldview of that group. Approach the interview with care and sensitivity. The questions to be asked in the interview and reported in your essay are:
    1. What is your greatest joy in life? To what would you attribute such joy?
    2. What is your greatest disappointment in life? To what would you attribute such disappointment?
    3. If you had an opportunity to live life over again, what are the three things that you would like to do over again?
    4. How would you characterize your relationship with God and Jesus Christ? What are some factors that contribute to such a point of view?
    5. How would you characterize your relationship with the church? What are some factors that contribute to such a point of view?
    6. How would you characterize your relationship with your family? What are some factors that would cause you to draw such conclusions?
    7. How can I pray for you today? Do you have any concerns I need to focus on?
  - ii. **In your paper, give your response to the interview.** State the ideas you like or dislike and give an explicit expression of what you would do in your church or ministry because of this interview. Be open to share what you discovered and discuss your experiences in class.
  - iii. (measures outcome 2)
- b. **PAPER 2: “Research on the Elderly in Nursing Homes” (Due on Sunday of Week 4):** Write a three-four page research paper on the elderly in nursing homes and shut-ins in the United States. The purpose of this research paper is to help the Christian minister understand the situation, mindset, worldview, and receptiveness to the Gospel of the elderly. This paper is due at the beginning of session three. It will be written in MLA format with parenthetical, in-text citations, and provide a “works cited” page with references in correct MLA format. The student will explore relevant books, journals, magazines and ministry resources to discover socio-cultural information concerning the elderly. You must use at least THREE scholarly sources, of which only one can be an internet source. This paper will fulfill step two of the model of practical ministry. The paper should answer these questions:
- i. What is the population and percentage of the elderly in the U.S. that are in nursing homes or shut-ins?
  - ii. Describe the generational characteristics of the elderly.
  - iii. What were some of the major historical events that occurred during their lifetime and how does that affect their attitude toward life?
  - iv. What are their values, traditions, and customs?
  - v. What are their contributions to society in the U.S.?
  - vi. Statistically, what is their financial situation?
  - vii. What is their spiritual condition?
  - viii. How does this information impact how the local church feasibly minister to the elderly in nursing homes and shut-ins?
  - ix. (measures outcome 2)

- c. **PAPER 3: “Theological Study of Ministry to the Elderly” (Due on Sunday of Week 6):** Write a 3-4 page theological paper about ministry to the elderly that will be drawn directly from Scripture. This paper is due at the beginning of Session 4. In other words, I want you to explore Scripture, commentaries, biblical dictionaries, encyclopedias, and theological journals and present a biblical rationale for ministry to the elderly. You must use at least THREE scholarly sources, of which only one can be an internet source. NOTE: The Bible is not listed in your “works-cited.” It is assumed you will use scripture. This fulfills step 3 of the model of socio-cultural ministry. Your paper should include:
- i. What does God say about the elderly?
  - ii. How were the elderly viewed in the biblical community of believers?
  - iii. What should the believer’s attitude be toward the elderly?
  - iv. According to Scripture, how should the Church minister to the elderly?
  - v. (measures outcome 2)
- d. **Group Project.** Participate in a Project Team. Each team will work together to research, develop, and deliver a 10-15 minute class presentation during class on Week 7 on ministry to the elderly. Each member of the team will participate in such research, development, and delivery. Your project presentation will be grading on: organization, content, creativity, visual aids, delivery, and peer evaluations. The presentation theme:
- i. Present a plan to minister to the elderly that are in nursing homes and shut-ins.
    1. Your project team will present a detailed plan to minister to the elderly using the research that you have collected in your three essays. Students will need to share their research with one another throughout the class. The presentation will contain integrated information from each of the essays. It will present a credible, realistic and workable plan to provide **on-going** ministry to the elderly in their context. It will be contextually appropriate. This is not preparation for a single event, but an ongoing ministry plan which articulates *a process of events that moves people to greater levels of commitment to Christ*. In other words, you need to provide a map or diagram of your ministry. This should be a 10-15 minute presentation in which you will be presenting to the Senior Pastor (the teacher), how you will minister. The presentation will attempt to convince the Senior Pastor that:
      - a. There is a significant problem
      - b. There is a solution
      - c. We are part of the solution
      - d. This plan is the biblical solution to the problem as the body of Christ
  - ii. The teacher will provide feedback during and after the presentation. Students in the group must be prepared to respond to constructive criticism and demonstrate integration of it into their ministry plan.
  - iii. (measures outcome 2 and 4)

## GRADING POLICIES

### Course Evaluation Plan

An assessment instrument (checklist, rubric, quiz, etc.) will accompany each major graded assignment. See the instructions for specific assignment criteria and accompanying grading instruments.

### Points Distribution

Graded assignments will be distributed as follows:

### EVALUATION

|                      |             |                    |
|----------------------|-------------|--------------------|
| Group Project        | 30%         | 300 points         |
| NT Ministry Analyses | 30%         | 300 points         |
| 3 Essay Papers       | 30%         | 300 points         |
| Discussion Forums    | 10%         | 100 points         |
| <b>Total</b>         | <b>100%</b> | <b>1000 points</b> |

### Final Grades

The following scale will be used when calculating final grades:

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

Final grades will be posted according to the Academic Calendar:

<http://point.edu/academic-calendar/>

## COURSE LEARNING GOALS & OBJECTIVES

### TIME REQUIREMENTS & COMMITMENTS

This course is 3 credit hours. Regarding time on task, students can expect to spend approximately 16 hours per week for an undergraduate course.

After taking MINI 207, students will be able to:

1. Describe ministry models/themes from each of the primary contributors to the New Testament.
2. Apply a five-step practical-theological method for socio-cultural ministry.

3. Identify biblical and practical issues for the tasks which are typically done by ministers (such as funerals, weddings, etc.)
4. Develop a ministry plan which addresses a specific socio-cultural need in a located ministry.

## **DISABILITY SERVICES**

Point University is committed to providing qualified students with disabilities an equal opportunity to access a Point education through the provision of reasonable and appropriate accommodations and support services. Accordingly, Point complies with Title IX (<https://point.edu/title-ix>) of the Educational Amendments of 1972 and the subsequent reauthorization of that act, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 and subsequent amendments to that act. For more information about Disability Support Services, see the “Consumer Information” section of the website (<http://point.edu/disclosures>) and the “Student Services” section of this catalog, or contact the Director of Disability Services and College Section 504 Coordinator, at [disability.services@point.edu](mailto:disability.services@point.edu).

## **COURSE EXPECTATIONS**

### *Attendance*

A student is expected to actively participate in each week of the class in which he or she is enrolled. Active participation each academic week includes submitting classwork in one or more of the following activities within the course during the week they are due: discussion forums, assignments such as (but not limited to) projects, papers, presentations, case studies, quizzes, or exams. Students may be absent up to 25% of the class. After absences exceed 25% of the session or term’s total – in either consecutive or cumulative days – the student will be withdrawn from the class roster and assigned a grade on the basis of work completed at the time of withdrawal unless, because of exceptional circumstances, prior arrangements have been made with the professor and the Chief Academic Officer.

Students representing the university, such as student-athletes, remain responsible for submitting work online within the week it is due to be counted present. No student will be disadvantaged while representing the university. However, the responsibility is on the student to notify faculty no later than one week before missing class for any reason, to ensure time for content to be made available to them and for make-up work to be considered and arranged. It is expected that students will limit their absences outside of these required absences, as they will be dropped if they overcut the allowed number of absences.

The full attendance policy is found in the catalog (<https://point.edu/catalogs/>).

### *Etiquette & Netiquette*

Students are expected to be respectful and well-mannered towards the instructor and their peers, whether in the physical classroom or the online course site. For guidance on meeting this expectation, particularly in the online environment, please see the materials provided during student orientation or reach out to [advising.center@point.edu](mailto:advising.center@point.edu).

### *Policies*

For academic policies governing attendance, late assignments, and student support, please refer to the Academic Catalog directly (<https://point.edu/catalogs/>).

## **COPYRIGHT AND FURTHER DISSEMINATION**

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