

MINI 213, The Practice of Christian Ministry, Syllabus (3 credits)

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course introduces theological and theoretical foundations of Christian ministry from historical, cultural, and practical perspectives—including principles of servant leaders.

REQUIRED TEXTS & RESOURCES

- Bonhoeffer, Dietrich. *Life Together*. New York. Harper. 1954. 978-0-06-060852-1
- Willimon, William. *Pastor: The Theology and Practice of Ordained Ministry*. (Revised Edition) Nashville. Abingdon. 2016. 978-1-5018-0490-8

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/>

Learning Activities	Graded Assignments	
Preview Week	Course Introduction	
	Review the Syllabus	
	Review Preview Week Introduction	
	Participate in Course Orientation	
	Introduce Yourself Forum (registers attendance)	Mandatory
Week 1		
	Video Introduction to the Class and Unit	N/A
	Read: Bonhoeffer, Chapter One	N/A
	Read: Willimon, Chapters One and Two	N/A
	Forum 1 Post – Bonhoeffer	Due Day 5
	Forum 2 Post – Willimon	Due Day 5
	Bibliography and Thesis Sentence, Essay One	Due Day 7
Week 2		
	Weekly Video	N/A
	Bonhoeffer, Chapter Two	N/A
	Willimon, Chapters Three, Four, Five	N/A
	Forum 3 – Bonhoeffer	Due Day 5
	Forum 4 – Willimon	Due Day 5

	Essay One: Ministry and Calling	Due Day 7
Week 3		
	Weekly Video	N/A
	Bonhoeffer, Chapter Three	N/A
	Willimon, Chapters Six and Seven	N/A
	Forum 5 – Bonhoeffer	Due Day 5
	Forum 6 – Willimon	Due Day 5
	Bibliography and Thesis Sentence, Essay Two	Due Day 7
	<i>Lectio Divina</i> Exercise (Connected to Video)	Due Day 7
Week 4		
	Weekly Video	N/A
	Bonhoeffer, Chapter Four	N/A
	Willimon, Chapters Eight and Nine	N/A
	Forum 7 – Bonhoeffer	Due Day 5
	Forum 8 – Willimon	Due Day 5
	Essay Two: Ministry and Theology	Due Day 7
Week 5		
	Weekly Video	N/A
	Bonhoeffer, Chapter 5	N/A
	Willimon, Chapter 10	N/A
	Forum 9 – Bonhoeffer	Due Day 5
	Forum 10 – Willimon	Due Day 5
	Bibliography and Theses Sentence, Essay Three	Due Day 7
	Ministry Interview	Due Day 7
Week 6		
	Weekly Video	N/A
	Willimon, Chapter Eleven	N/A
	Forum 11	Due Day 5
	Essay Three: Ministry and Practice	Due Day 7
	Bibliography and Thesis Sentence, Essay Four	Due Day 7
	Interview with a Lay Person	Due Day 7
Week 7		
	Weekly Video	N/A
	Willimon, Chapters Twelve and Thirteen	N/A
	Forum 12 – Willimon	Due Day 5
	Essay Four: Ministry and Spiritual Formation	Due Day 7
	Risk Takers Survey	Due Day 7
	Essays Compilation	Due Day 7

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:

Graded Assignments	Points Possible
Twelve Forum Posts @ 30 points each	360
Four Essays @ 200 points each	800
Two Interviews @ 75 points each	150
Risk Takers Survey	50
Essay Compilation	100
Total Points:	1460

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.

Goal 1: Students will be able to Identify biblical and theological foundations to support the practice of ministry.	
Objective 1.1: Students recognize biblical concepts of ministry.	1.2
Objective 1.2: Students begin to apply biblical concepts to the daily practice of ministry and their spiritual formation.	2.1
Goal 2: Students will be able to reflect theologically upon their practice of ministry.	
Objective 2.1: Students will develop clear theological themes regarding ministry.	2.4
Objective 2.2: Students will understand how those themes intersect the real, contemporary context of ministry.	2.2
Objective 2.3: Students will begin to test their understanding of ministry in the context of the practice of ministry in a real ministry setting.	2.4

Goal 3: Students will explore and articulate a personal sense of calling to a theologically informed ministry.	
Objective 3.1: Students will discover important aspects of ministry as defined biblically.	2.1
Objective 3.2: Students will discover biblical concepts of calling as it relates to ministry and their vocational goals.	2.4; 2.1
Objective 3.3: Students will begin the process of a life-long ability to articulate the theological rationale for the ministry in which they are engaged.	2.1; 2.2

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.

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.

Policies

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

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