§ PM 512i—Special Studies in Ministry §

Course Syllabus

Course Description:
This course is a supervised study in the field of Christian ministry. Specific topic, goals, and requirements are selected according to the needs of students. Possible areas of study include: leadership in ministry, pastoral ministry, preaching, and evangelism.
This semester the topic is applied ecclesiology. Students will be exposed by reading and small group discussions basic to ecclesiology. Students will also be exposed to applied ecclesiology by participating in gathered worship, attending deacons and elders meetings, and small ministry groups. Special attention will be given to church offices, the observance of ordinances, and church discipline.

Learning Objectives:
A. Students will increase their knowledge of ecclesiology, especially in church polity.
B. Students will analyze their church polity as compared to earlier practices in their tradition.
C. Students will be asked to determine if their polity is more influenced by culture or Scripture.
D. Students will gain an understanding of a wide range of polity from other traditions.
E. Students will learn to utilize some elements of critical thinking and academic research and writing.

Learning Outcomes:
A. Students will be able to demonstrate a general comprehension of the polity of their religious tradition.
B. Students will be able to evaluate their church’s ecclesiology in light of relevant biblical texts.
C. Students will be able to articulate a biblical ecclesiology.
D. Students will be able to create basic by-laws for local church practice or make a case for an existing set of by-laws.
E. Students will demonstrate an ability to perform academically at the entry level of doctoral studies.

Required Textbooks:
1. Church Membership  
   Jonathan Leeman  
   ISBN: 9781433532375
2. The Church  
   Mark Dever  
   ISBN: 9781433677762
3. Church Discipline  
   Jonathan Leeman  
   ISBN: 1433532336
4. The Church and the Surprising Offense of God's Love  
   Jonathan Leeman  
   ISBN: 1433509059
5. The Baptist Confession of Faith And the Baptist Catechism (Sections 26-30)  
   ISBN: 9781599253220
6. Biblical Theology  
   Michael Lawrence  
   ISBN: 1433515083
7. Polity  
   Mark Dever  
   ISBN: 0970125216
**Class Schedule:**

1. **Pre-class work**
   Students will read *The Church* and prepare a three-page, single-spaced summary; one page per section. *(Due on March 11, 2015)*

2. **Attend all sessions of the class the week of March 11, 2015.** Students will attend a Conference at Capitol Hill Baptist Church in Washington, D. C. The theme of the conference will be *Ecclesiology, with an Emphasis on the Church Ordinances and Church Discipline*. Students will be observing ecclesiology in action. They will observe how that church operates.

3. **Post-class work: (Due on June 18, 2015)**
   - A. All students will write a critical book review of each selection in the reading list. A minimum of five pages, double-spaced for each book.
   - B. All students will keep a diary of their observations and reflections on the class meetings and the church meetings during the seminar.
   - C. Student’s diaries will be converted to a two-to-three page analysis of the conference
   - D. Students will write a theological reflection page on the design, assessment, and implementation of proper church polity based on their reading and observations from the conference. They will write a one-to-two page history of the polity of their church. Then describe their current practices and any proposed changes, or make a case for why they should remain the same. If changes need to be made, formulate a strategy on how to implement the changes.

4. Students will participate in a panel discussion at 11:00 a.m. on June 18, 2015, moderated by Dr. Holmes and attended by other faculty, covering all the activities of the class. After the panel discussion, students will be given individual oral exams.

**Grading:**

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<tr>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>30%</td>
<td>Attendance</td>
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<tr>
<td>30%</td>
<td>Book Reviews</td>
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<tr>
<td>20%</td>
<td>Performance in panel discussion</td>
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<td>20%</td>
<td>Final oral exam</td>
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*The content of this syllabus is subject to revision as announced by the professor. Any changes will be e-mailed to class members. Class members are responsible to provide a correct email address to the Seminary.*