

**St. Mary's Ecumenical Institute
Fall 2017**

Thursday

6:00-8:30 pm

PT 601 Foundations of Christian Ministry

Dr. David Greiser

Course Description: A survey of the biblical, theological, and spiritual foundations of ministry, and an examination of the expressions of lay and ordained ministry in various Christian traditions.

Course Requirements:

- **Reading:** Students should expect to read at most 900 pages of required reading, including in-class handouts, and to come prepared to discuss readings in class.
- **Writing:** There will be four papers of moderate length interspersed throughout the course: a “call” paper outlining the student’s call to ministry (2-4 pages, 10% of grade); a paper on faith development (5-7 pages, 20%); a paper on your denomination’s view of ministry (8-10 pages, 30%); an interview with a leader from a tradition different from your own (8-10 pages, 30%).
- **Other:** Class participation, which includes short oral presentations of two of the papers, will count as 10% of grade.

Required Texts:

- Daniel Aleshire. *Faithcare: Ministering to All God's People Through the Ages of Life* (Westminster/John Knox, 1988. ISBN 0-664-24054-2)
- Ben Campbell Johnson and Andrew Dreitcer. *Beyond the Ordinary: Spirituality for Church Leaders*. (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2001. ISBN 0-8028-4773-0)
- Reinhold Niebuhr. *Leaves From the Notebook of a Tamed Cynic*. (Westminster/John Knox rot. 1980. ISBN 0-664-25164-1.
- William Willimon. *Pastor: The Theology and Practice of Ordained Ministry*. Nashville: Abingdon, 2002 0-687-04532-0