

**St. Mary's Ecumenical Institute
Summer 2019**

Course Name & Number: PT815: Enculturating Ministry

Instructor: Rev. C. Anthony Hunt, D.Min., Ph.D.

Day(s): Wednesday-Saturday: 6/26-29 (Class meets from 9:00 am-4:00)

Course Description: Effective ministry incarnates the *Missio Dei* in the overall societal context and the specific cultures in which the minister serves. This course will equip the student to understand both the contemporary world view and the specific culture(s) in which the student is serving, so as to be able to sensitively and effectively embody the good news and lead in that setting.

Course Requirements:

- **Reading:** Students should expect to read *at most* 1000 pages of required reading.
- **Writing:** Students should expect to write *at most* 32 double-spaced pages.
- The following two books are to be read prior to the first day of class:

Bauckham, *Bible and Mission: Christian Witness in a Postmodern World*

Cahalan, *Introducing the Practice of Ministry*

Written Assignments

First Assignment (Due on 6/26/19) (15 % of final grade)

Write a 7-8 page Context Analysis paper (not to exceed 2000 words) describing and analyzing your ministerial context. In the paper, (1) provide a historical description of your ministry setting, to include when the context was established, what significant events have occurred during its existence, who have been important figures, and what have been their contributions; (2) provide geographic descriptions of the place where your context is located to include the state, county, city and neighborhood of the context; (3) provide demographic descriptions analyzing all pertinent population trends in the context, and (4) provide a description of present ministry occurring in the context. **This paper is to be emailed to the instructor, and the student should be prepared to discuss this paper on the first day of class.**

Second Assignment (Due on 7/15/19) (20 % of final grade)

Write a 7-8 page Reflection paper (not to exceed 2000 words) on the student's understanding of ministry and culture (theological, sociological, etc.), the efficacy of culture, and the role of religious/faith communities in engaging culture. Some issues that should be addressed include:

- What do you see as the nature of culture today? How might it be defined?
- What do you view as the key theological issues facing communities today?
- Why is understanding culture(s) important for doing ministry in the 21st Century?
- What do you see as some of the challenges facing ministry in community context and contemporary culture today?
- What do you see as the future of religious communities and ministry in impacting culture?

Third Assignment (Due on 8/15/19) (40 % of final grade)

Write a 14-16 page Theological Research Paper or Integrative Reflection Paper (not to exceed 4000 words) on an aspect/area of ministry and culture. Students are encouraged to consider their ministry/community context when writing this paper. Based upon the class readings and discussions, the student is to prepare a paper that offers theological reflection, analysis and critique of class material. The paper may be of a topical or general nature as it pertains to understanding culture and ministry, and their connection. In addition to course readings and materials that should be used, outside references may be used at the student's discretion as a means of supporting and strengthening your work.

Other activities contributing to final grade:

- **Class Attendance/Discussion** 15%
- **In-class Case Studies (2)** 10%

Required Textbooks

The books are available through www.amazon.com.

Bauckham, Richard. *Bible and Mission: Christian Witness in a Postmodern World*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2004.

Bush, Joseph E. *Practical Theology in Church and Society*. Eugene, OR: Cascade Books, 2016.

Cahalan, Kathleen. *Introducing the Practice of Ministry*. Collegeville, MN: Liturgical Press, 2010.

Daniels, Joseph W. *Walking with Nehemiah: Your Community Is Your Congregation*. Nashville, TN: Abingdon Press, 2014.

Fitch, David E. *Faithful Presence: Seven Disciplines that Shape the Church for Mission*. Downer's Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2016.

McCloskey, Mark and Jim Louwsma. *The Art of Virtue-Based Transformational Leadership: Building Strong Businesses, Organizations and Families*. Bloomington, MN: Wordsmith, 2014.

Supplemental Readings

Several supplemental readings will be assigned by the instructor that will be considered required reading.