SDM710G  D.Min. Collegial Seminar

A seminar for DMin students which provides for collegial conversations around problems and issues in ministry based upon case studies, including the role of public theology and ministry in a pluralist America. (1 unit)

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SCHEDULE:  Monday, January 20—Friday, January 23

Monday:    Martin Luther King Holiday (no class)
Tuesday:    8:30i 12:00; 1:00i 5:00 pm
Wednesday: 8:30i 12:00; 1:00i 5:00 pm
Thursday:   8:30i 12:00; 1:00i 5:00 pm
Friday:     8:30i 12:00; 1:00i--5:00 pm

In addition, 12 contact hours will be counted through Distance Education course requirements on an LTSP Moodle Site (See below).

Course Objectives:
1. To engage peers in personal, professional, biblical, and theological reflection in the practice of ministry [3.3];
2. To share personal and professional wisdom gleaned through pastoral experience, biblical knowledge and theological insight on case material presented in class [2.1]; and
3. To develop a written case of an aspect of ministry to help clarify pastoral values, biblical foundations, theological issues, and personal styles in the practice of ministry [3.2]; and
4. To reflect on one's ministry in the large context of the North American religious landscape [4.2].

Pre-Reading:


Recommended Reading:
In addition, students will do the following:

1. Browse: [http://religions.pewforum.org/](http://religions.pewforum.org/); and
2. After reading Putnam and Campbell watch: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kWQX0e5YMGw](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kWQX0e5YMGw) [2 contact hours]
3. Prepare a Case Study, 4 to 6 pages, double spaced. Post this to the Course Moodle Site by 5 January 2015, 5 pm. Students should read through all case studies prior to arrival [2 contact hours]
   - Students will then be assigned to respond to one of the posted Case Studies by the instructor. Responses should be 2i 3 pages, double-spaced.
   - Responses should include identification of dynamics in the case, scriptural/theological issues raised, your own pastoral insights, and recommendations for action to the case presenter, and identification of possible additional resources.
   - Students should be ready to present their Responses during the week, and will be posted to the initial Case Study Forum on the Moodle site, AFTER the presentation on site [2 contact hours].
4. You may be asked to prepare a brief devotion to be used during our sessions. The Instructor will notify you of the date(s) and time(s) if you are asked to serve as a devotion leader.

Post-Intensive Week Requirements

1. Students should provide a 4–6-page, double spaced, reflection of how their ministry context reflects, or does not reflect, the material as presented in Putnam and Campbell. In other words, did Putnam and Campbell provide any help in evaluating your own ministry context? This should be posted on the Course Moodle Site for interaction among peers by Friday, 20 February [3 contact hours].
2. A final re-worked 12–15-page, double-spaced, case study (from the original 4i 6-page case) in light of peer and instructor comments. This is to be posted on the Moodle Site by Monday, March 15, 2015 by 5 pm for final interaction among peers [3 contact hours].
3. Students will be expected to complete the intensive week Course Evaluation form.

“Case Study” Guidelines

- Choose an issue in your ministry that you have struggled with and/or feel would be helpful for you and the others in a peer discussion. The study should include;
  - the ministry setting (i.e., history of the congregation or ministry, demographics, etc.),
  - a narrative of the case (including who, what, where, when and why? - or what you think is why),
  - a pastoral and theological analysis of the issues, and
  - the theological and/or biblical issues or questions that you would like to discuss in the peer conversation.
- Case studies should NOT include original names or places, and should be written to protect the confidentiality of all parties involved.
- Please provide line numbers (every 5 lines is enough) so that respondents can refer to specific places in the case study.
“Respondent” Guidelines

- Courtesy and understanding are essential to collegiality. The case study often deals with difficult and troubling situations. Care in choosing the words to respond is necessary.
- Honesty is also essential, but in the confines of collegiality.
- What do you think are the basic issues or dynamics at play? (Frame this in scriptural and theological concepts.)
- What did the presenter do well in responding to the case, and where did the presenter misinterpret, misread, misunderstand, or minimize the problem at hand?
- How could the case help the professional minister in his or her own understanding of self and ministry?

Presentation and Respondent Procedures within the Seminar

- The Presenter will provide a synopsis of their case study orally.
- The Respondents will read their responses.
- Clarifications will be sought on the case.
- The floor will be open for comments and peer discussion.
- The Instructor will offer comments or views.
- The Presenter will have the opportunity for a final response.

A fuller syllabus will be posted on the course Moodle Site and available after registration.