

MINISTRY INTERNSHIP
THEO 399
St. Ambrose University

Instructor:
Office:
Phone:
E-mail:

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

St. Ambrose Department of Theology believes that the church is hungry for skilled ministers who ‘know God’ and respond to God in ministry which is reflective of the character and nature of Christ. Through the Ministry Internship experience, students will offer God the opportunity to shape them for ministry and submit themselves to the appropriate supervision of a skilled minister. This is risky business for theological students, for we believe God not only demands but takes seriously the offer of persons to lay their lives before God in order to be formed in the likeness of Christ. This course will focus upon theological reflection as a foundation for integrating person and the skilled practice of ministry and will assist students in developing competence in administering the rituals of the Christian church.

II. OBJECTIVES

- To identify learning/skill/personhood goals for the supervised internship experience.
- To be prepared for administration of the rituals of the Church, such as pastoral assistance with funerals and baptisms, or with the ill and dying.
- To become increasingly aware of where God is present both within the student and within the community the student is serving.
- To increase the mastery of ministerial skills through theological reflection.
- To understand one’s developing pastoral identity.
- To discover one’s strengths and weaknesses in the practice of Christian ministry.
- To learn through the actual practice of ministry in a ministry setting.
- To assess progress in professional development through periodic evaluation and critical reflection on the process of ministry.

III. GRADING CRITERIA

It is anticipated that students entering into professional ministry are prepared to submit themselves to spiritual, ministerial, relational and pastoral identity

development through evaluation and critical reflection. In order to offer a fair means of evaluation, grading will be assigned as follows:

A.....Successful completion of all course requirements on time; attendance at all class sessions; and full participation in class discussion. Noteworthy skill in self-assessment, reflection, and attendance to growth. Expending great effort to open oneself to an awareness of God's presence and one's own attitudes, values, assumptions, strengths and weaknesses.

B.....Successful completion of all course requirements on time; attendance at all class sessions; and full participation in class discussion. Growing skill in self-assessment, reflection, and attendance to growth. Growing ability to open oneself to an awareness of God's presence and one's own attitudes, values, assumptions, strengths and weaknesses.

Absence: One absence is allowed. Any further absences will result in a 'no credit' grade for the course. (see "Make-up Work" for one absence below)

Make-up Work: Make-up work for an absence will entail reading a selected reading from the professor and turning in a three-page double spaced reflection paper, discussing its impact upon your ministry. The work is due before the last day of class.

Late work: In fairness to one's peers who completed work by the due date, late work, turned in at the agreed upon late time, will be marked down one letter grade.

Requirements for Internship

During the quarter students will need to complete 150 hours of ministry, which equals approximately 15 hours per week. Internship hours should include:

1. 1-2 hours per week reading for class
2. 2 hours with God in preparation for ministry
3. 2 hours in administrative preparation for ministry
4. 1 hour in reflection and interview discussion with field supervisor
5. 7 hours ministry

= 15 hours per week

IV. REQUIRED TEXT

O'Connell, Killen, Patricia and John DeBeer, *The Art of Theological Reflection*, New York, Crossroads, 1999

DeBoers, Arthur Paul, *Never Call Them Jerks: Healthy Responses to Difficult Behavior*, New York, Alban Institute, 1999

COURSE SCHEDULE

Session I.

Come to class having read entire syllabi, including attachments. (See Appendix for Case Study Materials lists)

If you are changing your internship location, please immediately contact the advisor for this course. "Internship Contract" and Internship Ministry Objectives" must be submitted during the first class session. These must be signed by the student and the advisor. In your objectives delineate how you are going to participate in the rituals of your particular church ministry. On the last day of the course you will turn in a "little black book" in which you have prepared services for the events in the life of the church.

Session II.

Read case study materials being presented and be prepared to contribute to discussion with reflection.

Session III.

Read Case Study materials and be prepared to contribute to discussion with reflection.

First audio taped interview with your supervisor is due.

Assigned case studies presented

Session IV.

Read the book "Never Call Them Jerks" and turn in a two page double spaced reflection paper on the reading answering the question,

"How does this reading speak to me regarding my being formed for ministry and call?"

Read case study materials being presented and be prepared to contribute to discussion with reflection.

Session V.

Read Case Study Materials being presented and be prepared to contribute to discussion with reflection.

Session VI.

Read Case Study Materials being presented and be prepared to contribute to discussion with reflection.

Field Supervisor Final Evaluation Form is due. In addition, Student Evaluation Papers are due.

Second audio taped interview with supervisor due.

Rituals of the church assignment due: your "little black book" that you have prepared services for each of the events in the life of the church.