

## CMIN 108 : CHRISTIAN LIFE, FAITH, AND MINISTRY (Fall 2009)

Instructor: Michael Bruner  
Darling 411, T/R 1:05-02:30P  
Office Hours: T/R by appt.  
Practical Theology Website:

[mbruner@apu.edu](mailto:mbruner@apu.edu)

<http://groups.apu.edu/practicaltheo>

### Description of CMIN 108 Christian Life, Faith, and Ministry:

The theological, educational, and social bases for ministry and service are examined. An analysis of the church's responsibility and methods of carrying out the ministry mandate of Jesus is emphasized. *Meets general studies requirement in Ministry and core requirement in God's Word and the Christian Response.*

### Purpose Statement:

The goal of Christian Life, Faith, and Ministry is to present to the student with an integrated model of the Christian life. Some of the components around which this course is designed are: Worldviews, the Wesleyan Quadrilateral, Practical Theology, Christian Vocation, and Spiritual Formation.

### Mission Statements:

*APU:* Azusa Pacific University is an evangelical Christian community of disciples and scholars who seek to advance the work of God in the world through academic excellence in liberal arts and professional programs of higher education that encourage students to develop a Christian perspective of truth and life.

*Department of Practical Theology:* The Department of Practical Theology equips undergraduate students majoring in Youth Ministry and Christian Ministries for professional ministry tasks and relationships in a transformational Christian community through multidisciplinary education and ministerial experiences that promote theological reflection, faith integration, spiritual formation. Three points will be given to the first person to read this line and tell me the first day of class.

### Course Objectives:

1. Students will learn how Christian life, faith, and ministry interrelate.
2. Students will be able to articulate in broad terms basic theological doctrines and understand how they relate to life and ministry.
3. Students will learn to articulate an informed and thoughtful Christian worldview and understand how it plays out within a pluralistic context.
4. Students will become familiar with a Reformed understanding of ministry and be able to evaluate its effectiveness in practical and theological terms.

### Required Textbooks:

Norris, Kathleen. Amazing Grace. New York: Riverhead Books. 1998.  
Buechner, Frederick. Wishful Thinking. San Francisco: HarperOne. 1993.

### My Expectations

It's my job to make this course informative and interesting. It's your job to do your assignments on time and actively participate in class. If we both do our jobs, this class will be a success.

### Lap-top and Cell Phone Policy:

**Simple. No laptops opened during class and cell phones should be set to "stun."** If one rings during class, I will mark said owner of cell phone absent. If it's a particularly annoying ring tone,

you will be marked for two absences.

Attendance Policy:

Attendance will sometimes be taken at the beginning of class. Excused absences are given for participation in APU sponsored events, serious illnesses, the Rapture, and unexpected emergencies. If you know you'll have to miss class, give me an appropriate form to sign (note from your doctor, letter from a parent, proof of your name in the Book of Life, etc.) **Excused absences do not exempt you from doing the work you missed, which is your responsibility to have completed when you return.** You must get work assignments from classmates and *not* by emailing me. Each unexcused absence will take 3 points of your point total. Sleeping in class counts as an absence. Snoring counts for two. Drooling for three... and so on.

Exams, Presentations, and Quizzes:

There is one mid-term exam, one presentation, five quizzes, and a final exam. The quizzes are unannounced – great incentive not to miss class. **Quizzes and exams cannot be made up unless you have an excused absence (see above). The final exam cannot be taken early.**

Small Group Presentation:

At a designated time during the semester, you and your small group will be responsible for a 20-30 minute class presentation. Here's the assignment: in the allotted time, you must try to convince your fellow classmates that a particular ministry *that you've designed* should be a requirement for all students at APU. This ministry must be an entirely new ministry and cannot be an existing ministry (though elements of it can be modeled after existing ministries.) Your presentation should include a brief history of the particular problem this ministry is attempting to address and specifics about who would be ministered to, why this particular ministry is important, when and where this ministry would take place, how it would be implemented. Your presentation should incorporate the readings in class and be creative (the use of video, music, mime, drama, rap, costumes, etc. is strongly encouraged), but in the midst of your creativity, you must present solid information in a clear, convincing manner because the information shared in these presentations will be part of the quizzes and exams. **You must have a single page of pertinent information emailed to me in .doc format *the day before your presentation is due* so that I can post it on the CLFM website.**

<u>Grading:</u>		190-200	= A
Five quizzes x 10 pts./each =	50	180-189	= A-
Small group presentation =	50	174-179	= B+
Mid-term paper =	50	166-173	= B
Final exam =	<u>50</u>	160-165	= B-
Total	200	154-159	= C+
		146-153	= C
		140-145	= C-
		134-139	= D+
		126-133	= D
		120-125	= D-
		0-120	= F

Early Final Examinations:

According to APU policy, "*No final examination shall be given to individual students BEFORE the regularly scheduled time.*" No exception can be made to this rule without the written approval of the instructor, the department chair, and the Dean of the School of Theology.

### Academic Integrity:

The mission of Azusa Pacific University includes cultivating in each student not only the academic skills that are required for a university degree, but the characteristics of academic integrity that are integral to a sound Christian education. It is therefore part of the mission of the university to nurture in students a sense of moral responsibility consistent with the biblical teachings of honesty and accountability. A breach of academic integrity is viewed not merely as a private matter between the student and an instructor but as an act that is fundamentally inconsistent with the purpose and mission of the university. A copy of the Academic Integrity Policy is available online.

### CLASS SCHEDULE

<b>First week</b> (Sep. 10) Introduction to course, each other, syllabus <i>Wesleyan Quadrilateral</i>	N: God Talk, Theology B: Christian, Questions <i>(Christian Faith and the Wesleyan Quadrilateral)</i>
<b>Second week</b> (Sep. 15, 17) Scripture (Hermeneutics)	N: Bible: Illiteracies, Give Me A Word, Lectio B: Bible, Gospel, Word
<b>Third week</b> (Sep. 22, 24) Tradition (Inheritance)	N: Inheritance (78), Christian B: Parents, Israel, Kingdom of God <i>The American Paradox</i>
<b>Fourth week</b> (Sep 29, Oct 1) Reason (Faith and Science)	N: Revelation, Mystic, Truth B: Reason, Science, Doctrine, Heretics
<b>Fifth week</b> (Oct. 6, 8) Experience (Conversion)	N: Conversion (37) B: Escapism, Life, Faith <i>Loder's Transformational Model</i>
<b>Sixth week</b> (Oct. 13, 15) Christian Identity	<i>A Christian Response to Immigration</i> <i>Christian Ethics and Race</i>
<b>Seventh week</b> (Oct. 20, 22)	<b>First Round of Presentations</b>  <i>(Christian Life and Mission)</i>
<b>Eighth week</b> (Oct. 27, 29) The Christian Life	N: Perfection, Commandments, Righteous B: Law, Ugliness. Immortality <b>Mid-term Paper due</b>
<b>Ninth week</b> (Nov. 3, 5) The Sacraments	N: Incarnation, Blood B: Incarnation, Eucharist, Baptism
<b>Tenth week</b> (Nov. 10, 12)	<b>Second Round of Presentations</b>
<b>Eleventh week</b> (Nov. 17, 19) Mission and Evangelism	N: Salvation, Neighbor, Evangelism B: Disciple, Fool, Ugliness <i>The Next Christianity</i>
<b>Twelfth week</b> (Nov. 24) Sin, Death, and the Devil	N: Sinner/Wretch/, Good/Evil, Hell B: (The 7 Deadly Sins), Homelessness  <b>~Thanksgiving Break~</b>  <i>(Christian Ministry and Love)</i>
<b>Thirteenth week</b> (Dec. 1, 3) Love	N: Idolatry, Trinity B: Saint, Neighbor, Trinity
<b>Fourteenth week</b> (Dec. 8, 10) Joy and Mystery	N: Annunciation, Prayer as Mystery B: Mystery, Myth, Joy
<b>Fifteenth week</b> (Dec. 15, 17)	<b>Final Exam Week</b>