

CMIN 108: CHRISTIAN LIFE, FAITH and MINISTRY

Section 09 T/R 2:45-4:10

Division of Religion and Philosophy; Department of Practical Theology

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Office of the Campus Pastor (East Campus) - Phone: 3123

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

UNIVERSITY STATEMENT OF MISSION & PURPOSE:

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.

Division of Religion and Philosophy:

The Division of Religion and Philosophy exists by the grace of God to equip and encourage men and women as they advance towards their educational and professional goals of service to the church and society in the name of Jesus Christ. Motivated by a vision of God's love consistent with the Wesleyan heritage of evangelical Christianity, we pursue this mission through coordinated courses of study appropriate to our various degree programs, and through opportunities for Christian scholarship and ministry.

Department of Practical Theology Mission Statement:

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 and spiritual formation.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

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 Christ is emphasized. This course meets general studies requirement in Ministry and core requirement in God's Word and the Christian Response.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

1. Students should be able to use Scripture, Tradition, Reason and Experience (Wesleyan Quadrilateral) to evaluate and shape their theological understanding and practice of Christian life and ministry.
2. Students should be able to begin cultivating a globally informed Christian worldview.
3. Students should be able to identify and demonstrate various means of integrating their faith into their personal and professional lives.
4. Students should be able to explain and apply a practical theology method to assess various contemporary issues.
5. Students should be able to demonstrate university level written and oral presentation skills.

REQUIRED READING:

John Ortberg. (1997). *The Life You've Always Wanted*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan [ISBN: 0310246954].

Donald Kraybill. (1978) *The Upside-Down Kingdom*. Scottdale, PA: Harold Press [ISBN: 0836192362].

Martin Luther King. (1981) *Strength to Love*, Minneapolis, MN: Augsburg Fortress Press [0800614410].

Students should purchase a #2 pencil and 8 scantron sheets which should be kept with their course notebook for unannounced quizzes and the two course exams.

Recommended Reading:

Augsburger, David. (1981 Revised edition). *Caring Enough to Confront*. Ventura, CA: Regal Press [0-8307-0733-6].

Bilkezikian, Gilbert. (1993). *Christianity 101: Your Guide to Eight Christian Beliefs*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House [0-310-57701-2].

Blackaby, Henry T. and Claude V. King. (1994). *Experiencing God*. Nashville, TE: Broadman and Holman Publishers [0-8054-0197-0].

Cloud, Henry and John Townsend. (1992). *Boundaries*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House [0-310-58590-2].

Kraybill, Donald B. (2003 Revised edition). *The Upside-Down Kingdom*. Scottsdale, PA: Herald Press [ISBN: 0-8361-9236-2]

Mulholland, M. Robert Jr. (1993). *Invitation to a Journey*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press [0-8308-1386-1].

Nouwen, Henri J. M. (1992). *Life of the Beloved*. New York: The Crossroad Publishing Company [0-8245-1986-8]

Pearcey, Nancy R. (2005 Study Guide Edition) *Total Truth: Liberating Christianity from Its Cultural Captivity*. Wheaton, IL: Crossway Books [1-58134-746-4].

Seamands, David A. (2002) *Healing for Damaged Emotions*. Colorado Springs, CO: Cook Communications Ministries [0-89693-938-3].

Smedes, Lewis B. (1996) *Forgive and Forget*. San Francisco, CA: Harper Collins Publishers Inc. [0-06-067431-8]

Stassen, Glen H. and David P. Gushee. (2003). *Kingdom Ethics: Following Jesus in Contemporary Context*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press [0-8308-2668-8].

Strobel, Lee. (1998). *A Case for Christ*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House [0-310-20930-7].

Sumner, Sarah. (2003). *Men and Women in the Church*. Downers Grove: IL: InterVarsity Press [0-8308-2391-3].

Willard, Dallas. (1999). *Hearing God*. Downers Grove: IL: InterVarsity Press [0-8308-2226-7]

COURSE ASSIGNMENTS:

A. Written Assignments: (80 total pts. /each assignment = 20pts.)

Throughout the semester there will be five written assignments that will be given. The dates for these assignments will be announced in class. Each assignment will be worth 20 points. At the end of the term the lowest score will be dropped. **No assignments will be accepted via e-mail and no late assignments will be accepted!**

1. Spiritual Discipline Paper

Out of your reading in the book *The Life You've Always Wanted* choose one spiritual discipline that you will practice. Your two page paper should include the following five points.

- a. Specifically describe your goal with the discipline you have chosen, why you have chosen it and what change you hope will take place. Note how you will measure this goal. Also include the approximate time you will give to this discipline each time you practice it. You need to practice it three times a week.
- b. Include a passage of Scripture that supports this spiritual practice and explain how it supports this discipline.
- c. Name a key conviction, and a key action that will most work against you. Describe how they could work against you and how you will work through these challenges.
- d. Who will hold you accountable by checking up on you at least once a week on how you are doing. Include their name and contact information in the paper. You may choose to use a journal for this accountability part.
- e. Write why your goal is realistic. This would include the issues of time and the level of difficulty in carrying out this practice.

2. Assessment of Spiritual Discipline

Your assessment of your spiritual discipline should include the following five points in this two page paper.

- a. Restate your goal which should include the specific goal, how it was measured and the accountability piece for this goal.
- b. Assess how you did on achieving your goal. Note any changes you made on your goal.
- c. Analyze how you dealt with the key conviction and key action that was working against your implementation of this discipline. Describe any other difficulties you dealt with in working on this goal.
- d. What changes, if any, took place in your relationship with God and with others.
- e. Reflect on your next step in spiritual disciplines. Is this a spiritual practice you plan to continue? Is there another practice you may consider?

3. Jesus' Convictions

Choose four of Jesus' convictions that you think are significant. Use any passage out of Matthew, Mark, Luke or John. Especially note the "Sermon on the Mount" (Matthew chapters 5-7). Include points **a**, **b**, **c** and **d** for each conviction before moving on to the next one. After you have completed the four convictions, then do point **e** as the final part of this paper. This paper should be two pages.

- a. Write out Jesus' conviction.
- b. Provide a scripture that supports the conviction.
- c. Give an example of how Jesus lived out this conviction.
- d. Describe, in six to eight lines, what would happen in your life if you lived out this conviction.
- e. Out of these four convictions, choose the one that would be most important for for you to live out now and explain why.

B. DECIDE Presentation: (80 points)

- The practical theology method that we will use is DECIDE. This method will be taught in the second half of the semester. Each student will be a part of a **group of six students (Your CLFM Group)** who will choose a theme to research and develop in the second half of the semester. Each group will then do a presentation in class on this topic for **20 minutes** on a predetermined date during the last two weeks of class. (You will lose points for not adhering to the 20 minute time limit, we will have a 3 minute grace period before and after 20 minutes) Each group is responsible to complete an outline and a two page, double spaced paper describing your topic, answering all six questions on the decide worksheet, along with a works cited page (you must use six different sources). All groups must present on the date they signed up for, you will not be able to make up a missed presentation.
- Creativity is encouraged and each group member will receive the same core grade. Your presentation will be scored based on this rubric (5 pts) outline, (10 pts) 2 page paper / decide worksheet & works cited page, (25 pts) competency & clarity of the material, (10 pts) organization, flow and the length of the presentation (10 pts) creativity (Use of technology, insightful examples and helpful tools), (20 pts) peer evaluation (based on the groups evaluation of your participation throughout the second half of the semester on the project)
- Your group may choose a theme from the list below or choose a theme not listed. Themes not listed need to be approved by the teachers. Each group is responsible to turn in a brief summary of their theme.

Themes:

- Christianity and the environment
- Internet and individualism
- Capital punishment
- Purity and sexuality
- Christian and cultural expectations of women
- Christian and cultural expectations of men
- Credit card debt
- Health care for the uninsured
- Money as power
- Entertainment and ethics
- Spiritual friendships
- Justice for the poor
- Christian and business worldviews
- Serving in the military
- Civil disobedience
- Art in every day life
- Watching R rated movies

- Christians and racism
- Christians and eating
- Community service
- Voting for political candidates
- Euthanasia
- Friendships with people from other religions
- Vocation and faith
- Christians and homosexuality
- The church for the 21st century
- Christians and evangelism
- World Tour, World of Warcraft, Call of Duty, Brawl and community

C. Quizzes: (80 total pts. /Each quiz = 20pts.)

Five quizzes will be given over the duration of the semester. These quizzes will cover the previous class lecture and the reading assignment scheduled for the class day on which the quiz is given. At the end of the term the lowest quiz grade will be dropped. Students will be required to have a #2 pencil and scantron sheets in their possession each class period in the event of a quiz. Failure to have a #2 pencil and scantron sheet will be considered a lack of preparedness for the class and result in a zero on the quiz for that day. Students who are late or absent on the day when a quiz is given will not be allowed to make up the quiz. Quizzes may be given at any time in the class.

C. Exam: (160 total pts.)

There will be a Mid-term and Final Exam administered during the course of the semester. Both exams will require the student to have a #2 pencil and a scantron sheet:

- Mid-Term Exam; TBA worth *80 points*.
- Final Exam; TBA, worth *80 points*.

D. Reading Assignments:

Each student must maintain and be responsible for the reading of the texts. See attached reading schedule. Class lectures are not taken from the texts, thus it is important that you keep up with the reading schedule. Students will be held accountable for the required reading through unannounced quizzes and in-class assignments.

E. Participation Points: (60 total points)

Each student will be a part of a group of six students which will meet through out the semester. Each group will meet seven times in class through out the semester to discuss the topic for the day. Each group will turn in one copy of notes that reflects the group discussion along with the signature of each person present. Each group can earn up to ten points per each of the seven times we meet. At the end of the semester the lowest score will be dropped. If you are not present, you cannot make up these points. If any one writes down the name of a group member who is not present, each member of the group will receive a "0" for that day and lose an additional 20 points off of their total participation score. This will be the same group that you will do the "DECIDE" project

with in the second half of the semester. Note that different point values are given for your involvement in the DECIDE assignment.

GRADING SCALE:

Semester points are as follows:

Assignment	Point Values
In-Class Assignments	80 pts.
DECIDE Presentation/Discussion	80 pts.
Quizzes	80 pts.
Mid-Term Exam	80 pts.
Final Exam	80 pts.
Participation	60 pts.
TOTAL POINTS	460 points

Grading Scale:

A = 432 - 460	B = 386 - 403	C = 340 - 357	D = 294 - 311
A- = 414 - 431	B- = 368 - 385	C- = 322 - 339	D - = 276 - 293
B+ = 404 - 413	C+ = 358 - 367	D+ = 312 - 321	F = 275

COURSE & ASSIGNMENT SCHEDULE:

Date	Class Topic	Reading	Assignment Due
	Christian Faith		
Thurs. 9/10	Course Introduction: Syllabus Overview		
Tues. 9/15	Created in the Image of God	The Life – Ch. 1-3	
Thurs. 9/17	Following Jesus	The Life – Ch. 4-5 Strength - Sermon 1	
Tues. 9/22	Transformation God's Role/Our Role	The Life – Ch. 6-8	
Thurs. 9/24	Transformation Life Events/Community	The Life – Ch. 9-10 Strength – Sermon 2	
Tues. 9/29	Transformation Spiritual Disciplines	Kingdom – Ch 1	
Thurs. 10/1	Truth and Moral Relativism	Kingdom – Ch 2	
Tues. 10/6	Scripture and Faith	Kingdom – Ch 3 Strength – Sermon 4	
	Christian Life		
Thurs 10/8	The Role of Prayer in the Christian Life	Kingdom – Ch 4	
Tues. 10/13	The Problem of Sin and Evil	Kingdom – Ch. 5 Strength – Sermon 8	

Thurs. 10/15	The Incarnation and Redemption	Kingdom– Ch. 6	
Tues. 10/20	Christian Living in the Context of Individualism	Kingdom – Ch. 7 Strength – Sermon 3	
Thurs. 10/22	Mid-Term Exam		
Tues. 10/27	Christian Living in the Context of Consumerism	Kingdom – Ch. 8	
Thurs. 10/29	DECIDE	Kingdom – Ch. 9	Brief Summary of DECIDE Theme
Tues. 11/3	A Lifestyle of Forgiveness	Kingdom – Ch. 10	
Thurs. 11/5	Christian Education and New Age	Kingdom – Ch. 11	Turn in DECIDE Outline
	Christian Ministry		
Tues. 11/10	Healthy Relationships	Kingdom – Ch 12	
Thurs. 11/12	Relationships in the Church and Outside the Church		
Tues. 11/17	Spiritual Gifts		
Thurs. 11/19	Vocation and the Priesthood of Believers		
Tues. 11/24	Partnering with God in Mission, Service and Evangelism	Strength – Sermons 13 & 14	
Thurs. 11/26	Thanksgiving		
Tues. 12/1	DECIDE Presentations		
Thurs. 12/3	DECIDE Presentations		
Tues. 12/8	DECIDE Presentations		
Thurs. 12/10	DECIDE Presentations		
Thurs. 12/17	Final Exam 12:15 – 2:15		

CLASS ATTENDANCE:

Students are responsible for class attendance. Attendance will be taken through class assignments and quizzes. **Students who come into class late or miss class entirely are responsible to get notes and assignments from a class member.** Quizzes, or in-class assignments missed by an absence, by being late, or leaving early will be recorded as a

zero. Note that your lowest quiz, assignment and participation paper will be dropped at the end of the semester. We would encourage you to keep those potential absentness times of sickness or heavy assignment times.

We will **not** be using laptop computers in class. **You are expected to be on time. Quizzes or assignments may be given at different times during the class. If you are not present when a quiz or assignment is given, you cannot make up either one.**

ASSIGNMENT POLICY:

All assignments are due *at the beginning of the hour that the class meets*. If a student anticipates an absence the day that an assignment is due, he/she must get the assignment to the instructor *before* the hour that the class meets. My office is located on East Campus in the Office of the Campus Pastor. **No late assignment will be accepted.**

Grades will only be awarded for **completed** assignments. If a student does not complete the entire assignment, he/she will not receive any credit for the assignment.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY:

Students must read and abide by the “*Academic Integrity*” guidelines found in the Student Handbook. Any student who is caught cheating or plagiarizing will automatically receive a failure grade on that assignment or exam and may face disciplinary action and consequences in addition to the failed assignment grade.

EXAM POLICY:

Both exams must be taken on the scheduled day. No exam will be given early as per policy of the University.

ACADEMIC SUPPORT:

Any student who struggles with the pace and content of this course should notify the professor as soon as possible. Help is available through the Learning Enrichment Center for students who need assistance with learning.

CLASSROOM PARTICIPATION:

Classroom discussion and dialogue are a significant part of the course curriculum. Consequently it is important for the student to realize that there is more to this course than just showing up and being on time. Students will be evaluated on their participation throughout the semester. Students should take the initiative to contribute to the energy, life, community, creativity, intellectual dynamic and spiritual vitality of the classroom. This is especially true if the student feels disengaged, bored, disinterested or finds the course content to be irrelevant.

The professor reserves the right to alter this syllabus at any time should it be warranted by the demands of sound pedagogy.

Group Presentation Rubric

Group ____ Group Members _____

Topic: _____

- _____/ (5 pts) Outline
- _____/ (10 pts) 3 Page Paper/Works cited page
- _____/ (25 pts) Competency of the material
- _____/ (10 pts) Organization, flow and the length of the presentation
- _____/ (10 pts) Creativity
- _____/ (20 pts) Peer evaluation
- _____/ (80 pts)

Student Information Sheet
Fall 2009
CMIN 108 Christian Life, Faith and Ministry (09)
Mark Sanford, Prof

NAME _____

Email: _____

Phone _____

Freshman/Sophomore/Junior/Senior (circle one)

Major _____

BIBLE COURSES:

List courses completed:

100 level Bible courses: _____

200 level Bible courses: _____

What is your purpose in taking this course?

Other comments: