

AZUSA PACIFIC UNIVERSITY
Division of Religion and Philosophy
Department of Practical Theology
Course Instruction Plan

Course: CMIN 108 (Section 08) Christian Life, Faith and Ministry

Term: Fall 2009

Units: 3

Time: 2:45 p.m. – 4:10 p.m. (Monday/Wednesday)

Classroom: Duke 121

Instructor: Dr. Lynn Thrush

Office: Duke Academic Building, Second Floor, Undergraduate Office

Email: LThrush@apu.edu

Phone: (909) 628-6598

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

Office Hours: By appointment

Administrative Assistant: Pat Losie, ext 5452, plosie@apu.edu

APU Mission Statement:

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 for carrying out the ministry mandate of Jesus is emphasized. Field experience is required. *Meets general studies requirement in Ministry and core requirement in God's Word and the Christian Response.*

There are no prerequisites for this course.

Student Learning Outcomes of CMIN 108

1. Students will articulate a clear understanding of the values of the Christian life.
2. Students will articulate commitment to personal values based on a rigorous assessment of Christian life and faith.
3. Students will describe a Christian worldview within the larger context of pluralistic society.
4. Students will identify relationships between Christian beliefs and other disciplines.
5. Students will list ways that a follower of Christ is a minister wherever one works and lives.
6. Students will list the components of a practical theology method for the integration of faith and daily life.
7. Students will identify how their vocation contributes to the Kingdom of God, especially related to God redeeming people and restoring creation.

Required Texts:

Bruyneel, Sally and Padgett, Alan G. *Introducing Christian*. New York: Mary Knoll, 2003. ISBN 1-57075-395-4

McLaren, Brian D. *Everything Must Change: Jesus, Global Crises, and a Revolution of Hope*. Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 2007. ISBN 13: 978-0-8499-0183-6

Thurman, Howard. *Jesus and the Disinherited*. Boston: Beacon Press, 1996. ISBN 978-08070-1029-7

Young, William P. *The Shack: Where Tragedy Confronts Eternity*. Newbury Park, CA: Windblown Media, 2007. ISBN – 13:978-0964729247

Style Standard:

The style standard by which writing assignments will be evaluated – *Turabian/Chicago Manual of Style*. See: <http://www.dianahacker.com/resdoc/>

Course Requirements:

1. **Regular attendance. (125 points)** (Prerequisite to all student learning outcomes.)
 - a. Attendance is worth five points per class.
 - b. Twenty-five class days.
2. **Reading/Class Discussion/Quizzes. (100 points)** (Prerequisite to all student learning outcomes.)
 - a. Quizzes will be conducted on the reading and previous class discussions beginning on Sept. 14 (Twenty quizzes)
 - b. Five points per quiz. Bring small scantron and #2 pencil to every quiz.
 - c. No make-ups for quizzes.
3. **Two Mid-term Exams. (100 points total)** (Fulfills student learning outcomes 1 and

- 2 in exam 1, and outcomes 3 and 4 in exam 2.)
- a. Two mid-term exams will cover class material at one third and two thirds markers of the class. (50 points each)
 - b. Dates of exam according to the syllabus.
4. **Final Exam (100 points total)** (Fulfills student learning outcome 7.)
- a. Will cover the entire semester.
 - b. Date of final exam according to the syllabus.
5. **Service Hours Completed. (125 points).** (Fulfills student learning outcomes 5 and 6.)
- a. Each student is required to participate for 15 hours in a ministry of her or his choosing. The ministry service will be done through The Office of Ministry and Service (MAS), or on your own with Dr. Thrush's approval. These hours will count toward the student's APU ministry hours requirement. **100 points**
 - b. At the conclusion a one page summary of the value of the experience will be submitted. Due Dec. 7. **25 points**
 - c. Mid-semester reporting of seven hours completed due on Oct. 12. (You will need a form/paper signed by the advisor to whom you are responsible.) Final reporting of fifteen hours completed due Dec. 7.
6. **Three reflection papers (100 points total)**
- a. Write a two page paper on your context with regard to the Christian faith. Whether from within or without this faith, describe what about the Christian faith is most magnetic to you. Due Sept. 21. **20 points**
 - b. Write two pages on *The Shack's* understanding of God. Develop several implications of this understanding. Due Oct. 28. **30 points**
 - c. Select one of the eight parts of *Everything Must Change* and write four pages on your response to what is written there. Due Dec. 7. **50 points**

Total points for the course – 650 points

6. **Extra credit – (35 points)**
- a. Due anytime from Nov. 30 to class time Dec. 7.
 - b. In a two-page paper (double-spaced) indicate how you are growing/stretching in your thinking about Christian life, faith and ministry because of this class.

Evaluation/Assessment Rationale:

- a. Final grade will be determined by summing the above requirement totals and the optional extra credit opportunity.
- b. Each assignment has a maximum total point value given above.
- c. Grading Grid is as follows:

A	611 or higher
A-	585
B+	565
B	546
B-	520
C+	500

C	481
C-	455
D+	435
D	416
D-	390
F	389 and below

Course Bibliography

Boyd, Gregory A. *God of the Possible*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 2000.

(An important book in understanding God.)

Boyd, Gregory A. *The Myth of a Christian Nation*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2005.

(Understanding our identification in God's Kingdom as our primary allegiance.)

Hughes, Richard T. *The Vocation of a Christian Scholar: How Christian Faith Can Sustain the Life of the Mind*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2005.

(An insightful book on the integration of faith and contemporary culture.)

MacKinnon, Catharine A. *Women's Lives; Men's Laws*. Cambridge, MA: The Belknap Press of Harvard University Press, 2005.

(A powerful text on the pornographization of women.)

Palmer, Parker J. *Let Your Life Speak: Listening for the Voice of Vocation*. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass, 2000.

(Rather than finding your vocation, let your vocation find you.)

Palmer, Parker. *To Know As We Are Known/ A Spirituality of Education*. San Francisco: Harper and Row, 1983.

(A wonderful and nearly timeless book on wholeness in learning and teaching.)

Pinnock, Clark H. *Flame of Love: A Theology of the Holy Spirit*.

Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1996.

(Includes a section on how Christians see God's Spirit working in other religions.)

Sider, Ronald J. *Just Generosity: A New Vision for Overcoming Poverty in America*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 1999.

(A kingdom of God, restoring the earth text.)

Stark, Rodney. *For the Glory of God*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2003.
(How science was birthed out of Christianity.)

Wright, Christopher J.H. *The Mission of God*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP Academic, 2006.
(A marvelous biblical theology describing God's mission from creation to cosmic transformation.)

Course Policies:

Make-up Tests. There are no make-up tests given in this class. The only excuse for missing a test is documented illness. Documentation must be either a note from the school nurse or from a doctor. If you will be participating in a school activity or will be absent from an exam for any other reason, you must make arrangements with the professor **before the day of the exam**.

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." If you anticipate the need to take the final exam early, please initiate this procedure now.

Student Standards of Conduct (From the Student Handbook)

Expectations for Living in Community

All students must respect and comply with lifestyle expectations and all university policies and procedures. Each student is responsible for reading and adhering to the procedures and regulations outlined in the handbook, the Undergraduate Catalog, and any additional policies related to living in the APU community.

Students are encouraged to hold one another accountable to community and university standards to foster personal growth and development.

1.0 Community Social Misconduct: Community social misconduct is defined generally as any act(s) that threaten the well-being of the community, its integrity and Christian values, or the well-being of any member of the community and guests.

8.0 Inappropriate, Lewd, Indecent, or Obscene Behavior or Language: Inappropriate, lewd, indecent, or obscene behavior, language, music, or dress will not be tolerated. This includes but is not limited to the possession or display of pornographic and/or sexually suggestive material, and derogatory

racial/ethnic material in any form on university-owned or leased premises, including on computers.

Academic Integrity/Plagiarism Statement: The mission of Azusa Pacific University includes cultivating in each student not only the academic skills that are required for a university degree, but also 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 each student a sense of moral responsibility consistent with the biblical teachings of honesty and accountability. Furthermore, a breach of academic integrity is viewed not merely as a private matter between the student and an instructor but rather as an act that is fundamentally inconsistent with the purpose and mission of the entire university. A complete copy of the Academic Integrity Policy is available in the Office of Student Life, the Office of the Vice Provost for Undergraduate Programs, and online.

Students found guilty of plagiarism will be reported to the Provost, and a memorandum of the plagiarism event will be placed in the student's permanent file in the Provost's office.

Students with Disabilities. Students in this course who have a disability that might prevent them from fully demonstrating their abilities should meet with an advisor in the Learning Enrichment Center (ext. 3849) as soon as possible to initiate disability verification and discuss accommodations that may be necessary to ensure full participation in the successful completion of course requirements.

Writing Center Statement:

Students are encouraged to make use of the resources available at the Writing Center, offices located in the Marshburn Library on East Campus. The Writing Center is available to help students with all aspects of their writing projects.

University/Department Policies:

All university and departmental policies affecting student work, appeals, and grievances, as outlined in the Undergraduate Catalog and/or Department Handbook will apply, unless otherwise indicated in this syllabus.

Course Schedule:

This schedule is **subject to change** at the instructor's discretion.

Reading schedule included. Bruyneel and Padgett – BP

McLaren - M

Thurman – T

Young – Y

What Is Christian Faith?

Sept. 9	Why This Class is Life-Changing: (Introduction; Student Learning Outcomes, Service Learning)
Sept. 14	BP 1-2; M 1; Sacred Time, Sacred Space
Sept. 16	BP 3; M 2-3; Christian Worship
Sept. 21	BP 4; M 4-5; Who Is Jesus? Reflection paper #1 due.
Sept. 23	BP 5; M 6; What Is Scripture?
Sept. 28	BP 6; M 7; Christian History
Sept. 30	BP 7; M 8-9; The Church
Oct. 5	BP 8, M 10; What Is Truth? Exam #1

What Is Christian Life?

Oct. 7	Y and T and M 11-12; Worldview; How Does Context Affect Life, Faith, and Ministry? Discuss: <i>Jesus and the Disinherited</i> , by Howard Thurman
Oct. 12	Y; M 13-14; Your Concept of God Mid-term/7 hour Service Learning Check Due
Oct. 14	Study Day
Oct. 19	Study Day
Oct. 21	Y; M 15-16; Why Are Sin and Evil So Prevalent?
Oct. 26	Y; M 17-18; Wesleyan Quadrilateral
Oct. 28	Y; M 19-20; How Do We Experience Transformation? Reflection Paper #2 due.
Nov. 2	M 21-22; The Image of God and the Pornographization of Women
Nov. 4	M 23-24; Living by the Spirit
Nov. 9	M 25-26; Hope Exam #2

What Is Christian Ministry?

Nov. 11	M 27-28; Putting the World to Rights: From Creation to New Creation
Nov. 16	M 29-30; Why Is Vocation Important? (Possessing the Land)
Nov. 18	M 31; The Practical Theology Method
Nov. 23	M 32; What Role Does Mission, Service, and Evangelism Have for Our Lives?
Nov. 25	M 33; Ethics
Nov. 30	M 34; Why Christian Education? Why APU?
Dec. 2	How Do We Relate to Those Inside and Outside the Church?
Dec. 7	Everything Must Change Reflection Paper #3 due. Service Learning Report of hours and Paper due.
Dec. 9	Final; 12:15 p.m. to 2:15 p.m.