

Course Outline: Winter 2019



Field Education: Parish/Community Practicum

FE 5212b

Location: W102

Day(s): Tuesdays

Time: 9:30- 11:30

Instructor(s): The Rev. Canon Greg Smith

Contact Info: Office: A218

tel.: 519 438 7224 ext. 251

gsmith@uwo.ca

Prerequisite Required for this Course

Field Education 5110a, Field Education 5211a. Unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you may be removed from this course, and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.

Course Description

Principles and issues of pastoral and administrative congregational leadership are studied and competencies nurtured through a practicum placement, reading, class lectures, community guest presentations, group work and assignments. Students gain familiarity with the practical realities of congregational leadership for the 21st century with the goal of progressing competency in practices, critical thinking and informed pastoral sensitivity.

Rationale

“Before the altar of God, at the bedside of the sick, in conversation with troubled souls, befuddled before the biblical text, there is the pastor. Standing in that fateful intersection between God’s people and God, at that risky transaction between Christ and his Body, the church, stands the priest. It is no small thing to be in mediation between God and humanity, to offer the gifts of God’s people, to intercede for the suffering of the world in prayer, rightly to divide the Word of God...” William H. Willomen, *Pastor*

The vocation of a Christian pastoral leader in the 21st century is complex and requires a wide range of skills and awareness. Ordaining authorities are looking for a wide variety of competencies in candidates who present themselves for vocational ministries within the churches. The mentorship and shared experience of a wide range of practitioners may be the best source of preparedness in the transition from student to pastor/priest.

1. Course Syllabus

1.1 Course Objectives and Outcomes:

As a result of class participation and experience in the field placement you will be able to:

- Develop a commitment to, vision for, and the practical skills necessary to lead church growth and development through mission, evangelism and discipleship
- Prepare a Learning Covenant and communicate those goals with your Supervisor and Learning Support Group
- Become familiar with the development of learning goals
- Develop skills/strategies for integrating personal faith and the public demands of ministry
- Gain experience in facilitating small groups
- Become familiar with many aspects of Parish administration and management
- Develop insight into change management, collaborative ministries and conflict mediation and resolution
- Have a broader understanding of professional boundaries and professional ethics that relate to the practice of ministry

- Increase skills in self-reflection and critical theological thinking
- Discover the breadth and scope of the pastoral, priestly and prophetic ministry

1.2 Course Content

Students will participate in a 10-12 hour practicum placement under the supervision of a ministry practitioner and with the support of a Learning Support Group within a congregational setting (for those seeking ordination to parish ministry) or community social service site (for those preparing for other vocational ministries). The placement is made through the office of the Director of Field Education prior to the beginning of term. Class time will consist of discussion of assigned readings, lectures, and student presentations. They will aim to cover a variety of ministry topics supplementing the experiences in the field.

2. Course Materials

2.1 Required:

(Same texts as FE 5211)

Willomen, William H.; Pastor: The Theology and Practice of Ordained Ministry, Abingdon Press (Nashville; Revised 2016) ISBN 9781501804908

Clark-King, Ellen; The Path to Your Door: Approaches to Christian Spirituality, Continuum International, (London, UK; 2011) ISBN 9781441157638

There will be articles as assigned accessible on OWL course site. Below you will find a list of suggested readings. Your site supervisor may also assign reading or other source material.

2.2 Additional Recommended reading:

Diana Butler Bass, *Christianity After Religion: The End of the Church and the Birth of a New Spiritual Awakening*, Harper One, 2012
Diana Butler Bass, *Grounded*, Harper One, 2015
Katherine Ozment, *Grace Without God: The Search for Meaning, Purpose and Belonging in a Secular Age*, Harper Wave, 2016
Philip Gulley, *If the Church Were Christian*, Harper Collins, 2010
Brian McLaren, *A Generous Orthodoxy*, Zondervan, 2004
Brian McLaren, *A New Kind of Christianity*, Harper One, 2010
James Hunter, *The World's Most Powerful Leadership Principle* (How To Become a Servant Leader), Crown Business, 2004
H. Richard Niebuhr, *Christ and Culture*, Harper and Row, 1951
Phyllis Tickle, *The Great Emergence: How Christianity Is Changing and Why*, Baker, 2008
Richard Dawkins, *The God Delusion*, Houghton Mifflin, 2006
Sara Miles, *Take This Bread*, Ballantine Books, 2007
Henri Nouwen, *The Living Reminder*, Anglican Book Centre, 1982.
Henri Nouwen, *The Wounded Healer*, Doubleday, 1972.

3. Assignments & Methods of Evaluation:

3.1 Field Placement

10-12 hours/wk Practicum Field Placement during term **20%**

Learning Covenant (new, renewed, revised as per location) due no later than Jan.25 **5%**

Field evaluation completed by Student, Supervisor and Learning Support Group due the Friday following the end of term **April 9, 2019** (3 copies signed by participants) **15%**

3.2 Class participation

Since much of this course is reflection on experience, it is important that students participate in a process of learning in a peer environment. Students will be expected to participate in class discussion and questioning in a manner which indicates sincerity, integrity, and respect for others. Class members will be asked to lead other class members in one of the spiritual practices referenced in “The Path to Your Door” by Ellen Clark-King. This will be scheduled during the first class. **10%**

3.3 Book Review and Reflection Paper – “Pastor” by William H. Willomen

Using William Willomen’s book “Pastor” and its chapter headings as a guide, reflect on the relevance of Willomen’s ideas with reference to your experience in the placement site. You will want to include:

- A brief summary of Willomen’s overall thesis/ attitude toward the role of the Pastor in the 21st century church.
- Under the headings of the book’s chapters: how have you witnessed the accuracy/relevance of Willomen’s ideas. Please be specific with examples.
- How have you witnessed some challenges to his ideas in your particular setting?
- A personal reflection on your developing role as a pastor in the Canadian context of today.

The paper should be 10-15 pages (double spaced) in length. It is due **March 8. 35%**.

3.4 Case Study Due March 26 or April 2

Develop a case study based on a pastoral situation or event, taking place in your field placement during the present term or last term. The purpose is to provide the opportunity to reflect on leadership, decision-making and pastoral strategies for ministry. These case studies will be presented in class during three classes towards the end of the term. The class will have opportunity to reflect on them and learn from them. The final formal written case study will be handed in after presentation (due the day of presentation: March 26, April 2). **15%**

Sections of a Case Study:

- Describe the setting.
- Describe the event: persons and actions involved objectively (names changed)
- Assessment of what occurred. What was effective? (Include decisions made and decision makers. What was done? Why was it done? What decision would you likely make given the circumstances and information you have available? What could have been done differently?)
- Theological reflection. How was God present?

- Learning gained from the event for future pastoral encounters and generally for effective ministry.

Class Presentation:

- You might consider having copies of the case available for each member of the class.
- List characters and their roles (visual listing can be helpful)
- Give pertinent background information and review the events as they unfolded.
- Give time for further background questions from the class.
- Before telling what decisions were made or actions taken, consider group opportunities for assessment and discerning choices.
- Report on decisions made or actions taken and why. What would you have done? What other course of action, if any, might be appropriate? Why?
- Allow for class reflection on best practices.

A Pass for the course will be constituted of a positive recommendation from your field supervisor, attendance at and participation in classes, and responsible completion of assignments.

Additional Statements:

1. **Statement on Use of Electronic Devices during Tests and Exams**

It is not appropriate to use technology (such as, but not limited to, laptops, PDAs, cell phones) in the classroom for non-classroom activities. Such activity is disruptive and is distracting to other students and to the instructor, and can inhibit learning. Students are expected to respect the classroom environment and to refrain from inappropriate use of technology and other electronic devices in class.

2. **Statement on Academic Offences:** Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following web site: <http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/scholoff.pdf>."

A) **Plagiarism-detecting Software/Computer Marking:**

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (<http://www.turnitin.com>). Computer-marked multiple-choice tests and/or exams may be subject to submission for similarity review by software that will check for unusual coincidences in answer patterns that may indicate cheating.

3. **Support Services:**

- UWO Registrar's Office: <http://www4.registrar.uwo.ca>
- Huron's Faculty of Theology, Office of the Dean:
http://www.huronuc.on.ca/faculty_of_theology/info_for_current_students
- Faculty of Theology office: srice@uwo.ca, 519-438-7224, ext. 289
- Huron's Writing Skills Centre: http://www.huronuc.on.ca/student_life/writing_services
- UWO's Mental Health website: <http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/>
- UWO Student Support and Development Services:
http://communications.uwo.ca/current_students/student_services.htm

4. Accommodation for absences:

If documentation is required for either medical or non-medical academic accommodation, then such documentation must be submitted by the student directly to your Faculty's Dean's office (or academic counselor), and not to the instructor. For the Faculty of Theology, all such documentation must be submitted to room A227. It will be the Dean's office that will determine if accommodation is warranted.

a) Non-medical absences:

One mark will be deducted on a daily basis for late work, and no assignments will be accepted beyond the last day of term.

b) Medical absences: See also the Policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness

—Undergraduate Students, at <http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/medical.pdf>)

For work representing 10% or more of the overall grade for the course, a student must present documentation indicating that the student was seriously affected by illness and could not reasonably be expected to meet his/her academic responsibilities. Documentation must be submitted as soon as possible to your Faculty Dean's office (Huron Arts & Social Science students should take their documentation to the Academic Counsellor, through the Academic Services Centre at Huron), together with a Request for Relief specifying the nature of the accommodation requested. The request and documentation will be assessed and appropriate accommodation will be determined by the Dean's office in consultation with the instructor(s.) Academic accommodation will be granted ONLY where the documentation indicates that the onset, duration and severity of the illness are such that the student could not reasonably be expected to complete his/her academic responsibilities.

The UWO Student Medical Certificate (SMC) and Request for Relief are available at the Student Centre website (<https://studentservices.uwo.ca/secure/index.cfm>), Huron University College Academic Counseling website (www.huronuc.on.ca) or from the Dean's Office or Academic Services Centre at Huron.

5212B Winter/Spring 2019 Schedule of Classes

Jan 08 (classes start Jan 07) Review of Learning Covenant, Outcomes of placement.

Small group leadership; pedagogical methods.

- Westerhoff "Formation, Education, Instruction" (OWL)

Jan 15 Finances and Stewardship (Andra O'Neill)

Jan 22 Catechesis/Catechumenate

Readings:

- Anderson "Stop, Look, and Listen" (OWL)
- Hill "Making Disciples the Way Jesus Did" (OWL)

Learning Covenant due.

Jan 29 Preparing congregations for responding to social issues.

Example: Assisted Death and the impact for ministry.

Feb 5 Funeral Home Visit/ Community relationships (A. Millard George Funeral Home, Ridout St.)

Feb 12 Parish Nursing and issues of the Seniors and other vulnerable populations in churches

Feb 16 -24 Study Week

Feb 26 Global Christianity.

Interfaith relationships

Readings:

- Davis "Living into Interfaith" <https://alban.org/archive/living-into-interfaith/> (OWL)
- "Of Fences and Neighbors" article by Dr. Mattson (OWL)

<http://www.anewlife.ca/documentary>

Mar 5 **Book Review Reflection Paper due.**

Mar 12 A New Relationship with Indigenous Peoples (Bridge Builders, Diocese of Huron)

- Explore some Anglican views on Truth and Reconciliation
<http://www.anglican.ca/tr/mattertome/> (OWL)

Mar 19 Small Church Leadership (field trip to guests)

Coping with change and the new reality. Are things really that different?

Readings:

- "Whatever happened to Religion in Canada" (OWL)
- Miller-McLemore "Leadership in Scarcity" <https://alban.org/archive/leadership-in-scarcity/>
- Butler Bass, "The River" and "Epilogue" from "A People's History of Christianity" (OWL)

Mar 26 Case Studies (**hard copy due with presentation**)

Apr 2 Case Studies (**hard copy due with presentation**)

Apr 9 Last class (Evaluation; Case studies as necessary; check in re placement sites)

Evaluations due April 12