

Course: YM459-O Senior Seminar—Youth Ministry**Credit:** 3 Semester Hour**Semester:** Fall 2020 (Cycles 2-3)**Time:** At scheduled times**Instructor:** Shaun LePage, (816) 768-6971, shaun.lepage@calvary.edu, mobile: (785-840-8568); Office: Madison Hall Rm 225**I. Description.**

An integration of the theoretical and practical skills gained in the program in order to prepare the Youth Ministry student for securing a ministry position upon graduation. The course includes an assessment of the student's cumulative biblical, theological, and practical studies through an oral examination modeled after in the kinds of interviews faced in the ministry search process, the preparation of documents used in the normal job search process, and the development of a written philosophy and strategy of ministry appropriate to the kind of youth ministry sought upon graduation.

II. Objectives.**A. General competencies to be achieved.** The student will be able to . . .

1. Demonstrate preparedness for youth ministry. (PLO- #1–5) (A- A, B, C, & D)
2. Begin the youth ministry search process. (PLO #1–5)

B. Specific competencies to be achieved. The student will be able to . . .

1. Defend a personal doctrinal statement and position statements on significant youth ministry issues. (PLO- #1, 3, &5) (A- A)
2. Study the current context of a youth ministry position and develop/refine a personal philosophy of ministry and ministry strategy for the same. (PLO- #2 & 5) (A- C)
3. Apply for a youth ministry position that corresponds to God's unique calling and gifting. (PLO- #2, 3, 4, & 5) (A- B, D)

III. Requirements.***Note:** Specific instructions for each assignment are posted in Canvas.**A. Prepare a personal written doctrinal statement and position statements on youth ministry issues and defend them in a simulated oral ordination examination.**

1. A third of the course will be spent discussing personal theological understanding and personal positions concerning youth ministry.

2. Following those discussions, the student will submit a written personal doctrinal statement and youth ministry position statements to include the following as a minimum but also others which are appropriate for the youth ministry context being sought upon graduation:
 - a. Parents & Youth Ministry.
 - b. Counseling Youth.
 - d. Large group Leadership.
 - e. Personal Philosophy & Practice of Teaching.
 - f. Financial integrity.
 - g. Justice/Reconciliation Issues & Youth Ministry.
 - h. Gender Issues in the Culture & Youth Ministry.
 - i. Joint Youth Group / Interchurch activities.
3. The student will take a one hour and fifteen minute oral examination of questions from a committee of college and seminary faculty. **Note:** If the performance is sub-standard, the student will be required to retake all, or part of, this oral examination.

B. Prepare documents necessary for securing a ministry position.

1. Student will interview at least three (3) youth pastors serving in the kind of ministry the student will seek upon graduation in order to discover the search process used, the kinds of documents needed, and suggestions for conducting a position search.
2. Following those interviews, the student will develop his own “template” copies of the kinds of documents needed for seeking and obtaining a ministry position, such as the following:
 - a. Cover Letter.
 - b. Resume.
 - c. Acceptance/Decline letters.
 - d. Thank-You notes/letters.
 - e. Statement of Personal Strengths, Limitations, & Weaknesses.
 - f. Teaching DVD.

C. Study the context of the ministry setting to be sought upon graduation and develop/refine a philosophy and strategy of ministry for that kind of ministry position.

1. Read at least two hundred (200) pages of materials (e.g., books, articles, written and online ministry materials) which will enable the student to understand the ministry dynamics and current needs of the kind of ministry position to be sought (**Notes:** A bibliography of all materials consulted will be submitted to document this reading).
2. Conduct an analysis of the type of ministry to be sought upon graduation
 - a. Interview at least 5 ministry leaders who are actively involved in that kind of ministry or have been actively involved for a significant time in the past.
 - b. Following the interviews, present significant findings from each interview in 5, 1-page papers.
 - c. Also conduct a SWOT analysis of the ministry setting of the kind of ministry to be sought upon graduation and present findings/conclusions in a 5-page paper.

3. Develop (or refine if already begun) a philosophy of ministry for this kind of ministry position.
4. Develop a strategy of ministry for this kind of ministry position.
5. The documents listed in "2" and "3" above will be combined into one document at least **fifteen** (15 pages) in length.

D. Interview by Ministry Studies Department Chairman.

1. Present all course documents to the Course Instructor for review; then the Course Instructor will present all the documents to the Ministry Studies Department Chairman for review.
2. The student will then be interviewed by the Ministry Studies Department Chairman before the awarding of the final grade.

IV. Methods.

A. Presentation:

1. **In-class methods:** discussions, questions and answers, taking oral exam, and interviews.

***About Class Attendance:** While this is not an in-class course, there are scheduled appointments with the course instructor. These must be made on time or rescheduled well in advance of each appointment.

***About the Oral Exam:** This is a formal oral exam involving others. Therefore, it is essential that the student be on time and prepared for this special session.

2. **Out-of-class methods:** reading, writing, research, interviewing, and studying for the oral exam and final interview.

B. Grading:

***About Written Assignments:** All class papers must follow the Turabian style according to *A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*, 8th edition and the Calvary Style Guide, 2019 update.

***About Late Assignments:** Assignments turned in late will be lowered **5%** for **each day** it is late.

***About Plagiarism:** Plagiarism is defined as copying any part of a book or essay without identifying that source. This also includes taking another person's ideas and presenting them as your own without identifying the source. Any assignment that includes plagiarism will receive a **zero (0) grade**.

***About Course Grade:** See the grading scale in the university catalog for specific grading scale that will be used for final course grade.

1. General grading criteria:

A = completed assignment well beyond assignment criteria

B = completed assignment as specified and very well done

C = completed assignment with average work

D = completed assignment but poorly

F = did not complete assignment and/or unacceptable work

2. Possible points for all assignments.

***Note:** An assignment-specific rubric will be provided for each assignment.

a. Oral Examination	= 200 points
b. Doctrinal & Personal Position Statements	= 100
c. Search Documents	= 100
d. Background Ministry Reading Bibliography	= 50
e. Ministry Interviews and papers	= 100
f. Ministry SWOT Analysis and paper	= 150
g. Philosophy & Strategy of Ministry Paper	= 300
	Total = 1000 points

V. Materials

A. Required Textbooks.

1. Bible. The Bible is a required textbook in every course at Calvary University. To facilitate academic level study, students are required to use for assignments and research an English translation or version of the Bible based on formal equivalence (*meaning that the translation is generally word-for-word from the original languages*), including any of the following: New American Standard (NASB, English Standard Version (ESV), New King James (NKJV), or King James (KJV). Other translations and versions based on dynamic equivalence (*paraphrases, and thought-for-thought translations like NLT and NIV*) may be used as supplemental sources. Please ask the professor if you have questions about a particular translation or version.
2. Ryrie, Charles C. *Basic Theology: A Popular Systematic Guide to Understanding Biblical Truth*. Chicago: Moody Publishers, 1999. **ISBN:** 978-0802-4273-42, **Retail price:** \$35.99
3. Background reading materials for ministry research (at least 200 pages).

B. Handouts.

1. All required Handouts will be posted in Canvas.

VI. TENTATIVE CLASS SCHEDULE: A specific meeting schedule will be established during the first office appointment. The student is expected to contact the course instructor before the first day of the course to set this first appointment.]

VI. NOTES

- A. About Disabilities:** Students with disabilities have the responsibility of informing the DSS Coordinator (dss@calvary.edu) of any disabling condition that may require support.
- B. About Assistance for All Course Assignments:** The Clark Academic Center (learning@calvary.edu), located in the library building, is dedicated to providing free academic assistance for all CU students. Student tutors aid with all facets of the writing process, tutor in various subject areas, prepare students for exams, and facilitate tests. Please take advantage of this service.
- C. About Changes to this Syllabus:** The instructor reserves the right to make changes to this syllabus at any time during the course, but any changes made will only be done after clearly communicating the need for the change and the specific change to be made via in-class announcement and Canvas announcement.