



# HARDING

## SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY

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### **BMIN 5877 – SPIRITUAL AND THEOLOGICAL FORMATION SP 2021, ONLINE (ASYNCHRONOUS) WITH OPTIONAL ZOOM SESSIONS**

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#### **INSTRUCTOR CONTACT**

**Dr. Carlus Gupton**  
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**Web:** <http://www.lifeandleadership.com>  
**Web:** <http://discpersonalitysource.com>

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#### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course examines the process of spiritual and theological formation for those in Christian leadership. This includes experiencing regular practices for spirituality and self-care, stewarding gifts and call, and cooperating with the Holy Spirit as he conforms us and those we serve into the image of Christ. It also brings theological and practical resources to bear on the nature of ministry in scripture and history, the contours of ministry in the current cultural milieu, the facets of ministry that integrate the full range of God's work of reconciliation (e.g. evangelism and social action), and the importance of local churches in God's economy. The course also addresses church governance and ministry in the Stone - Campbell tradition.

#### **COURSE OBJECTIVES**

- Engage regular practices for spirituality and self-care
- Assess and steward one's gifts and call
- Facilitate spiritual formation of oneself and those served
- Understand the nature of ministry in scripture, history, and the current cultural milieu
- Integrate in one's ministry the full range of God's work of reconciliation
- Affirm the importance of local churches in God's economy
- Understand church governance in the Stone-Campbell tradition
- Understand issues of gender roles in the congregational setting

#### **COURSE READINGS**

- Integrative Enneagram 9. This course will include an extensive coverage of the Enneagram as a tool for spiritual and professional self-awareness. Instructions will be given at the beginning of the semester on how to order this instrument. Anticipated cost is \$50 per student.

- DISC Profile, Concise Version. You have two options to purchase. One is to go to <http://www.personalityservice.com/portal/RNBM/store>, and purchase the concise version for \$12.95 (you may complete any of the more extensive versions that are compared at <http://goo.gl/4O6UtS>, but you are only required to take the concise version). Full disclosure: if you purchase this way, I receive a commission that helps with the expense of maintaining the website. Another way to get the same profile at the same cost (non-commission) is to click the following link and follow the instructions: <https://goo.gl/vqaxK2>. Either way, the result will be a six-page mini profile of your DISC type.
- Adele Ahlberg Calhoun, *Spiritual Disciplines Handbook: Practices that Transform Us, Revised and Expanded Edition*. IVP Books, 2015. [352 pages; 0830846050, 978-0830846054]
- Adele and Doug Calhoun, Clare and Scott Loughrie. *Spiritual Rhythms for the Enneagram: A Handbook for Harmony and Transformation*. IVP Books, 2019. [239 pages 978-0830836000]
- Brad Harper and Paul Louis Metzger, *Exploring Ecclesiology: An Evangelical and Ecumenical Introduction*. Brazos Press, 2009. [353 pages; ISBN 978-1587431739]
- Scot McKnight, *Kingdom Conspiracy: Returning to the Radical Mission of the Local Church*. Brazos Press, 2014. [304 pages; ISBN 978-1587433603]
- William Willimon, *Pastor: The Theology and Practice of Ordained Ministry. Revised Edition*. Abingdon Press, 2019. [400 pages; ISBN 978-1501804908]
- Gupton, Carlus. *Course Notebook*. An e-copy will be available at no cost on Canvas.

**Additional Readings** – Specific articles/readings will be assigned for specific topics. These will be listed in the Assignment Guide that will be available via Canvas.

**Note: Textbooks** can now be ordered through a link on the HST website. The Textbooks tab can be viewed on the navigation bar on any page of the website. Check the book list provided under the Textbooks tab (<http://hst.edu/students/textbook-services/>) for correct ISBN's and editions to insure correct ordering. A link provided there will take you to Amazon where you will only need to enter the ISBN to order your books.

## **BIBLIOGRAPHY**

The primary bibliographic resource for this course will be through the use of <http://www.lifeandleadership.com/ministry-resource-guide-index>, an annotated, web-interactive guide to resources on the life and leadership of those who serve churches.

## **COURSE GOALS**

1. Examine one's gifts and orientations as they apply to practical ministry contexts.
2. Recognize ministry models from scripture, tradition and contemporary culture, and evaluate their significance for one's ministry.
3. Understand the breadth of kingdom mission and the importance of local churches in God's economy.
4. Evaluate the impact of cultural trends on the practice of ministry.
5. Develop or clarify one's ministry identity or call.

## COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. **Attendance.** Attendance is measured by posting assignments and participating in Canvas discussions according to the schedule in the Assignment Guide.
2. **Required Readings/Session Assignments:** The Course Calendar (available via Canvas) will categorize readings for each module and provide the schedule for completion of readings. Completion of readings will be evaluated by the reading reports and discussions. Each report, along with participation in Canvas discussions, counts 5 points for a total of 70 points during the semester. **70% of course grade.**

**Note: Optional Zoom/HST Live Sessions** – Although this course is officially asynchronous online only, the professor will host optional Zoom/LIVE meetings at various points during the semester, with dates TBD. *If you are new to HST LIVE*, please attend the orientation session scheduled for January 4 at 6:00-7:30 p.m.

3. **Statement of Spiritual and Professional Identity** – Prepare a statement of your spiritual and professional identity. Consider all course texts, profiles/assessments, and class discussions. It may help to think in these terms: *Based on the explorations this semester and my experiences as a servant of Christ, here is my current state of self-awareness and sense of calling, and the implications this has for my ministry going forward.* This is an academic, first person reflection (e.g., no contractions). Otherwise, you have considerable freedom in the form and content of the paper, as long as it conspicuously integrates insights from course materials. Estimated 2,000 words, single-spaced, 12 pt. Times font, single-spaced within each paragraph and double-spaced between paragraphs. **Due on the date listed in the Assignment Guide, posted in the appropriate Canvas folder. 30% of course grade.**

## STUDENT EVALUATION

- Weekly Reading Reports and Canvas Interactions (Online) – 70%
- Statement of Spiritual and Professional Identity – 30%

## GRADING STANDARDS

Grading is based on common standards of graduate study, which include::

- High volume of reading concentrated over a shorter period of time.
- Advanced standards in writing, no tolerance for poor grammar and composition.
- Increased student responsibility and initiative – At all levels, your education is your responsibility, but this is even more so in graduate work. The assignments and structure of the graduate class simply guide your self-initiated quest. The syllabus outlines baseline expectations. It is your responsibility to clarify what you do not understand and fulfill class requirements. There may not be reminders.
- Desire for a highly developed philosophical, theoretical, and theological framework for exercising one's profession as a servant of Christ, with the ability to reflect deeply and conduct research in one's field.
- Desire for advanced practical experience and expertise in a specialized discipline

There is no grade entitlement. Grades are earned each step of the way, according to this scale.

- “A” (93-100) – *exceptional, outstanding, impressive* work in the aspects listed above. Few or no flaws, superior grasp of material
- “B” (85-92) – *good, competent, above-average* work in the aspects listed above. Few mistakes, understands material very well.
- “C” (75-84) – *average, passable, adequate* work in the aspects listed above. Moderate level of mistakes, understands material well enough, but will require remedial work to progress to the resident apprenticeship.
- “D” (65-74) – *poor, inadequate, incomplete* work in the aspects listed above. Many mistakes, inadequate grasp of material, incapable of earning a graduate degree. You will not progress to the resident apprenticeship with this grade.
- “F” (Below 65) – failure

Other:

- All assignments are due on the dates listed in the course calendar.
- Extensions are not guaranteed but may be granted in cases of illness or death in the family, or other extreme circumstances. It is the responsibility of the student to contact the professor *before* the assignment due date(s) with a *request*.
- Extensions and incompletes, if granted, will most likely result in grade reduction.

**LIBRARY RESOURCES**

If you have not taken 5990 (Advanced Theological Research) or took that class more than a year ago, go to the HST Web site ([www.hst.edu](http://www.hst.edu)) for information concerning library services to students. Under the “library” tab you will find a link to and instructions for searching the HST online catalog. There are also instructions for using the following databases available through the library: OCLC FirstSearch, EBSCOhost, Infotrac, PsycINFO, and Religious and Theological Abstracts. Contact the library for passwords to these databases. Also available are the research guides distributed in 5990. These annotated bibliographies list basic tools you will find helpful in your research.

**INSTRUCTOR ACCESSIBILITY**

- Email: [cgupton@harding.edu](mailto:cgupton@harding.edu). Direct email to this address is the best means of contact. Although Canvas routes messages to this email, sometimes transmission fails, thus the preference of direct email.

**USE OF TECHNOLOGY**

Assignments in this course require students to demonstrate technological proficiency in the following ways:

- Use of library and electronic databases to do research (see Library Resources above)
- Use of web-based search engines for resources.
- Use of online technology for communication with the class, and class participation via the Canvas Online Learning System and Zoom, which is described below.

- HST Live/Zoom Meeting ID for the optional video sessions in this course will be posted on the front page of the Canvas site and in course emails.
- Students new to HST LIVE should attend the HST LIVE orientation session scheduled for January 4 at 6:00-7:30 p.m.

### **COMMUNICATION WITH THE CLASS**

Harding University gives each professor and student an email address that utilizes your user name. Your instructor's email address is [cgupton@harding.edu](mailto:cgupton@harding.edu). Many students use other email addresses as their preferred address. You can set your Harding G-mail account to forward messages to an alternative email address if you want; however, **it is your responsibility to check your Harding email account regularly because this is the official Harding email address to which all Harding-related email will be sent.**

### **CANVAS ONLINE LEARNING SYSTEM**

In addition to the live video platform Zoom.us (see below), this course uses Harding's *Canvas Online Learning System*, which is accessed at <http://elearning.harding.edu>. If you have problems gaining access to Canvas, contact HU technical support (501) 279-4545. You will need your HST username and password to log into Harding Pipeline. These are the same credentials you use to register for classes via Pipeline.

When you need to contact your professor via email, you may use the email system contained in the Canvas learning management system, although it is best to email directly to [cgupton@harding.edu](mailto:cgupton@harding.edu).

### **HST LIVE INTERACTIVE VIDEO EDUCATION (HST LIVE) via ZOOM**

In addition to Canvas (see above), this HST-Live course is supported with the video platform Zoom.us. For new Zoom platform users, go to <https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/categories/200101697-Getting-Started> for helpful video tutorials about using this platform. The HST Live/Zoom Meeting ID for this course is <https://zoom.us/j/9018651234>.

Students new to HST LIVE should attend the HST LIVE orientation session scheduled for January 4 at 6:00-7:30 p.m.

### ***Equipment Requirements for LIVE Sections:***

- Internet access using a latest version of a web browser such as Firefox (preferred).
- Latest version of Zoom software. This changes periodically without notification. If you already have Zoom, use that account. Basic Zoom.us is available free.
- Laptop or tablet with camera or desktop computer with camera.
- Additional monitor – Live video conferencing is best facilitated with two monitors, one that allows you to see the video images of your professor and classmates, and the other that is dedicated to class slides and other presentations.
- Ear buds with microphone - Apple MD827LL/A EarPods with Remote and Mic work well with our system. Order on Amazon.com, <https://goo.gl/jLYfBG>.

### ***Course Etiquette for HST Live:***

- HST Live is a convenience for distance broadcast and attendance. In terms of responsibilities, it is no different than on-campus participation.
- Attendance at all class sessions is required just as if in residence on the Memphis campus.
- All absences, late arrivals, and early departures must be respectfully *requested* by the student and *approved* by the professor prior to beginning of class session. It is the professor's call to grant (or not grant) the exception. It is considered unprofessional to simply *inform* the professor that you will be early/late, especially during class.
- "Making up" a missed session by watching the recording will be granted **ONLY** in extreme cases such as illness or family emergency (the same policy for those on the Memphis campus). Please make arrangements in your ministry context or employment to be in attendance for all calendared sessions (e.g. a staff meeting is not an excused absence). The same applies to arriving late or leaving early.
- Be seated in an environment that approximates a classroom setting (e.g. a chair at a desk in your office). It is not acceptable to sit or lie down on your bed or in a recliner, lounge on your deck or on the beach, or sit in a coffee shop, etc.
- Remain stationary at your computer during the class session except during breaks. For example, if you must go to the rest room, mute your audio/video, go quickly, return to your screen, un-mute, and resume with the class.
- Arrange for your HST Live environment to be distraction free (e.g. no background family noise, TV, etc.)
- Failure to observe these and related etiquette matters will result in grade reductions at the professor's sole discretion.

### **CREDIT HOUR WORKLOAD**

For every course credit hour, a student should expect to spend at least three clock hours per week of concentrated attention on course-related work, including but not limited to time attending class, as well as out-of-class time spent reading, reviewing, organizing notes, preparing for upcoming quizzes/exams, problem solving, developing and completing projects, and other activities that enhance learning. Thus, for a three-hour course, a typical student should expect to spend at least nine hours per week dedicated to the course.

### **ACADEMIC INTEGRITY**

Academic dishonesty in all its forms is inconsistent with Christian faith and practice, and will result in penalties which could include a failing grade for the assignment, a failing grade for the course, dismissal from the course, and even dismissal from the school.

### **STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES**

It is the policy of Harding University to accommodate students with disabilities, pursuant to federal and state law. Any student with a disability who needs accommodation should inform the instructor at the beginning of the course. Students with disabilities are also encouraged to contact Steve McLeod, the Associate Dean, at 901-761-1353.

## **DEGREE OUTCOMES**

This course will contribute to the following objectives for students in the Master of Divinity and Master of Arts in Christian Ministry:

### **Master of Divinity**

- Exhibit an understanding of the general history of the church and of doctrine, including the Stone-Campbell Movement in particular.
- Be able to integrate the scriptures and theological tradition with diverse contemporary cultural contexts.
- Evidence a love for God and others and a personal commitment to spiritual formation.
- Demonstrate knowledge and competencies associated with providing ministerial leadership for churches and communities.
- Be able to communicate effectively in written, oral, and multi-media forms.

### **Master of Arts in Christian Ministry**

- Exhibit a general understanding of the doctrine and history of the church and of doctrine, and of the Stone-Campbell Movement in particular.
- Become a leader in their ministry specialization within the broader range of ministry and the broader social context in which they minister.
- Evidence a love for God and others and a personal commitment to spiritual formation.
- Gain an understanding and skills for leadership in their area of specialization.