



## HARDING SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY

BMIN 5801, THEOLOGICAL FOUNDATIONS OF MINISTRY I, Fall 2023

Thursdays, 1:00-2:00pm, HST LIVE Only

Dr. Steve Cloer

### ***Course description***

This course helps students explore and clarify their call and desire to serve in ministry as a part of God's church. Key theological topics are discussed such as the gospel, the church, God's work in the world. Students engage in developing spiritual disciplines and participating with the Holy Spirit as he conforms us to Christlikeness. Reflection is done on spiritual gifts, passions, and burdens that might be strengths for ministry in the church. Students conclude this year by writing a philosophy of ministry. The course is offered in three consecutive semesters during the first year of the program.

### ***The course contributes to the following degree outcomes:***

- Demonstrate a commitment to personal spiritual formation (MACM and M.Div.)
- Demonstrate the skills associated with leadership in their ministry specialization. (MACM)
- Demonstrate the skills associated with providing ministerial leadership for churches and communities. (M.Div.)

### ***Additional course objectives***

- Cultivate a theological foundation for the practice of ministry
- Develop simple personal and communal rhythms of spiritual disciplines for personal transformation and spiritual awareness
- Enhance one's understanding of calling and giftedness for the purpose of Christian ministry.

### ***Required Textbooks***

Mark Labberton, *Called: The Crisis and Promise of Following Jesus Today* (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2014).

Bruce Riley Ashford and Heath A. Thomas, *The Gospel of our King: Bible, Worldview, and the Mission of Every Christian* (Grand Rapids, Baker Academic, 2019).

Megan Hill, *A Place to Belong: Learning to Love the Local Church* (Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2020).

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.

### ***Additional required readings***

René Padilla, “Evangelism and the World” (1974). Access at this link:

<https://lausanne.org/content/evangelism-and-the-world>

Gordon MacDonald, *Ordering Your Private World* (Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson, 1985), 28-40, 51-61.

Jim Herrington, Trisha Taylor, and R. Robert Creech, *The Leader’s Journey: Accepting the Call to Personal and Congregational Transformation*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. (Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2020), 149-162.

David Fisher, *The 21<sup>st</sup> Century Pastor* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1996), 141-158.

Additional readings, course notes, a place to submit assignments, and grades are available on Canvas. To access the Canvas course page, go to <http://elearning.harding.edu>.

### ***Accessibility***

HST professors are accessible to local and distance students. Please use the following to arrange appointments with me (in person or by phone):

Email: [secloer@harding.edu](mailto:secloer@harding.edu)

Office Phone Number: 901-432-7724

Office: Ijams Administration Building 209

### ***Requirements and grading***

1. Reading of assigned texts and class participation (10%)
2. Journal/Spiritual Formation Exercises (20%)
3. Midterm Exam (15%)
4. Spiritual Calling Paper (35%)
6. Final Exam (20%)

Grading scale: 100-90 (A), 89-80 (B), 79-75 (C), 74-70 (D), 69 and below (F)

Students should complete all readings before the session for which they are assigned and should be prepared to contribute to the discussion of the readings in class.

If a student is absent from a class session (or unable to be fully present), the student must communicate with the professor ahead of time. The student must watch the recording of the class session and write a 500-word summary of the class lecture and discussion. This is due no later than one week after the absence. Failure to do so will result in a deduction of the class participation grade.

Students who are absent more than two class sessions (without approval by the dean) will be penalized ten points off the final grade.

Late submission of Spiritual Calling Paper will be deducted one letter grade. For every day further the assignment is late, three points per day will be deducted on top of the one letter grade.

Late journal entries receive an 80% grade, if received within one week. After one week late, these entries receive a 50% grade.

### ***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.

### ***Credit hour workload***

For every course credit hour, the typical 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.

### ***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.

### ***Library resources***

If you have not taken 5990 (Advanced Theological Research) or took it 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, 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.

### ***Course schedule***

August 17

- (1) Col. 1:20-25
- (2) Review Syllabus
- (3) Herrington, Taylor, Creech chapter

August 24

- (1) Phil. 2:5-11
- (2) The Foundation of the Gospel
- (3) Ashford and Thomas, 1-76
- (4) Padilla article

August 31

- (1) 1 Cor. 15:1-5

- (2) The Foundation of the Gospel
- (3) Ashford and Thomas, 77-112

September 7

- (1) Ex. 34:6-8
- (2) The Foundation of the Gospel
- (3) Ashford and Thomas, 113-150

September 14

- (1) Rom. 1:1-17
- (2) The Foundation of the Gospel
- (3) Ashford and Thomas, 151-201

September 21

- (1) 1 Pet. 2:9-12
- (2) Loving the Local Church
- (3) Hill, 1-42

September 28

- (1) 1 Thess. 2:1-12
- (2) Loving the Local Church
- (3) Hill, 43-98

October 5

- (1) John 13:1-13
- (2) Loving the Local Church
- (3) Hill, 99-140

October 12                      STUDY BREAK

October 19                      Mid-Term Exam

October 26

- (1) Rom. 15:14-21
- (2) Sense of Call
- (3) Labberton, 1-49

November 2

- (1) Amos 7:10-17
- (2) Sense of Call
- (3) Labberton, 50-97

November 9

- (1) 1 Sam. 3:1-14
- (2) Sense of Call

(3) Labberton, 98-172

November 16

- (1) Isaiah 6:1-9
- (2) Sense of Call
- (3) MacDonald chapters
- (4) Spirituality Profile

November 23                    **THANKSGIVING BREAK**

November 30

- (1) Luke 1:26-38
- (2) Sense of Call
- (3) Fisher's chapter

December 4                    **Spiritual Calling Paper Due**

December 7                    **Final Exam**

### ***Spiritual Formation Assignment***

Each student is required to keep a weekly spiritual formation journal and an alternating habit of two spiritual exercises: discipleship cohort and individual silence. The student will make a 250 word entry on Canvas after their spiritual exercise of key thoughts or insights that came to their attention (*due on Fridays*). There should be 13 entries at the end of the semester (one per week – except breaks and final exam week). Students will alternate the spiritual exercises each week (one per week).

- (1) Discipleship cohort – Students will be subdivided into cohorts that will meet every other week for prayer, Bible reading, and encouragement. The convener of the cohort will alternate each meeting. Students can decide their curriculum for their meetings. A recommended resource is *In the Name of Jesus*, Henri Nouwen. Cohorts should meet for at least 30 minutes.
  
- (2) Silence – Students will spend 30 minutes in silence and solitude with God. This period of time can be used for Bible reading, various forms of prayer, walking, etc. But the intention of this time is to be still and present before God. What does God bring to your attention? What do you offer before God?

### ***Spiritual Calling Paper***

Each student will write a 5-page paper that will offer a description of one's spiritual journey, sense of call, and spiritual gifts. The paper should incorporate key elements as the process of the student coming to faith, moments where the student discerned God's secondary call in their life, key moments of affirmation around giftedness. The paper should function as the student's "call narrative."

## ***Recommended resources***

### 1. Gospel

- Bates, Matthew W. *Gospel Allegiance: What Faith in Jesus Misses for Salvation in Christ*. Grand Rapids: Brazos, 2017.
- Bowen, John P. *The Unfolding Gospel: How the Good News Makes Sense of Discipleship, Church, Mission, and Everything Else*. Minneapolis: Fortress, 2021.
- Carson, D. A. "What is the Gospel? – Revisited." In *For the Fame of God's Name*, eds. Sam Storms and Justin Taylor, 147-170. Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2010.
- Dickson, John P. "Gospel as News: *Euangel* from Aristophanes to the Apostle Paul," *New Testament Studies* 51 (2005): 212-30.
- Goheen, Michael W. and Craig G. Bartholomew. *The True Story of the Whole World*. Rev. ed. Grand Rapids, MI: Brazos Press, 2020.
- Gorman, Michael. *Becoming the Gospel: Paul, Participation, and Mission*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2015.
- Hooker, Morna. *Not Ashamed of the Gospel: New Testament Interpretations of the Death of Christ*. Eugene, OR: Wipf and Stock, 2004.
- Newbigin, Lesslie. *The Gospel in a Pluralist Society*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1989.
- Wright, N.T. *Simply Good News: Why the Gospel is News and What Makes it Good*. New York: HarperOne, 2007.

### 2. The Church

- Conway, Joseph P. *Broken but Beautiful: Why the Church is Still Worth It*. Eugene, OR: Wipf & Stock, 2020.
- Ferguson, Everett. *The Church of Christ: A Biblical Ecclesiology for Today*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1996.
- Goheen, Michael. *A Light to the Nations: The Missional Church and the Biblical Story*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2014.
- Minear, Paul. *Images of the Church in the New Testament*. Philadelphia: Westminster, 1977.
- Shelly, Rubel and Randall Harris. *The 2<sup>nd</sup> Incarnation*. Abilene, TX: Hillcrest, 2001.
- Sundquist, Scott W. *Why Church? A Basic Introduction*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP Academic, 2021.
- Thompson, James. *The Church According to Paul*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2014.
- Van Engen, Charles. *God's Missionary People: Rethinking the Purpose of the Local Church*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1991.

### 3. Calling and Spiritual Formation

- Guinness, Os. *The Call: Finding and Fulfilling God's Purpose for your Life*. Nashville, Thomas Nelson, 2018.
- Klein, William W. and Daniel J. Steiner, *What is My Calling?: A Biblical and Theological Exploration of Christian Identity*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2022.
- McNeal, Reggie. *A Work of Heart: Understanding How God Shapes Spiritual Leaders*. Jossey-Bass, 2000.
- Mulholland, M. Robert. *Invitation to a Journey—A Road Map for Spiritual Formation*. Downers Grove, Ill.: IVP Books. 1993.

- Pemberton, Glenn. *When God Calls*. Nashville: 21<sup>st</sup> Century Christian, 2007.
- Peterson, Eugene H. *Long Obedience in the Same Direction: Discipleship in an Instant Society*. IVP, 1980.
- \_\_\_\_\_. *Under the Predictable Plant: An Exploration in Vocational Holiness*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1992.
- Tabulujan, Benny. *God on Monday: Reflections on Christians @Work*. Melbourne: Austin, TX: ICS Press, 2005

### ***Use of technology***

#### 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 your 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 or email your professor directly at [secloer@harding.edu](mailto:secloer@harding.edu).

Harding University gives each student an email address that also utilizes your user name. 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.

#### 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 can be found on Canvas.

Students new to HST LIVE should watch the HST LIVE orientation video before the first day of class. That video can be found at <https://hst.edu/students/canvas-online-learning/>.

#### 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.
- Ear buds with microphone - Apple MD827LL/A EarPods with Remote and Mic work well. Order on Amazon.com, <https://goo.gl/jLYfBG>.
- Additional monitor – Live video conferencing is best facilitated with two monitors.

### LIVE Etiquette:

- 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.
- “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 scheduled 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 (for example, a chair at a desk in your office). Create a distraction free environment. 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. If you must go to the restroom & mute your audio/video, Then return to your screen, un-mute, and resume the class.
- Arrange for your HST Live environment to be distraction free (for example, no family noise, TV, etc.).
- Failure to observe these and related etiquette matters will result in grade reductions at the professor’s sole discretion.