

WESTERN SEMINARY
SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA
THINKING THEOLOGICALLY ABOUT MINISTRY
DMS 501MN
(2 HOURS)
ARTURO G. AZURDIA III
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AUGUST 19-21, 2009
SYLLABUS

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Ministry is built upon sound biblical, theological, and cultural foundations. Each generation of the Church must understand and build on these foundations, as well as discover relevant contemporary innovations and applications. This course intends to help you integrate an understanding of the Word and the world with the development of a personal philosophy of ministry.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

- Objective #1: To discover the nature and mission of the Church as defined in the Scriptures and as the means by which she glorifies God
- Objective #2: To develop the skills necessary to contextualize biblical truth (and employ extra-biblical truth) without compromising the ultimate authority of Scripture for faith and practice
- Objective #3: To understand the biblical essentials of church structure and how these should be contextualized for maximum missional effectiveness
- Objective #4: To establish a biblical philosophy of ministry that will determine the outworking of one's ultimate ministry ambition

COURSE ASSIGNMENTS

Reading/Discussion

The student will be required to indicate his/her completion of the following volumes by the assigned date:

Aug 20th: *Leading With Love* by Alexander Strauch. (Littleton: Lewis and Roth Publishers, 2006)

Aug 21st: *Calling And Character* by William H. Willimon. (Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2000).

Moreover, he/she must be prepared to engage in meaningful discussion that reveals a thorough understanding and critical analysis of the assigned material.

****Please bring the appropriate book to class on its assigned day.**

Reading/Listening/Reflection Paper

The student will be required to indicate (via email) his/her completion of the following by Sept 25th:

The Art Of Pastoring: Ministry Without All The Answers by David Hansen. (Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 1994).

“To The Elders.” Five sermons from the series *Renewing Your Passion For The Church* by Art Azurdia (www.spiritempoweredpreaching.com).

Moreover, *on this same date* he/she must submit (via email) a five-page, double-spaced reflection paper that answers the following question: *How is the leadership structure and practice of my church different and similar to what I have read and heard in Hansen and Azurdia?*

Ministry Paper

Congratulations! You have just been invited to candidate for your dream job at Northwest Redeemer Fellowship (e.g. Senior Pastor, Executive Pastor, Director of Women’s Ministry, Worship Leader, Student Ministries’ Pastor). This is a paid position that will occupy you on a full-time basis.

Your predecessor had served in this position for five years. You quickly discern, however, that though he/she was regarded as a well-intentioned Christian servant, the prevailing sense is that he/she lacked a clear sense of purpose and focus from which his/her ministry endeavors consequently suffered.

This is what the NRF search committee requires of you: A paper (10 pages) that defines your distinct ministry commitments (who you will be/what you will do) in relationship to the position being considered. These commitments must be *demonstrated as emerging from the biblical text*, the various readings assigned in class, and the fruit of two interviews with people who occupy a position similar to that for which you are now applying.

This paper must be submitted to the instructor by October 30, 2009.

GRADING

Grammar and style, as well as content, will be factored into the grading of *all* written assignments. Feel free to use a proofreader. *Grades of late papers will be discounted substantially.*

30% Class attendance and participation
30% Reading and response papers
40% Ministry paper

A+ (100-99%)	B+ (92-91%)	C+ (85-84%)	D+ (78-77%)
A (98-95%)	B (90-88%)	C (83-81%)	D (76-74%)
A- (94-93%)	B- (87-86%)	C- (80-79%)	D- (73-70%)

“Western Seminary is committed to responding to the needs of students with disabilities as outlined in both the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. Western students are assisted individually as their needs dictate. It is the responsibility of students with disabilities to identify themselves and the nature of the disability. Any student who has a disability should contact the seminary’s Disability (Section 504) Coordinator, Ken Epp, at 503-517-1815/1-877-517-1800, ext. 1815. His office is at the Portland campus. Students at the northern California campuses may contact Carrie Priest (Student Services Coordinator – San José) or PJ Oswald (Director of Student Development – Sacramento), or they may contact Dr. Epp directly. Appropriate forms will be provided and must be submitted to the Disability Coordinator’s office.”

