

WESTERN SEMINARY - SACRAMENTO

Mentored Field Ministry

MFM 501-504M : 1 credit hour / semester

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Syllabus – Fall 2009

COURSE SCHEDULE

Sept 3, 17; Oct 1, 15, 29; Nov 12 (Thursday, 3:00 – 5:00 p.m.)

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Mentored Field Ministry. This course is designed to help students gain greater confidence and competence in the actual practice of those ministry skills that will be needed in the student's anticipated ministry role. Mentoring is provided through both individual meetings with an experienced practitioner and peer ministry reflection groups. Current involvement in field ministry is a prerequisite for enrollment. Students should plan on taking one unit of this course over four different terms to enable sufficient breadth of ministry experience and personal mentoring. 1 hour for each of four semesters.

COURSE CONTRIBUTION TO STATED DEGREE OUTCOMES

The objectives of this course are tied directly to the desired outcomes constructed specifically for the four seminary degrees for which this course is a requirement. Below is an excerpt of the degree outcomes to which this course relates:

1. To be a person whose Christ-like character is worthy of being emulated, and whose integrity imparts credibility to his/her ministry
 - a. gratefully aware of his/her new identity and spiritual sufficiency in Christ (MFM 500)
 - b. reflects biblical balance and skill in life management, appropriately fulfilling the roles and responsibilities mandated by God (MFM 500; SFS 501, 502; overarching)

2. To be a person who understands his/her optimal role in the furthering of God's purposes
 - a. understands his/her unique strengths, weaknesses, and other elements of individuality that can help or hinder personal and ministry effectiveness (MFM 500)
 - b. knows how to combine both formal and informal training to best prepare him/herself for effective entry into ministry (MFM 500)
 - c. has had experience in performing key elements of his/her intended ministry under qualified supervision (MFM 501-4)

3. To be a person who experiences healthy interdependency and genuine community with other believers
 - a. faithfully participates in, and contributes to, the ministry of a local congregation (MFM 501-4; SFS 502)
 - b. recognizes and appreciates the needed contribution of other temperaments, passions, gifts and styles (MFM 500)
 - c. cooperates with other believers in advancing God's kingdom (MFM 500, 501-4; SFS 501, 502)

4. To be able to think biblically and critically so that various truth claims can be effectively evaluated
 - a. has embraced a biblical world view (THS 501-3 overarching)
 - b. able to apply the basic elements of critical analysis and sound reasoning (MFM 500; overarching)
 - c. sensitive to cultural variations in styles of thinking (overarching)
 - d. reflects an appropriately humble and charitable spirit in applying biblical criteria for truth (overarching)

5. To be able to communicate God's truth clearly, accurately, and convincingly
 - a. able to communicate one's thoughts effectively in writing (MFM 500; overarching)

6. To be able to lead and equip a group of people so that God's purposes are efficiently accomplished in and through them
 - a. able to respond appropriately to conflict (DMS 506; MFM 500)

7. To be a true life-long learner, building upon his/her seminary training
 - a. committed to pursuing growth and learning in key areas of need (MFM 500; overarching)
 - b. able to access and manage information (including that available via computer/on-line resources) so that it is readily available when needed (overarching)

8. (MDiv students:) to be able to communicate God's truth clearly, accurately, and convincingly
 - a. able to communicate one's thoughts effectively in writing (MFM 500; overarching)

COURSE GOALS/OBJECTIVES

This course is designed to enable you to:

- Grow in your personal character and ministry skills
- Learn from the example and wisdom of a ministry mentor
- Learn ministry by doing it
- Gain experience in performing key elements of your intended ministry
- Reflect upon your ministry and integrate what you are learning in seminary
- Pray for and support other students serving in ministry

TEXTBOOKS

We are happy to announce that Western Sacramento is now an Amazon Associate. Any purchases (not just books) you make on Amazon using this link will mean that a minimum of 4% of the purchase price comes to Western. Please support your seminary by using this link for all your Amazon purchases.

Click [here](#) to order texts and other products.

Required

- Chan, Francis. (2008). *Crazy Love, Overwhelmed By A Relentless God*. David C. Cook Publishers. ISBN 978-1-4347-6851-3

Recommended

- Sanders, J. O., (1994). *Spiritual Leadership: Principles of Excellence for Every Believer*, revised edition. Moody Publishers. ISBN: 0802467997

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Reading

Complete all required reading before each class session so that you will be able to participate in and benefit from the class discussions. Reading should be done a familiarity level (about 45 pages per hour) that assumes knowledge of the material assigned.

Read chapters assigned below in preparation for each reflection group session. Write and turn in at each group session a two-page typed summary that summarizes:

- What the author said
- Your evaluation of it and how it does, or does not, integrate with your ministry and/or your walk with God

Assignments

Ministry Experience:

The 1 unit of Mentored Field Ministry will require at least 4 hours per week of ministry for 10 weeks. Time spent in normal church attendance and in commuting is not counted. The details of each mentored ministry are described in a Mentored Ministry Contract, which is to be developed by you and your Ministry Mentor. This document together with your Personal Ministry Goals contains the individualized learning and goals that the Mentored Field Ministry will address. Provision for meaningful evaluation is also described.

Ministry Mentor Meetings:

Meet with your Ministry Mentor for an hour at least 6 times during your term. It is your responsibility to find and get approval for a Ministry Mentor. Use the enclosed copy of “What’s Expected of a Western Seminary Ministry Mentor?” when you explain what would be involved to a potential Ministry Mentor. New Ministry Mentors will be given a Ministry Mentor’s Manual. It is obvious that the quality of your field ministry will largely be influenced by the quality of the Ministry Mentor whom you select. Thus, take care to find an individual who is a mature, respected, effective model of the type of ministry to which you believe God is calling you. If the individual is a pastor, seek to become a contributing member of his/her

congregation, if possible. Aim to be the kind of seminarian that you would appreciate in your church.

Mentor-At-Large Meeting(s):

This assignment where you seek out someone outside your current ministry site/organization to build an “informal” mentoring relationship. They should be someone who has significant ministry experience that you would like to learn from. They do not have to fill out any paperwork from Western and they do not have to live in this area. Your contact with them can be in person, by phone, or by email. One of the main purposes of this assignment is to help you develop a lifelong habit of seeking ministry wisdom & counsel from those further down the road than you. Your contact with them needs to be at least one interaction/meeting with them. Typically this type of mentor has very limited time so be respectful of that. Your report of this relationship will be reflected in your final Mentored Field Ministry paper.

Reflection Group

Meet with the reflection group for 2 hours 6 times, as specified in the schedule below. The sessions will meet on 6 Thursday afternoons, 3:00-5:00pm, at the Sacramento campus. Participate in group discussion and complete assignments as noted in the course schedule.

It is expected that students will attend each of the six sessions. However, one absence is allowed without penalty. If additional absences do occur, the student will incur a 20% penalty for each absence. Since this is a pass/fail course, this means that it is very likely that the student will not pass the course if absent more than twice. In the case of emergencies where the instructor has been contacted, it is the instructor’s prerogative to decide what is a fair and just approach.

Mentored Field Ministry Paper (due at last Reflection Group)

Write a 5-7 page paper noting things you have learned this semester and want to remember from your ministry experience, ministry mentor, mentor-at-large, reflection group, and assigned reading. Also, assess how successful you have been in accomplishing each of your character and ministry skills goals. What goals do you want to set for the next six months?

Case Study

Write 1-3 case studies (depending on the size of the group and the direction of the facilitator).

When writing case studies, observe the following guidelines:

1. The case should relate an actual, not hypothetical, situation that you are facing or which you have faced recently.
2. The case should describe a situation that poses a dilemma because of multiple, competing factors. The situation must require a decision that is not obvious. It must not be a “no-brainer.”
3. The case should involve matters of some consequence. It should not be focused on trivial or incidental matters. It is not necessary, however, for it to be about an extraordinary event. It may focus upon a common ordinary issue that ministers face.
4. Change names and details enough to protect confidentiality but still convey the situation accurately. If in doubt, err on the side of confidentiality.
5. Include enough description that you don’t have to add a lot of verbal clarification.

6. Include relevant information on multiple facets of the situation: emotional, relational, spiritual, corporate, financial, etc.
7. Keep descriptions simple and brief.
8. Try to verbalize, clearly and concisely, the nature of the dilemma or the decision that must be made.
9. Leave the dilemma open-ended (even if, in fact, a decision has already been made). Do not attempt to interpret or solve the problem in your written description.

Please seek to limit your case study to 1-2 pages (single spaced). Please make enough copies for each person in the Reflection Group.

Sample Ministry Case Study

I am a Youth Pastor of a growing church. As I sat down in my office to get a weekly update from one of my female youth leaders, she seemed to not be telling me the whole truth about a situation. She had gone out for coffee with a few of the high school girls in the youth group and said that everything went ok. But she was very fidgety and was not looking at me. I inquired if everything was all right, and she said, "I probably need to tell you something but I swore to the girls that their secret was safe with me." I knew that with a phrase like that trouble was not far behind.

Our policy has always been that if the situation involves drugs, alcohol, sex or anything else that might potentially be life threatening, then (1) the leaders tell me; (2) we confront the teen together; (3) we have the teen tell their parents before we make contact with the parents; and (4) we make an appointment with everyone involved. There are certainly exceptions to this rule; e.g. we had a teen whose parents were not saved and had abused him in the past. If they found out about a minor infraction he was going to get beat up physically. But the teens we were dealing with here did not fall into that category.

I pressed this youth leader to tell me if she felt like this situation fell into one of those issues addressed by our policy. She said that it did. Now, my mind began to reel backwards and ask, "Did I make this issue known to her before?" "Haven't I told my leaders that they should never promise any teen that their secret is ok with them?" I believe that I had gone over those policies before, but this leader really wanted the juice on these kids and said something that she should not have.

I came to find out that 4 high school girls in our youth group had smoked pot in the backyard of two of the girls, who just happened to be the senior pastor's daughters. Two of the pastor's daughters were involved, and two others, but one main girl was the "supplier." After I found out this information, the leader then asked me not to say anything because she had promised to keep this secret. She was keeping them accountable on quitting, and if I said anything it would destroy her friendship with the girls and would kill the accountability that they had going.

What should I do? Do we stick to policy? Do we give in this once because these girls are "good kids?" Do we all sit down together? Do I need to talk to the girls individually? Two of the girls are in leadership in the Youth Ministry; what should be done with them? The dad of two of the

girls is the senior pastor and a good friend; how should he be approached? How can we help the relationship between the leader and the four girls?

STANDARDS FOR WRITTEN WORK (MLA)

Papers must be written to a near-thesis standard. That is, minimum format standards must be met, as defined below. English grammar, idiom, and spelling must be up to graduate level. Always include a strong introduction paragraph (declare what you intend to show the reader) and conclusion paragraph. Qualities valued include clarity, succinctness, and precision.

This course employs the MLA (Modern Language Association) style guide. The basic elements are:

- Double-spacing, except for block quotes
- Single space block quotes
- Page numbers appear at the upper right on every text page
- Use footnotes or parenthetical citations.
- Footnotes and parenthetical references follow standard format.

Helpful web sites on MLA style include:

<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/>
<http://www.cws.illinois.edu/workshop/writers/citation/>

[These websites are expanded and pasted into Western Seminary’s “How to Write a Research Paper” located at <http://www.westernseminary.edu/papers/Faculty/WGuideNu.doc>]

A good website with footnote/bibliography entries is:

<http://writing.wisc.edu/Handbook/Documentation.html>

For assignments that require the use of non-course texts and include a bibliography, of the resources mentioned in the bibliography for your project/paper, two must be from a physical library. Note the physical location of each book as an addendum to each bibliographical entry.

All work must reflect master's level use of the English language. Plagiarism will result in failure of assignment.

GRADING

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

Activity	Percent of Final Grade	Estimated Time to Complete
Case Studies	35%	5 hours
Reading Summaries	30%	5 hours
Mentored Field Ministry Paper	35%	5 hours

Total	100%	15 hrs. outside of class

CLASS POLICIES

Cover page: To safeguard confidentiality, provide a title page as a cover for all assignments. Include your student mailbox number in the upper right corner of the cover page.

Attendance and Late Assignments: Students are expected to attend all class meetings. Students who miss class are responsible for missed work. Unexcused absences and tardiness will impact a student's grade. Students who anticipate an absence should discuss it in advance with the instructor. Students who miss two or more classes will not pass the course. Assignments submitted after the due date and time constitutes a drop in the student's letter grade for that assignment.

Enrichment Students: Enrichment students are encouraged, but not obligated, to participate in assignments and class discussions. Professors are not obligated to grade participation for these students, but may opt to do so depending on class size.

Incompletes: Faculty members determine their own procedures and due dates for the completion of course assignments. The final deadline for submitting all course work is the last day of the semester as noted in the Academic Calendar and in the Sacramento class schedule. In the case of serious illness, family emergency, or similar extenuating circumstances, the instructor may, **if it is initiated by the student**, grant an extension. A 1-3 week extension is typical in all except the most extreme cases, and in all cases the standard decrease of a full letter grade for late work applies. Extensions desired by the student beyond 3 weeks, with prof support, must be approved by the Sacramento Academic Coordinator, with 5 weeks after the end of the course being the longest possible extension for work being due to the prof (this allows a 6th week for the grading of work and a grade change request to be filed); for this semester that date is Saturday, 1/23/10. A temporary notation of "I" (incomplete) is assigned until a final grade can be determined. Under no circumstances may the six-week period (allots 1 week to the prof for grading and grade change petition) be extended except by petition and approval of the Administrative Committee in Portland.

The Availability of Disability Services at Western Seminary: 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.

LIBRARY AND INTERNET RESEARCH – SACRAMENTO

All class assignments with a research element require library research annotated as such in the bibliography. A minimum of two resources must be from a physical library. Note the physical location of each resource as an addendum to each bibliographical entry.

For complete library information including: hours of operation, interlibrary loan, local library resources, etc., please:

- Visit www.westernseminary.edu/sacramento
- Click the link “Library Services” in the right navigation pane.

Reserve Collection

The library carries all required readings for this course.

Print Resources

Use the Western-Arcade Library catalog to find books and other materials. To search the library collection:

- Visit <http://www.westernseminary.edu/Library/SAC> .
- Click the link “Search the Library Collection Online”.

Periodical & Research Databases

As you complete your assignments for this course, don’t forget about the resources in the Western research databases. Remember to evaluate and cite your information too. To access the Western research databases:

- Visit <http://www.westernseminary.edu/Library/SAC> .
- Click the link “Research Databases” from the bottom menu.
- Click the link “Ebsco Host Research Databases”.
- Log in. [**User ID:** westsem / **Password:** seminary]
- Click the link “EBSCOhost Web”.
- Click the database(s) you wish to use. Start with *ATLA Religion Database with ATLASerials*.

To cite your information, consider the following MLA composers:

<http://www.noodletools.com> and <http://www.citationmachine.net>

Western-Arcade Library offers a variety of ministry related software for student use including BibleWorks, Logos Bible Software, and SeminaryLibrary.

Course Packs (if applicable)

To access the course pack(s) for this course:

1. Go to the library homepage: <http://www.westernseminary.edu/Library/SAC>
2. Click the link ‘Course Packs’.

Reference and Research Contact Information

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COURSE OUTLINE AND SCHEDULE

Date	Topic	Assignments
Thurs, 9/3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction 	
Thurs, 9/17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reflection/Discussion 	<p>Read: Crazy Love, ch. 1-2 and for each chapter be ready to summarize the main ideas and to lead the group in discussing them</p> <p>Due: The Mentored Field Ministry Contract</p> <p>Due: Mentor Participation Form (if a new mentor)</p> <p>Due: The Personal Ministry Goals Assignment</p> <p>Due: Reading summary</p> <p>Due: Character and Ministry Skills Audits (for those in MFM 501 or 504)</p> <p>Due: A Case Study (if you are assigned one for session 2)</p> <p>Begin ministry and meeting with Ministry Mentor and initiate meeting with Mentor-At-Large</p>
Thurs, 10/1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reflection/Discussion 	<p>Read: Crazy Love, ch. 3-4 and for each chapter be ready to summarize the main ideas and to lead the group in discussing them</p> <p>Due: Reading summary</p> <p>Due: A Case Study (if you are assigned one for session 3)</p>
Thurs, 10/15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reflection/Discussion 	<p>Read: Crazy Love, ch. 5-6 and for each chapter be ready to summarize the main ideas and to lead the group in discussing them</p> <p>Due: Reading summary</p> <p>Due: A Case Study (if you are assigned one for session 4).</p>
Thurs, 10/29	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reflection/Discussion 	<p>Read: Crazy Love, ch. 7-8 and for each chapter be ready to summarize the main ideas and to lead the group in discussing them</p> <p>Due: Reading summary</p> <p>Due: A Case Study (if you are assigned one for session 5)</p>
Thurs, 11/12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reflection/Discussion 	<p>Read: Crazy Love, ch. 9-10 and for each chapter be ready to summarize the main ideas and to lead the group in discussing them</p>

		<p>Due: Reading summary</p> <p>Due: A self-evaluation and your Ministry Mentor's evaluation of you. Discuss both with your Ministry Mentor.</p> <p>Due: Mentored Field Ministry paper (5-7 pages),</p> <p>Due: A Case Study (if assigned one for session 6).</p>

Professor Instructions	
Suggested Deadline: Dec 1	<p>These items are turned into the professor, who will submit them to the WS office by the suggested deadline to be kept in the student's file:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mentored Field Ministry Contract - Character Audit (MFM 501 and 504) - Ministry Skills Audit - Student Self Evaluation Form - Mentor Participation Form - Graded Mentored Field Ministry paper (the Western Seminary office will return this paper to the student)
Suggested Deadline: Dec 15	<p>These items are turned into the professor, who will return them to the student by the suggested deadline:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reading Summaries - Ministry Observation Paper - Case Study/Studies

WESTERN SEMINARY MINISTRY MENTOR EXPECTATIONS

A qualified and committed Ministry Mentor is a crucial component in a seminary student's field ministry experience. We ask our students to seek out someone who is an experienced and respected practitioner of the type of ministry that he/she is anticipating; hence it is an honor to be approached to see if you would be willing to serve in this role.

To enable you to respond thoughtfully to a student's request for ministry mentoring, here is a brief list of the responsibilities that you would assume:

Help the student design a structured learning experience that integrates his/her developmental needs with the needs/circumstances of your ministry site. We want our students to be a blessing to your ministry, not a burden! A learning contract form will be provided that should provide sufficient flexibility for a customized mentored field ministry.

Once the learning contract is formally approved, meet at least twice a month with the student for approximately one hour (90 minutes in summer) over the length of the term. The length is dependant on the student's degree program requirements and the mentor's availability. The "agenda" for these meetings is also flexible: monitoring his/her goals and ministry, offering your wisdom about various aspects of ministry, "debriefing" following aspects of your ministry that the student has observed, fielding his/her questions about life as a Christian leader, etc. This is where most of the actual mentoring takes place. If time pressures make an hour in your office twice a month to be problematic, we would encourage you to redeem other opportunities (e.g., meals, travel to and from ministry occasions such as funerals, weddings, etc.)

After ten weeks (6 weeks in summer), fill out an evaluation of the student. We've designed this evaluation form to facilitate broad-based, meaningful data in a manner that doesn't require a large time investment from the evaluator. We ask that you discuss this evaluation with the student (including comparing it with his/her self-evaluation) during one of your regular meetings before the student submits it to his/her Reflection Group instructor. The Reflection Group Facilitator will also likely be in touch with you sometime toward the end of each semester for a conversation about the student.

Essentially, that's the role of a Ministry Mentor. You will be given a Ministry Mentors Manual, which is called *Mentoring At Western Seminary*, by the student you are mentoring. As a modest token of our appreciation, at the end of your first semester as a Western Mentor, we will send you a tuition waiver, which is good for any 2 unit course at Western taken for enrichment (not graduate credit) at no cost to you. We hope this helps to facilitate your life-long learning as well.

Any questions or concerns that you may have can be directed to Dave Fredrickson, Academic coordinator, at 916-488-3720 ext 5. Thank you for prayerfully considering this ministry mentoring opportunity.