**COS 524**

**THEOLOGICAL REFLECTON: PRACTICE OF MINISTRY**

**ALPS-MTH Course of Study**

**DR. KEN A. RAMSEY, INSTRUCTOR**

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**DESCRIPTION:** This course will focus on the integration of Biblical, theological, and practical aspects of ministry. How to reflect theologically and to be the resident theologian among the people you serve will be highlighted. Emphasis will be given to cultivating and implementing a faithful theology of ministry.

**TEXTS:**  William H. Willimon, Pastor: The Theology and Practice of Ordained Ministry

Kathleen A. Cahalan, Introducing the Practice of Ministry

Charles M. Wood & Ellen Blue, Attentive to God: Thinking Theologically in Ministry

**COURSE ASSIGNMENTS: (Also called pre-work)**

1. Read Willimon’s book. In the chapter “Ordination, Why Pastors?” list the eight observations that he makes concerning ordained ministry, but in listing them substitute “Pastoral ministry” for “ordination”. This will affirm the common ground that all pastors share regardless of title. Example: 1. Pastoral ministry is an act of Christ and His church. After listing them, offer a couple of paragraphs of reflection on: Which one of these observations resonates the most with your understanding of ministry?
2. Read Willimon and Cahalan. Willimon discusses the various roles of a pastor in Chapters 3-13 and Cahalan discusses the six practices of ministry in Chapters 3 and 4. Pick two of Willimon’s roles and write a comprehensive paper of at least 6-8 pages describing and reflecting upon these roles as he presents them. Relate them also to Cahalan’s six practices by comparing and contrasting the similarities and differences in their presentations. How are these roles integrated into your own theology of ministry? Be certain to include why you feel strongly about these roles/practices and how you believe these help us minister in the 21st century.
3. Write a 2 page paper on how you have learned to “practice ministry”. Include insight from Chapters 5 and 6 of Cahalan’s book.
4. Read Wood and Blue. Pick one of the case studies described and assess the case study using the following questions: What is going on in this situation? What are the theological issues involved?

How is God involved in this scenario? What’s at stake for Christ? For the Church? For those involved? What would be a fitting Christian and pastoral response in this situation?

BE PREPARED TO ALSO DO A CASE STUDY IN THE CONTEXT OF THE CLASS WITH A GROUP or YOUR ASSIGNED PARTNER(S)

**POLICY AND PROCEDURES:**

* For Hybird courses, all in person and zoom class sessions are required. Your instructor will email you a welcome letter about 10 days prior to the first weekend. Email your instructor if you do not receive your welcome letter by email by 7 days prior to the first zoom class weekend session. You will receiive videos with links after the in person weekend to watch prior to the zoom class weekend to prepare you for zoom class discussion or directions for partner discussions. The class syllabus may only list major written assignments. Other assignments may be given such as videos to watch prior to or in between weekend classes. All online courses include required prework, in person and zoom class sessions on weekends, and written assignments. Some courses include videos to watch and/or partner discussions, and handouts.
* ZOOM sessions REQUIRE the video to be on and working in order to satisfy the participation and attendance requirements. If you do not have the ability to do this, then find someone you know who does and ask to use their technology for the course.
* Prework is required for all COS courses. **Prework must be MAILED to the instructor and postmarked 10 days prior to the first Friday class weekend session--unless an earlier date for Prework is specified in the syllabus.** MAIL your prework to the instructor sooner than 10 days ahead if it is finished. The 10 days allows for slow mail and grading prior to your first weekend class. Priority mail provides you with a tracking number. Do not send it “signature required”.
* Normal church duties do not constitute a reason for a **Pre-work Extension**. Extensions for late prework for health emergencies, etc. may only be granted BY Dr. Nye by email [bnye34@gmail.com](mailto:bnye34@gmail.com) . Withdrawals or changes must be addressed to Dr Nye.
* **Order textbooks** as soon as you register at least 45 days prior to class (if possible 3-6 months prior to class), so you have adequate time to process your registration and do your prework on time.

These policy and procedures including writing expectations, assignment deadlines, and other general course information can be found on the ALPS website.

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