COURSE DESCRIPTION

This is a course development of the church worker’s own personal walk with God. Special attention is given to leadership of one’s self and spiritual formation through the classic spiritual disciplines (e.g., prayer life, devotional habits, etc.) as well as call to work, relationship with spouse and children, and ability to relate to and minister to people. REQUIRED FOR M.Div., M.A.B.C., M.A.B.S., M.A.M., M.A.B.C.R., M.A.Mis., C.Mis., C.B.C.R., C.B.S. – Two Credit Hours

COURSE OBJECTIVES

1. The student will be able to examine for themselves the internal and external call of God to Christian work, as well as consideration of a biblical theology of work. The qualifications and qualities of a Christian worker will be examined.

2. The student will be able to develop disciplines of spiritual growth consistent with Scriptural principles of personal sanctification and Christ likeness through personal prayer, devotion to the Scriptures, and worship.

3. The student will be able to development disciplines of: spiritual service, humility, patience, self-leadership, confronting and overcoming sin, and theology of change.

4. Special attention will be devoted to cultivating the students’ understanding and practice of spiritual disciplines and Christian character of the heart manifested by the fruit of the spirit.

5. After a thorough consideration and examination of the students’ oversight of self, the course will transition to cultivating the students’ oversight of others, particularly in relation to family (spouse, children, and parents) and the flock/church.

COURSE TEXTS

Required:

- Oswald Sanders *The Incomparable Christ* Moody ISBN 080245660X *
COURSE TEXTS

Recommended:

- Adler, Mortimer J. and Charles Van Doren *How to Read A Book* Touchstone Publishing ISBN 0671212095
- *StyleEase for Chicago and Turabian Style* [www.StyleEase.com](http://www.StyleEase.com) StyleEase Software, LLC
- *Logos Bible Software* - Libronix Digital Library System (See [www.birminghamseminary.org](http://www.birminghamseminary.org))

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. Submit a **400** word typed essay on your personal call to ministry. Due week two.

2. All students are expected to have read assigned materials and be prepared to participate fully in class.

3. **Attendance:** The student is expected to attend all classes unless providentially hindered. If the student must be absent from a class, they must contact the professor prior to class. Student is still responsible for all assignments to be completed as per syllabus. More than two unexcused absences drops final grade one letter grade.

4. **Scripture Memorization:** Each week, the professor will assign for memorization one short Scripture passage related to the material covered that week in class. The students are to memorize and meditate upon that Scripture verse. Students’ memorization Scripture verses will be checked each week.

5. **Journal:** The student will maintain a bound journal throughout the semester in which they are to reflect on what they are reading and learning in class, what Scriptures upon which they are meditating, matters upon which they are praying, etc. Entries must be dated and made weekly at least. This is not a notebook of notes taken in class! Students are to reflect upon what they are learning for life application and how it is affecting life transformation. The journal will be checked periodically by the instructor throughout the course of the semester; entries will be respected and held in confidence.

6. **Oral/Written Book Critiques:** The student will write a three (3) two-three (2-3) page critical papers on each book listed in the course texts with asterisks. Each critical paper will have the following component parts:
   a. Introduce the author.
   b. What is the book about as a whole? *(Description-define the problem/problems that the author is trying to solve)*
   c. What is the author saying in detail and how is it said? *(Interpretation-what are the author’s claims?)*
e. What is the significance of the book? (Personally, Spiritually, & Academically) (What are the formations and or applications to your life and ministry?)

f. As you write your paper your goal is to answer these questions concisely and achieving Master’s level requirements. **This is not a book report, think through critically.**

7. Each student will present to the class, an **oral report** on each book lasting no more than five (5) minutes. The significance will be based on your personal interaction (self-application/life-transformation) with each book.

8. **Research Paper**: This paper will be twelve-fifteen (12-15) pages on your philosophy of ministry for the Christian Worker in the 21st Century. This paper should be comprehensive, select a specific topic from the materials covered in the course that is pertinent to your area of Christian ministry. The page requirements do not include the cover page, table of contents or bibliography. You should have at least seven (7) scholarly references other than your required texts, along with proper citations of footnotes and bibliography. Two (2) of the references must come from **scholarly** journals, Wikipedia is not a valid resource and only one internet source (must be viable) may be used.

**BTS Format and Style Standards**

Note: All research papers must be formatted in accordance with Turabian Chicago standards including the title page, citations and bibliography. Any paper not conforming to these standards will automatically be dropped one letter grade. #12 Times New Roman font and double spacing is required on all papers.

All course materials must be submitted by the last day of class. Thereafter, course materials may be submitted for up to six (6) weeks after the end of the semester directly to the office of the Registrar with the permission of the professor. If a student submits course materials after the end of the semester but within the six (6) weeks grace period, the student’s grade will be lowered by one letter grade. The course materials will not be accepted after the six (6) week grace period and a failing grade will be posted to the student’s transcript.

**COURSE GRADING**

1. Scripture memory, journal and timeliness of assignments: 20 points
2. Class participation and preparedness: 10 points
3. Book critiques/oral presentations: 40 points
4. Research paper: 30 points
   100 points
## COURSE SCHEDULE

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Readings</th>
<th>Assignment</th>
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| Wk. 1 Jan. 24 | Introduction/Syllabus Review  
*Call to Ministry & Christian Work* |                                                      |
| Wk. 2 Jan. 31 | Chapters 1-4 (Boice)  
Chapter 1-6 (Bridges)  
*The Sanctified Life* | Memory Verse (Rom 6:6-7)  
*Call to Ministry Essay* |
| Wk. 3 Feb. 07 | Chapters 5-9 (Boice)  
Chapters 7-11 (Bridges)  
*Living by Faith in Christ* | Memory Verse (Heb 11:17-18) |
| Wk. 4 Feb. 14 | Chapters 10-13 (Boice)  
Chapters 12-17 (Bridges)  
*Becoming Men and Women of the Word* | Memory Verse (II Tim 3:16-17)  
*Oral Presentation – Boice*  
*Book Critique - Bridges* |
| Wk. 5 Feb. 21 | Chapters 1-4 (Spurgeon on Prayer)  
*Disciplines of a Life of Prayer* | Memory Verse (Mark 11:24)  
*Oral Presentations - Bridges* |
| Wk. 6 Feb 28 | Chapters 5-8 (Spurgeon on Prayer)  
Chapters 1-4 (Spurgeon on the Holy Spirit)  
*Appropriating the Power of the Holy Spirit* | Memory Verse (I Cor 2:3-5) |
| Wk. 7 Mar. 7 | Chapters 9-12 (Spurgeon on Prayer)  
Chapters 5-8 (Spurgeon on Holy Spirit)  
*Cultivating a Heart of Obedience* | Memory Verse (John 14:15)  
*Oral Presentations - Spurgeon*  
*Book Critique – Spurgeon* |
| Wk. 8 Mar. 14 | **Spring Break**                                                                |                                                      |
| Wk. 9 Mar. 21 | Chapters 9-12 (Spurgeon on Holy Spirit)  
Chapters 1-7 (Sanders)  
*Developing a Servant’s Heart* | Memory Verse (Mark 10:44-45)  
*Oral Presentation - Spurgeon* |
| Wk. 10 Mar. 28 | Chapters 8-14 (Sanders)  
*Fruit of the Spirit*  
*Love, Joy, Peace* | Memory Verse (Gal 5:22-24) |
| Wk. 11 Apr. 4 | Chapters 15-21 (Sanders)  
*Fruit of the Spirit*  
*Patience, Kindness, Goodness* | Memory Verse (Gal. 2:20) |
| Wk. 12 Apr. 11 | Chapters 22-28 (Sanders)  
*Fruit of the Spirit*  
*Faithfulness, Gentleness, Self Control* | Memory Verse (II Cor 5:21) |
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Chapters 29-36 (Sanders)</th>
<th>Memory Verse (Phil 3:10-11)</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Worship</strong></td>
<td><strong>Oral Presentation - Sanders</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Book Critique – Sanders</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Wk 13 Apr. 18</td>
<td>Memory Verse (Phil 1:6)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Research Papers Due</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wk. 14 Apr. 25</td>
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</tbody>
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BIBLIOGRAPHY

General


**God’s Will**


**Humility**


Spurgeon, Charles H. *Humility and How to Get It*. Carol Stream, IL: Tyndale, 1900.

**Servanthood**


**Classics and Puritans**


Prayer


**Devotionals**


**Spiritual Disciplines**


**Marriage & Family**


Shepherd Leadership


__________. *They Smell Like Sheep: Leading with the Heart of a Shepherd*, vol. 2. West Monroe, LA: Howard, 2007.


Holiness


Wilkerson, Mike. *Redemption: Freed by Jesus from the Idols We Worship and the Wounds We Carry*. Wheaton, IL: 2011.