

Servanthood and Sanity
Staying Well while Ministering Well

Instructor: Larry Hall

Austin Graduate School of Theology

Spring 2017

9:00 AM to 11:40 AM

Ministry 4350r
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Contact Information: larry@beltonchurch.com

1808N. Beal
Belton, TX 76513
Cell (254) 718-2211

I. Course Goals

Within an atmosphere of biblical theology, anthropology and ecclesiology and a praxis of biblical servant-leadership, the student will articulate major elements of a spiritually, mentally, physically and relationally healthy ministry. Specifically, through the successful completion of this course, the student will demonstrate familiarity with the earmarks of overall wellness—and pathology—within the individual and his/her ministry as well as within the congregation.

The student will display a working knowledge and appreciation of strategies and protocols for assessing and improving personal and congregational health. This awareness and skill will be gained through regular lectures, open discussion and interaction with classmates, the use and interpretation of self-evaluative instruments, and through the reading and review of two required texts and one student-chosen-book. The goals, then, are self- and systems-awareness along with skills and tools for making needed changes. Governing and empowering all of this is the great reality that “it is no longer I who live but Christ who lives in me.”

II. Course Objectives

1. The student will be able to clearly articulate and assess the personal strengths and weaknesses, insights and blindspots, skills and deficiencies he/she brings to the ministry, able, especially, to answer with insight, “Why, really, have I chosen ministry?” Through the use and analysis of instruments designed to identify and quantify individual attachment and transactional styles, personality type and systemic roles, the student will gain self-awareness necessary for establishing and maintaining a robust ministry.
2. The student will recognize the signs of stress and burnout and will have the tools to take both preventive and curative action, implementing proven techniques.
3. The student will have a basic understanding of conflict and a working knowledge of how conflict can be managed, especially within the congregational setting. In particular, the student will be aware of his/her own conflict management strengths and weaknesses.
4. The student will show an enhanced appreciation of the unique pressures and advantages that ministry brings upon the home. The student will demonstrate a working knowledge of this increased sensitivity and the accommodations indicated.
5. The student will articulate and demonstrate a deepening engagement with the mystery and ministry of one crucified and risen with Christ.

III. Means of Assessment

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|---|--------------|
| 1. Meaningful participation in class discussion | 25% of grade |
| 2. Performance on two major exams | 10% ea. o.g. |
| 3. Completion of three book reviews: The required texts, <i>Balda</i> and <i>Burns</i> (V below) and a book chosen by the student from the list | 10% ea. o.g. |
| 4. <i>Response and Vision</i> (special instructions given in class) | 15% o..g. |

IV. Special Instructions for Book Reviews

All written works must use correct grammar, spelling, punctuation, etc. They must be clearly identified by title and student name, be between three and five pages long, double-spaced twelve-point type with one-inch margins, clear and thorough enough to be useful to classmates. Students will provide the instructor with electronic and hard copies as well as electronic copies to all classmates.

Book Reviews will address these kinds of questions: What is the author's thesis and main supporting points? How well and convincingly are the points made; how could they have been better presented? Where do you agree and where do you disagree with the author; why? What issues does the author fail to address? What is the best sentence or paragraph in the book; why? How does this book speak especially to you and your own ministry? Books listed in the bibliography with an asterisk (*) may be reviewed.

V. Required Texts

Balda, Janis Bragan and Balda, Wesley D.
2013 Handbook for Battered Leaders
Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press

Burns, Bob; Chapman, Tasha D. ; and Guthrie, Donald C.
2013 Resilient Ministry
Downers Grove: InterVarsity

Hall, L. E.
2011 No Longer I ~ A Life Transformed
Bloomington: Westbow

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VI. Class Schedule

1/19	Motives, Types and Styles	
1/26	Attachments and Transactions	
2/2	Systems and Boundaries	
2/9	Stress Management	BOOK REVIEWS
2/16	Burnout Prevention	EXAM
2/23	Conflict Management	
3/2	Marriage	
3/9	Family	BOOK REVIEWS
3/16	<i>SPRING BREAK</i>	
3/23	Faith Crises	EXAM
3/30	Case Studies	
4/6	Stillness	BOOK REVIEWS
4/13	The Jesus Alternative	
4/20	The Judo of Jesus / Prayer with Jesus	
4/27	Wrap up and Review	<i>RESPONSE AND VISION</i>
5/4		FINAL EXAM

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VII. Selected Bibliography

Titles with an asterisk (*) can be chosen for the required review. Each book may have one reviewer. Check with your instructor for titles still available.

Barton, Ruth Haley
2010 Invitation to Solitude and Silence
Downers Grove: InerVaristy Press

* Barton, Ruth Haley
2008 Strengthening the Soul of Your Leadership
Downers Grove: InerVaristy Press

Biersdorf, John E.
1992 How Prayer Shapes Ministry.
New York: The Alban Institute

Clinton, Dr. Tim and Sibcy, Dr. Gary
2006 Why You Do The Things You Do: The Secret to Healthy Relationships.
Integrity Publishers

Cloud, Dr. Henry and Townsend, Dr. John
2002 God Will Make A Way.
Nashville: Integrity Publishers

Cope, Mike
2000 One Holy Hunger.
Abilene: Hillcrest Publishing

* Dawn, Marva and Peterson, Eugene
2000 The Unnecessary Pastor: Rediscovering the Call.
Grand Rapids: Eerdmans

Dodd, Brain J.
2003 Empowered Church Leadership: Ministry in the Spirit According to Paul.
Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press

Greenleaf, Robert K.
2002 Servant Leadership: A Journey into the Nature of Legitimate Power & Greatness.
Mahwah: Paulist Press

Hicks, John Mark
1999 Yet Will I Trust Him: Understanding God In a Suffering World.
Joplin: College Press Publishing Company

Hirsh, Sandra Krebs and Jane A. G. Kise
1997 Looking at Type and Spirituality
Gainesville: CAPT

Keating, Charles J.
1993 Who We are is How We Pray
Mystic: 23rd Publications

Keirse, David
1998 Please Understand Me, II
Delmar: Prometheus/Nemesis

Lott, David B.
2001 Conflict Management in Congregations.
Bethesda: Alban Institute

* Marcuson, Margaret J.
2009 Leaders Who Last: Sustaining Yourself and Your Ministry.
New York: Seabury

* McNeal, Reggie
2000 A Work of the Heart: Understand How God Shapes Spiritual Leaders.
San Francisco: Jossey-Bass

Murren, Doug
1999 Churches that Heal.
West Monroe: Howard Publishing Company

* Minirth, Frank, M.D. et al
1990 Before Burnout
Chicago: Moody

Oden, Thomas
1974 Game Free
New York: Harper & Row

* Peterson, Eugene
1992 Under the Unpredictable Plant
Grand Rapids: Eerdmans

Prior, Kenneth
1990 Perils of Leadership.
Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press

* Richardson, Ronald
1996 Creating a Healthier Church: Family Systems Theory, Leadership & Congregational Life.
Minneapolis: Augsburg Fortress

* Shawchuck, Norman and Heuser, Roger
1993 Leading the Congregation: Caring for Yourself while Serving the People.
Nashville: Abingdon Press.

Steinke, Peter, L.
1996 Healthy Congregations: a systems approach.
Washington: The Alban Institute

Willimon, William H.
2000 Calling and Character: Virtues of the Ordained Life.
Nashville: Abingdon Press

Willimon, William H.
2002 Pastor: The Theology and Practice of Ordained Ministry.
Nashville: Abingdon Press

* Wilson, Michael Todd and Hoffman, Brad
2007 Preventing Ministry Failure.
Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press

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