



Syllabus

Course: MS340 Theological Foundations for Ministry

Credit: 3 Semester Hours

Semester: Fall 2024; Session 2: October 21 - December 13

Days/Time: Mondays and Wednesdays, 2:30-3:50 p.m.

Place: CABRE 103

Instructor: Shaun LePage, ThM, shaun.lepage@calvary.edu, (office) 816-768-6971, (mobile) 785-840-8568, Office: CABRE 107

I. Description of the Course

A biblical examination of the nature of ministry to include an in-depth study of the following ministry-related subjects: the purpose of ministry, qualifications for ministry leadership, spiritual gifts for ministry, biblical conflict management, biblical ministry strategy, personal calling, and affirmation for ministry.

This course is offered in two formats: in-person and online. Students registered for in-person attend the classes in person, online students attend the classes via the online classroom. For both in-person and online students, assignments and interaction outside of the class period are done in the learning management system.

II. Objectives of the Course

A. General competencies to be achieved. The student will be able to . . .

1. Relate the basic tenets of ecclesiology to local church and parachurch ministry. (PLO* 1-5) (A** 1-4)
2. Demonstrate understanding of what the Bible teaches about spiritual gifts, calling, and personal qualifications required for effective ministry. (PLO 2) (A 1-4)

3. Describe Biblical guidelines for ministry structures, leadership, discipleship, discipline, and other aspects of ministry. (PLO 2) (A 4)
4. Research biblical data for the formation of a personal philosophy of ministry. (PLO 2) (A 1-4)
5. Research practical ministry ideas and practices in light of biblical mandates. (PLO 2) (A 1-4)

B. Specific competencies to be achieved. The student will be able to . . .

1. Articulate an expanded, working description of biblical ministry. (PLO 2, 3) (A 1-4)
2. Research a biblical understanding of significant aspects essential to all ministry. (PLO 2, 3) (A 1)
3. Research contemporary understandings and attitudes toward contemporary ministry. (PLO 2, 3) (A 2, 3)
4. Articulate a biblical understanding of spiritual gifts and their role in contemporary ministry. (PLO 2, 3) (A 1)
5. Communicate a personal understanding of God's call and gifting for ministry as well as identify areas for continued personal growth. (PLO 2, 3) (A 4)
6. Use a Biblical worldview to evaluate current trends in ministry. (PLO 2, 3, 4) (A 4)
7. Formulate a Biblical philosophy and practice for the specific kind of ministry envisioned upon graduation. (PLO 2-5) (A 1)
8. Demonstrate comprehension of the course material. (PLO 2, 3) (A 4)

III. Textbooks for the Course

- A. Required Textbook: An English Bible (NAS, NASB-U, NKJV, NET, ESV, or other by approval)
1. The Bible is a required textbook in every course at Calvary University. To facilitate academic level study, students are required to use for assignments and research an English translation or version of the Bible based on formal equivalence (meaning that the translation is generally word-for-word from the original languages), including any of the following: New American Standard (NASB, English Standard Version (ESV), New King James (NKJV), or King James (KJV). Other translations and versions based on dynamic equivalence (paraphrases, and thought-for-thought translations like NLT and NIV) may be used as supplemental sources. Please ask the professor if you have questions about a particular translation or version.

2. Please ask the professor if you have questions about a particular translation or version.

B. Articles as selected and assigned by the professor.

IV. Assignments of the Course (Note: Specific instructions for each assignment will be posted in Canvas.)

A. Assignment #1: Study the Book of Acts toward the development of a biblical understanding of the foundations of ministry, according to the format provided in class in order to evaluate the ministry methods and strategies of the first-century church toward a 21st century philosophy of ministry.

B. Assignment #2: Read the Book of Acts and record significant observations using the assignment guide provided in class.

C. Assignment #3: Read articles as assigned by the professor and record significant observations using the reading summary guide provided in class.

D. Assignment #4: Weekly quizzes to help reinforce the material taught and discussed in class.

V. Grading for the Course

A. Assignment #1 = 300 points

B. Assignment #2 = 300 points

C. Assignment #3 = 200 points

D. Assignment #4 = 200 points

E. TOTAL: 1000 points

F. Extra Credit: The student may also receive 1 extra credit points for every verse (up to 20) recited from memory from the Book of Acts or any of the letters of Paul.

VI. Points and Final Grade

A. 930-1000 points = A

B. 900-929 points = A-

C. 870-899 points = B+

D. 830-869 points = B

E. 800-829 points = B-

- F. 770-799 points = C+
- G. 730-769 points = C
- H. 700-729 points = C-
- I. 670-699 points = D+
- J. 630-669 points = D
- K. 600-629 points = D-
- L. 0-559 points = F

VII. Tentative Course Schedule (Note: An expanded schedule will be presented during the first class session.)

- A. Week 1: Introduction to Theological Foundations for Ministry
- B. Week 2: Movement 1: Acts 1:1-6:7
- C. Week 3: Movement 2: Acts 6:8-9:31
- D. Week 4: Movement 3: Acts 9:32-12:24
- E. Week 5: Movement 4: Acts 12:25-16:5
- F. Week 6: Movement 5: Acts 16:6-19:20
- G. Week 7: Movement 6: Acts 19:21-28:31
- H. Week 8: Conclusions Toward a Biblical Philosophy and Application of Acts

VIII. NOTES

- A. * PLO = Program Learning Objectives
- B. ** A = Assignments; showing how the assignments for this course are directly linked to the objectives.
- C. Punctual reading and writing will allow the student to get the most out of the course.
- D. About Disabilities: Students with disabilities have the responsibility of informing the Accommodations Support Coordinator (aso@calvary.edu) of any disabling condition that may require support.
- E. About Assistance for All Course Assignments: The Clark Academic Center (learning@calvary.edu) is dedicated to providing free academic assistance for all CU students. Student tutors aid with all facets of the writing process, tutor in various subject areas, prepare students for exams, and facilitate tests. Please take advantage

of this service.

- F. About Changes to this Syllabus: The instructor reserves the right to make changes to this syllabus at any time during the course, but any changes made will only be done after clearly communicating the need for the change and the specific change to be made via in-class announcement and Canvas announcement.
- G. Grading criteria for all written assignments: All class papers must follow the Turabian style according to *A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*, 8th edition and the *Calvary Style Guide*, 2015 update — title page, footnotes and bibliography. See the “Clark Academic Center” page on the CU website for a “Turabian Help” (<https://www.calvary.edu/clark-academic-center/>).
- H. An assignment-specific rubric will be provided for each assignment.
- I. About Late Assignments: Assignments are due when posted on Canvas. After that time, late assignment grades will be lowered 5% for each day it is late.
- J. About Plagiarism: Plagiarism is defined as copying any content without identifying the source. This also includes taking another person’s or AI entity’s ideas or constructs and presenting them as your own. The use of AI generated content in student work is prohibited (even if cited) as it does not represent original work created by the student and is an unreliable aggregate of ideas from other sources. Plagiarism of any kind will not be tolerated.