



YM4585 Spring 2009

Discipleship and Vocation of Children, Youth and Family Ministry

INSTRUCTOR

Terri Elton

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MEETING

BH 116

Thursdays 6:30 pm – 9:30 pm

April 2 – May 14

COURSE DESCRIPTION

In baptism Jesus Christ calls people of faith to himself, each other, and the world. Students explore the nature and practices of discipleship and vocation with a focus on the lives of children, youth, young adults, and their families. In addition, students spend time tending their own callings and discipleship, especially as it relates to their call to Christian public leadership.

Half Course

OBJECTIVES

Each seminar participant will . . .

1. Learn about the nature of discipleship and vocation.
2. Engage in practices of discipleship and vocation.
3. Develop their own theology of discipleship and vocation.
4. Tend to their own calling and discipleship.
5. Actively engage in discussion with peers about their learnings from class and how they are informed by their own youth and family ministry context.
6. Construct a children, youth and family ministry final project rooted in discipleship and vocation.

REQUIRED BOOKS/READING

Bonhoeffer, Dietrich. *Life Together and Prayerbook of the Bible*. Edited by Jr. Wayne Whitson Floyd. Vol. 5, *Dietrich Bonhoeffer Works*. Minneapolis: Fortress Publishing, 1996.

Foss, Michael W. *Power Surge: Six Marks of Discipleship for a Changing Church*. Minneapolis: Augsburg Fortress Publishing, 2000.

Schuurman, Douglas J. *Vocation: Discerning Our Callings in Life*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans Publishing, 2004.

Sections from/Essays:

Kolden, Marc and Todd Nichol, eds. *Called and Ordained*, Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1990.

Placher, William C., ed. *Callings: Twenty Centuries of Christian Wisdom on Vocation*. Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 2005.

Wingren, Gustaf. "Concept of Vocation: its basis and its problems," *Lutheran World* 15 no 2 1968, 87-95.

COURSE FORMAT AND REQUIREMENTS

Course Structure

The class will meet weekly for six weeks for lecture and to engage in discussion of the assigned reading and assignments. Students will be expected to come prepared with readings completed and/or assignments ready for each day. In addition to lectures and class discussions, students will work in small groups.

Course Requirements

Each student will be required to do the following:

1. **Assigned reading/assignments and Class Participation** – Each student is required to complete the assigned readings/assignments and come prepared to engage the material in class. Reading

material should also be integrated into the final project. Participation in class will contribute to the student's overall grade.

2. **Reflection Paper** – Each student will be asked to reflect on their own discipleship journey and vocational calling throughout the class. This process will include: some readings, personal reflection, a one-on-one interview, and a 2-5 page **reflection paper due Thursday, May 7th**.
3. **Theology Paper** - Each student will prepare a 5-7 page theology of discipleship and vocation paper. This paper should clearly articulate the student's theological frame with regard to discipleship and vocation and its place within their own ministry. **This paper is due Thursday, May 14th**.
4. **Final Project** – Each student will create a frontline ministry project that ties a theme from this class to a particular area of ministry under the umbrella of Children, Youth, and Family ministry. Some ideas of ministry projects include: a Bible study for young adults, a home devotional series for parents with elementary students, a four-week unit for confirmation ministry, a retreat for high school students, or a post-baptism parents class. These projects should be 5-10 pages, including some introductory thoughts that provide a context for and/or set-up the project, the project itself, and a bibliography of resources (either used or that support the project). **Projects should be e-mailed to the professor no later than Monday, May 18th**.

Grading

Grade will be determined based on completion of the following requirements:

Class Participation	15%
Reflection Paper	20%
Theology Paper	30%
Final Project	35%

CLASS SCHEDULE AND READING ASSIGNMENTS

- Week 1**
April 2 **Opening and Introduction to Course**
Small Groups – Call stories
- Week 2**
April 16 **Nature of Discipleship**
Readings: *Life Together*
- Week 3**
April 23 **Theology and Practices of Discipleship**
Readings: *Power Surge* – Chapters 1,2, 5 and 8.
Relational Assignment due

One-on-one meetings – April 21-May 4

- Week 4**
April 30 **Nature of Vocation**
Readings: *Callings* – Introduction/Prologue and one theological reflection and the introduction to that section and Wingren's "Concept of Vocation."
Vocational Assignment due
- Week 5**
May 7 **Practices of Vocation**
Reading: *Vocation*- Chapters 1-4.
Reflection Paper due.
- Week 6**
May 14 **Discipleship and Vocation in the Church**
Reading: Kolden's essay.
Theology Paper due.

Final Project Due on May 18th.