

**DS8101 D. Min. Orientation**  
**Providence Theological Seminary**  
**Professor: Daryl R. Climenhaga, D.Miss.**

**August 2011**

**SYLLABUS**

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

The Orientation Module is designed to: 1) familiarize the participants with the objectives and procedures of the Doctor of Ministry program; 2) engage the participants in personal and professional assessment; 3) engage the participants in theological reflection; 4) assist the participants in establishing an individual plan for their Doctor of Ministry program; 5) develop collegiality among the participants; 6) develop rapport with faculty advisors; and 7) set up on-site advisory teams.

**COURSE COMPONENTS**

**Introduction to the Degree**

Participants will go over the Handbook and be oriented as to the complete program.

**Personal Assessment**

Together the class evaluates personal and career goals, as well as the assessment of maturity and ministry skills. Participants will present a ten page personal autobiographic statement, a five to seven page theological autobiography, and a one to two page statement of desired growth areas and competencies desired from the program. These will be used for interactive work with faculty and other participants. Participants will also assess their learning styles and the impact of those styles on their approaches to D. Min. study.

**Theory of Ministry**

Students will articulate and define their theory of ministry through interaction with other students and faculty members. Integration of biblical, theological, and ministry skills will be emphasized.

**Introduction to Resources**

Bibliographic and other resources material will be presented. Participants and faculty will share these resources.

**Development of Collegial Relations**

Participants will be encouraged in interpersonal relationships with other participants through the class, social time spent together, and a brief retreat built into the course.

**Development of Personal Program**

Participants will complete their total program objective.

**Pre-Session Assignments**

If necessary, these can be done as post-session requirements, but completing them before the module begins allows for greater interaction during the module.

1. Write a ten-page personal autobiography. The paper should cover three areas: 1) Family – discuss both your early and current family life and their impact on your person and ministry; 2) Ministry – discuss your call to ministry, training for ministry, and involvement in ministry; how did these affect your person and ministry? 3) God – discuss your personal view of God and His impact on your person and ministry.

2. Write a five to seven page theological autobiography. The paper should cover what has influenced your current theological views: people (parents, pastors, teachers, etc.), books, periodicals, films, etc.

3. Read the following four texts:

Foster, Richard

2003 *Prayer: Finding the Heart's True Home*. San Francisco: HarperCollins.

Hiebert, Paul G.

2008 *Transforming Worldviews: An Anthropological Understanding of How People Change*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic.

Kiersey, David

1998 *Please Understand Me, II*. Del Mar, CA: Prometheus Nemesis.

Peterson, Robert A., and Michael Williams

2004 *Why I Am Not An Arminian*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press.

OR

Walls, Jerry L. and Joseph Dongell

2004 *Why I Am Not a Calvinist*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press.

### **In Session Assignments**

1. Go over autobiographies and tentative program with fellow participants.
2. Take various personality and learning style tests: the Myers Briggs Personality Inventory (available in the book by Kiersey) and the Styles of Influence Questionnaire, available online. (We will give information on how to log in to the latter in class. There will also be a fee for signing up to the web site.)
3. Interact with participants in formal and informal times.
4. Develop some action steps to enhance your person and ministry.
5. Spend two evenings together in retreat and in getting to know each other.

### **Post-Session Assignments**

1. Set up your on-site supervisory committees.
2. Work out and submit your Doctor of Ministry Covenant of Learning.

3. Write a reflection paper (about seven to eight pages) on the module as it relates to your life and theological autobiographies.

4. Write three to four page papers on each of the assigned texts (Kiersey; Foster; Hiebert; and Walls or Peterson) using the format presented in class.

### Tentative Class Schedule

**9 a.m. each morning: Devotions**

<b>Monday Morning</b>	<p><b>9:15 to 10:20 am:</b> Welcome and Get Acquainted. Go through syllabus.</p> <p><b>10:40 to 11: 30:</b> Introduction to Handbook.</p> <p><b>11:30 to Noon:</b> Go over personal autobiographies.</p>
<b>Monday Afternoon</b>	<p><b>1 to 2:20 pm:</b> Personal autobiographies.</p> <p><b>2:40 to 4:00 pm:</b> Theological autobiographies.</p>
<b>Tuesday Morning</b>	<p><b>9:15 to 10:20:</b> Myers-Briggs.</p> <p><b>10:40 to Noon:</b> The SOI Test.</p>
<b>Tuesday Afternoon</b>	<p><b>1 to 4 pm:</b> Introduction to doctoral research. Guests: Drs. Morgan and Cornell teach the Project Development module, and will join us to meet you and give you some idea of the place of research in the doctor of ministry.</p>
<b>Tuesday Evening</b>	<p><b>6 to 8 pm:</b> Social Retreat: Participants in the module use our time to get to know each other better, which may become the most important part of your D. Min. experience. I am inviting the class to join me for supper, either at my home or in a restaurant.</p>
<b>Wednesday Morning</b>	<p><b>9:15 to Noon:</b> Theology, Ministry, and the D.Min.: Discuss <i>Why I Am Not ....</i> This is only one area of difference in theological circles, and perhaps not the most important. We use it to help remind ourselves how to think theologically.</p>
<b>Wednesday Afternoon</b>	<p><b>1 to 2:30 pm:</b> Discuss <i>Prayer: Finding the Heart's True Home</i>.</p> <p><b>2:45 to 4 pm:</b> Theories of ministry (Guest Speaker).</p>
<b>Wednesday Evening</b>	<p><b>6 to 8 pm:</b> Spiritual Retreat: All participants in the Orientation Module means that all participants need to be present in the evenings as well as during the day. Depending on our week, this retreat may be replaced by a conversation on spiritual formation.</p>
<b>Thursday Morning</b>	<p><b>9:15 a.m. to Noon:</b> Discuss <i>Transforming Worldviews</i>. Hiebert helps us to exegete our context while we exegete the biblical text, thus grounding our theology in a clear understanding of text and context, ancient and contemporary.</p>
<b>Thursday Afternoon</b>	<p><b>1 pm to 4 pm:</b> Discuss D. Min. Covenant. This time period allows for two different things: 1) To take care of anything left over from early periods in the week, and 2) to consider how you will structure your own doctoral experience.</p>
<b>Friday Morning</b>	<p><b>9:15 am to noon:</b> Introduction to Library Research (Terry Kennedy). Research and the Dissertation-Project: Beginning thoughts on the process of research and the project-dissertation. Lunch with advisors if possible.</p>