

Note:

Course content may be changed, term to term, without notice. The information below is provided as a guide for course selection and is not binding in any form, and should not be used to purchase course materials.

COURSE SYLLABUS

CHMN 201

INTRODUCTION TO CHURCH MINISTRIES

COURSE DESCRIPTION

A practical study of Church Ministry with emphasis given to its biblical foundation, philosophy of ministry, and the various areas of ministry. The ministry is considered as a calling and a career.

RATIONALE

The Bible instructs the believer to not only obey the purpose for the believer's existence (Mt. 28:18–20), but to fulfill this purpose in the local church (Eph. 4:12). Therefore, the believer should have a heightened value for the local church and thereby intelligently minister in it. This course is a practical study for the vocational ministry student as well as for those students who desire to be more informed of their roles as lay ministers in the church. The student will, as never before, focus on the "big picture" of local church ministry and value all of its intricacies. Emphasis will also be put on unity, humility, selflessness, and purity in ministry.

I. PREREQUISITES

None

II. REQUIRED RESOURCE PURCHASES

Click on the following link to view the required resources for the term in which you are registered: <http://bookstore.mbsdirect.net/liberty.htm>

III. ADDITIONAL MATERIALS FOR LEARNING

- A. Computer with basic audio/video output equipment
- B. Internet access (broadband recommended)
- C. Microsoft Word
(Microsoft Office is available at a special discount to LU students.)

IV. MEASURABLE LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:

- A. Develop his/her philosophy of ministry.
- B. Identify the major aspects of ministry as a career.
- C. Integrate biblical and philosophical foundations with practice of ministry.
- D. Apply the biblical foundations of ministry to leadership positions.
- E. Assess his/her own abilities with respect to ministry and as a vocation.

- F. Value the pastor's role as a unique opportunity of service from an eternal perspective.

V. COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND ASSIGNMENTS

- A. Textbook readings and lecture presentations/notes
- B. Discussion Board Forums (3)

The student will participate in three DB forums. Two of the DB forums are graded assignments; the Class Introductions DB forum is not graded. The word count for each DB forum must be at least 200 words per thread and 150 words per reply.

The Class Introductions non-graded DB forum is a place in which the student is able to meet/greet/encourage his/her classmates. The student is encouraged to engage in this non-graded DB forum within Module/Week 1 of this course.

The first Graded DB forum ("Spiritual Gifts") will require the student to first take a specific, free online spiritual gifts survey. Then the student will post a summary of their personal top three spiritual gifts including some additional evaluation. After which, the student will be required to respond to a classmate's thread with encouragement and to make specific required observations. This DB forum will be due by the end of Module/Week 2.

The second Graded DB forum ("Mission: Encouragement") will require the student to provide purposeful substantive encouragement to a church ministry leader(s) based on the required readings. After reading specific chapters from *Refresh* and *Ministry Is...*, the student will be required to post a summary of their communications to the church leader(s) in the required format on a Discussion Board forum. The student will also reply to a classmate offering encouragement. The student will be required to follow the format provided within the course instructions. This DB forum will be due by the end of Module/Week 7.

Specific instructions can be found in the Assignment Instructions folder in Blackboard.

- C. Website Evaluation

The student will be required to choose 3 church websites from a list of churches provided in the course and perform an evaluation using the form given, which includes 2–3-page summary. This assignment is due by the end of Module/Week 3.

- D. Church Leadership and Ministry Evaluation Paper

After reading specific chapters from *Ministry Is...* and *Living Out...*, the student will be required to interview a church ministry leader. The student will be given specific questions to ask and guidelines to follow. After the interview, the student will write a 5–7-page, double-spaced paper which will consist of seven sections, including a substantive summary of the interview (a required format is provided within the course). This assignment must be submitted by the end of Module/Week 5.

E. The Part I Play in the Kingdom Paper

The last assignment is a culmination of the entire course readings and instructions. This assignment will require the student to address the following: comment on his/her spiritual giftedness, suggest specific areas of ministry that would provide the most conducive environment to utilize his/her giftedness to the fullest, revisit any past preconceived notions of where the student initially thought he/she would serve in ministry prior to taking this course to see whether it confirmed/alterd his/her initial ministry pursuit, and to provide a series of guiding principles that would assist anyone considering to enter into local church ministry as a vocation. The student will be given specific guidelines to follow. After which, the student will write a 5–7-page, double-spaced paper. The student will be required to follow the format provided within the assignment instructions. This assignment must be submitted by the end of Module/Week 8.

F. Exams (5)

The student will take 5 open-book and open-notes exams and will have one hour to complete each exam. Each exam consists of 40–50 multiple-choice and true/false questions. Each exam must be completed in the module/week assigned.

VI. COURSE GRADING AND POLICIES

A. Points

Graded Discussion Board Forums (2 at 100 ea)	200
Website Evaluation	100
Church Leadership & Ministry Evaluation Paper	100
The Part I Play in the Kingdom Paper	100
Exams (5 @ 100 ea)	500

Total 1000

B. Scale

A = 900–1000 B = 800–899 C = 700–799 D = 600–699 F = 0–599

C. Instructor Availability and Feedback

Written feedback will be provided on the three papers. The instructor will comment on some, but not all Discussion Board posts. The instructor will answer most emails within 24–48 hours.

D. Disability Assistance

Students with a documented disability may contact the LU Online’s Office of Disability Academic Support (ODAS) at luoodas@liberty.edu to make arrangements for academic accommodations.

COURSE SCHEDULE

CHMN 201

Textbooks: Gutierrez, *Living Out the Mind of Christ* (2011).
 Earley & Gutierrez, *Ministry Is...* (2010).
 Gutierrez, *Refresh: Every Minister Needs Encouragement* (2011).

WEEK/ MODULE	READING & STUDY	ASSIGNMENTS	POINTS
1	Gutierrez (<i>Living Out</i>): Preface, Introduction, Appendix, chs. 1–5 Gutierrez (<i>Refresh</i>): Introduction, chs. 1–5 1 presentation	Course Requirements Checklist Contact Information Questionnaire Class Introductions Exam 1	0 0 0 100
2	Earley & Gutierrez: Introduction, chs. 6–10 Gutierrez (<i>Refresh</i>): chs. 6–10 1 presentation	“Spiritual Gifts” DB Forum 1 Exam 2	100 100
3	Earley & Gutierrez: chs. 27–31 Gutierrez (<i>Refresh</i>): chs. 11–15 1 presentation	Website Evaluation Exam 3	100 100
4	Earley & Gutierrez: chs. 11–20 Gutierrez (<i>Refresh</i>): chs. 16–20 1 presentation	Exam 4	100
5	Earley & Gutierrez: chs. 21, 22, 24, 25, 26 Gutierrez (<i>Refresh</i>): chs. 21–25 1 presentation	Church Leadership and Ministry Evaluation Paper	100
6	Earley & Gutierrez: chs. 1–5 Gutierrez (<i>Refresh</i>): chs. 26–34 1 presentation	Exam 5	100
7	Earley & Gutierrez: ch. 23 Gutierrez (<i>Refresh</i>): chs. 35–40 1 presentation	“Mission: Encouragement” DB Forum 2	100
8	1 presentation	The Part I Play in the Kingdom Paper	100
TOTAL			1000

DB = Discussion Board

NOTE: Each course week (except week 1) begins on Tuesday morning at 12:00 a.m. (ET) and ends on Monday night at 11:59 p.m. (ET). The final week ends at 11:59 p.m. (ET) on Friday.