

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

RLGN 489

MINISTRY PRAXIS CAPSTONE

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is designed to allow the student to utilize skills and insights acquired during the completion of the undergraduate program in religious studies. A range of biblical and theological concepts taught in the program are reinforced, and new dimensions are explored. This helps ensure that the key ideas from the undergraduate religion program are mastered and that opportunities are presented for the student to put these concepts into practice.

RATIONALE

It has become acceptable to rely on knowledge alone as the litmus for effective preparation for serving the mission of the church of Jesus Christ. While knowledge is an indispensable component to that end, the accurate application of that knowledge must be expected of any leader seeking to further this mission. The Christian leader must be disciplined to strive for the practice of faithful ministry that has been informed and founded by biblical truth.

I. PREREQUISITE

For information regarding prerequisites for this course, please refer to the [Academic Course Catalog](#).

II. REQUIRED RESOURCE PURCHASE

Click on the following link to view the required resource(s) 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 Office

IV. MEASURABLE LEARNING OUTCOMES

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

- A. Compose a plan for a lifetime of spiritual growth.
- B. Compose a professional ministry resume.
- C. Explain personal theological positions with biblical support and scholarly evidence.
- D. Outline a process for growing leaders in various contexts within the church.
- E. Formulate a comprehensive discipleship strategy that includes all age groupings within the church.

- F. Construct a plan for leading the church to serve the needs of a surrounding community and lay a foundation for a gospel presentation.

V. COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND ASSIGNMENTS

- A. Textbook readings and lecture presentations

- B. Course Requirements Checklist

After reading the Course Syllabus and [Student Expectations](#), the student will complete the related checklist found in Module/Week 1.

- C. Group Discussion Board Forums (2)

For this collaborative discussion board, the instructor will place the student into a group at the beginning of the course. The student will create a thread in response to the provided prompt for each forum. Each thread must be 200–300 words and demonstrate course-related knowledge. In addition to the thread, the student will reply to the threads of at least 3 classmates. Each reply must be at least 100 words. In the thread and replies, the student must provide support for his or her assertions and include citations and a bibliography when sources are referenced. Current Turabian format must be used.

- D. Theological Position Paper

Draft

The student will write a draft theological analysis of his or her personal educational assumptions that include the following 5 areas: Metaphysics, Epistemology, Axiology, and Ministry Praxis (both Education and Leadership Assumptions). These areas will require the student to produce a 50–100-word summary of disciplines. Each discipline must be supported with biblical foundations (1 key text for each) and a scholarly source as needed. Current Turabian format must be used.

Final

Building upon the draft, the student will write a comprehensive theological analysis of his or her personal educational assumptions that include the following 5 areas: Metaphysics, Epistemology, Axiology, and Ministry Praxis (both Education and Leadership Assumptions). These areas will require the student to produce a 100–200-word summary of disciplines. Each discipline must be supported with biblical foundations (1–2 key texts for each) and a scholarly source as needed. Current Turabian format must be used.

- E. Ministry Resume

The student will produce a 1–2-page resume, a cover letter, and an academic transcript following the format covered in the course materials. The resume must include ministry-related experience with the name of the ministry, location, and length of service as well as a bulleted description of responsibilities related to that position. Additionally, the student must include biographical and educational background information and at least 5 references.

- F. Leadership Development Strategy

The student will produce a document that provides an executable plan for developing leaders in the church. This plan will include the biblical foundation for discipling leaders, a strategy for identifying potential leaders, the required qualifications of leaders in the

church (pastoral as well as non-pastoral), and a sequential strategy for training leaders for longevity in ministry. This assignment must be 1,400–2,250 words, not including the title page and bibliography, and must incorporate 3–5 scholarly sources and at least 5 biblical references. Current Turabian format must be used.

G. Local Ministry Strategy

The student will prepare a 1,400–2,000-word paper that introduces and explains a strategy for reaching a local community at the point of its greatest need. This strategy must address the dominant social problems of the community and explain the proper biblical response. The student must include biblical support as well as scholarly sources that propel such an endeavor. Current Turabian format must be used.

H. Book Review

The student will write a 1,000–1,250-word Book Review analyzing 1 of the required textbooks.

I. Exams (3)

Each exam will cover the Reading & Study material for the assigned modules/weeks.

Each exam will be open-book/open-notes, contain 25 true/false and multiple-choice questions, and have a time limit of 30 minutes.

VI. COURSE GRADING AND POLICIES

A. Points

Course Requirements Checklist		10
Group Discussion Board Forums (2 at 50 pts ea)		100
Theological Position Paper		
Draft		50
Final		150
Ministry Resume		50
Leadership Development Strategy		150
Local Ministry Strategy		150
Book Review		50
Exam 1	(Modules 1–3)	100
Exam 2	(Modules 4–6)	100
Exam 3	(Modules 7–8)	100
	Total	1010

B. Scale

A = 900–1010 B = 800–899 C = 700–799 D = 600–699 F = 0–599

C. Disability Assistance

Students with a documented disability may contact Liberty University Online’s Office of Disability Academic Support (ODAS) at LUOODAS@liberty.edu to make arrangements for academic accommodations. Further information can be found at www.liberty.edu/disabilitysupport.

COURSE SCHEDULE

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Textbooks: LUC – Bredfeldt, *Great Leader, Great Teacher* (2006).
 LUC – Chester & Timmis, *Everyday Church* (2012).
 LUC – Whitney, *Spiritual Disciplines for the Christian Life* (1991).

MODULE/ WEEK	READING & STUDY	ASSIGNMENTS	POINTS
1	Whitney: chs. 1–4 3 presentations	Course Requirements Checklist Class Introductions Group DB Forum 1 Thread	10 0 25
2	Whitney: chs. 5–8 3 presentations	Group DB Forum 1 Replies Theological Position Paper – Draft	25 50
3	Chester & Timmis: chs. 1–3 Whitney: chs. 9–11 1 presentation	Ministry Resume Exam 1	50 100
4	Chester & Timmis: chs. 4–6 Whitney: chs. 12–13 1 presentation	Theological Position Paper – Final	150
5	Bredfeldt: chs. 1–3 1 presentation	Leadership Development Strategy	150
6	Bredfeldt: chs. 4–6 1 presentation	Group DB Forum 2 Thread Exam 2	25 100
7	Bredfeldt: chs. 7–8 1 presentation	Group DB Forum 2 Replies Local Ministry Strategy	25 150
8	Bredfeldt: ch. 9 1 presentation	Book Review Exam 3	50 100
TOTAL			1010

LUC = Liberty University Custom
 DB = Discussion Board

NOTE: Each course module/week (except Module/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 module/week ends at 11:59 p.m. (ET) on **Friday**.