

BAKKE GRADUATE UNIVERSITY
COURSE SYLLABUS

Course Number:	THS 603
Course Title:	<i>Master's Thesis Option - Philosophy of Ministry Paper</i>
Credits:	4
Professor of Record:	Dr. Neil Tibbott
Due Dates:	Final original must be submitted to BGU for binding by March 1 of the year of graduation. The first draft must be submitted by the end of December the year before graduation and in Turabian/Chicago format; it will be proofread by our Technical Reader.
Contact Information:	BGU: Judi Melton, Registrar 1013 Eighth Avenue, Seattle, WA 98104 (206) 264-9100 ext. 14 judim@bgu.edu
Professor of Record:	Dr. Neil Tibbott neil.tibbott@crmleaders.org Dr. Tibbott designed this course and can act as the advisor/professor of record. If the student desires to use a different professor for this course, that person would need to be approved by the Academic Affairs Committee. Submit the proposal to Judi Melton so it can be placed on the AAC agenda for approval. Once the student has identified 25 books, the list should be presented to the professor for approval. Books will be evaluated for the following themes: 1. Theology 2. Ministry 3. Spiritual Formation 4. Inspiration . Once the student has completed the book reports, he/she should obtain the "reflection question" mentioned in the final project.
Course Description	It is the objective of this course to help students integrate their spiritual journey, leadership experiences, academic achievement and book reviews into a Philosophy Ministry statement that may become a working document for lifelong learning. The written work will be evaluated for integration of life and ministry, creative expression and scholarship.
Course Objectives	Upon successfully completing this course, students should be able: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Articulate their basic theological framework • Identify biblical contexts for their faith • Apply theology to practical ministry challenges • Summarize their significant academic influences in writing • Develop a working document for future reference and lifelong learning
Content Integrated	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Course Lectures • Reading Assignments • Formal and Informal Education • Personal reflection and writing • Interaction with faculty
Expected Course Outcomes	Each student will be able to articulate the major academic and life experiences that contributed to their present understanding of theology, spirituality and ministry practice. Each student will submit a philosophy of ministry document which will serve as a synthesis of their present theological and philosophical positions. The result should be a working document useful for further exploration and integration

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Book Reports	<i>Approximately 20 Pages</i>
<i>25% of Grade</i>	(a) Select 25 books that have made a significant contribution to your life and ministry.
	(b) Identify each with a bibliographic reference, noting date and circumstance book was read.
	(c) Summarize each book with a one sentence statement of the thesis of the book followed by a separate one-paragraph synopsis of the book identifying the major contribution it made to your life and ministry.
Reflection Paper	<i>Approximately 20 Pages</i>
<i>25% of Grade</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify five life circumstances that have contributed significantly to your spiritual and leadership formation. Summarize the major life lesson from your experience. • Identify five living or historical mentors who have contributed significantly to your spiritual and leadership formation. Summarize the major life lesson developed through your relationship with each mentor. • For each of these ten life circumstances and/or mentors, reflect on how your circumstance or encounter with the person or event affected your life, what happened and how you were influenced.
Philosophy of Ministry	<i>Approximately 20 pages</i>
<i>25% of Grade</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Write a summary of the significant theological principles that presently guide your life and priorities in ministry. Key themes should include: God, Christ, Salvation, Church, and Bible. • Identify major ministry themes that flow out of your theological positions as they relate to your mission and calling. • Interact with the “Reflection Question” assigned to your Cohort by the Academic Dean. • Conclusion should include summary and evaluation of feedback provided by your Support Group. A phone conference will be arranged to interact with the Support Group, Student and BGU faculty.
Peer Review	<i>Approximately 5 pages</i>
<i>25% of Grade</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reflect on the input you received from your Personal Learning Community and how they helped you refine your document. • Evaluate your learning process for this project. Include suggestions for further study and how you hope to use this paper in the future.
Bonus Opportunity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students may wish to refer to papers written for other classes in this project. Those papers may be referred to and attached in the document as an appendix. • The entire project will become a bound reference tool for your library and a copy will be placed in the BGU library.
Creativity Options	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students may choose to write the project in either chronological order or in the categories listed above. Book reports must be clearly identified as such. • Your writing style should reflect the group of people who will be reading your work. Academic language is not expected. • The use of photographs is encouraged. • Samples may be made available upon request.