

A.S. in Ministry Leadership

Course Descriptions

ODB1000—CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT 3 credits

SF104 Spiritual Life Basics

The Spiritual Life Basics course begins with explaining how to know for sure that you have eternal life through Jesus Christ. Then you learn how to develop and grow in your relationship with Jesus through reading the Bible, learning how to talk to God in prayer, and the importance of being part of a community of believers and sharing your faith in Jesus with other people.

SF105 Bible Basics

Are you curious about the Bible? Is any of it even relevant for today? The Bible Basics course provides you with an overview of the Bible and will demonstrate how the Old and New Testament books fit together. You will discover spiritual insights that will speak to your heart today and understand why the Bible has become an enduring and influential book.

ML111 Intro to Public Speaking

Does speaking in front of a group of people incite terror in you? It's on the top of the list of things that people fear most. In Introduction to Public Speaking you will learn how to prepare your speech—from an introduction that grabs the attention of your audience, to content that keeps them engaged, to a conclusion that gives people something they can do tomorrow as a result of what you said today. These steps will help calm your nerves and make you an effective speaker.

ML112 Foundations of Effective Leadership

Leadership—how would you define it? How can you be an effective leader? The Foundations in Effective Leadership course defines leadership as moving people from where they are to a better place. During this course you will discover how Jesus set the example of being a servant leader and what leadership principles can be learned from His example. But to be an effective servant leader you first need to look at yourself. The kind of person you are is the kind of leader you will be. Are you ready to become an effective servant leader?

ML113 Principles of Leadership Development

Adapted from lectures delivered at Willow Creek's Leadership Summit by 5 of today's most influential leaders, this course offers principles of effective multicultural leadership. In this course, you will learn how to become a transformational leader, identify the enemies of a growing church, develop problem-solving strategies, resolve to complete your God-given mission, and effectively lead multicultural communities.

ML218 Faith at Work

Many believers long to find ways to better integrate their faith and work. Some feel as though they are in a second-class role because they were not called into full-time Christian ministry. Some struggle with identifying their purpose, calling, and giftedness; having no role model;

knowing how to integrate faith and work; and knowing how to share and defend faith in the workplace. As a result, these believers are frustrated and can fall short of fully integrating their faith with their work.

If this has been your experience, get ready to be encouraged. These five lessons will help you reflect on your life purpose to bring glory to God and the topic of calling and giftedness. You will discover the importance of having a mentor and being a mentor. You will learn about spiritual formation at work and how your identity in Christ should be reflected in the workplace. And we'll wrap up by discussing evangelism and apologetics, helping you build confidence as you prepare to share and defend faith in the workplace. A resource section of 125 websites is also provided for your personal reference and use.

ODB1200—INTRODUCTION TO THE OLD TESTAMENT 6 credits

OT218 Old Testament Basics

Noah, Abraham, Moses, Jonah, Samson, and David. Have you heard of these people? Their stories are part of the Old Testament and are important even today. This study of the Old Testament will help you understand how all the stories found in the Old Testament fit together and what lessons can be applied to your life today. You will walk away with a better understanding of how God graciously reaches out to you, His child, and calls you to Himself just as He did to His people in the Old Testament.

OT216 Genesis-Leviticus

Genesis – Leviticus: God Builds a People for Himself tells the story of Israel's roots. From the creation of all things to the creation of Israel as a nation at Sinai, this course studies God's process of building a nation to represent Him on earth. It is the foundation for understanding the struggles and triumphs of the relationship between God and Israel that is recorded in the rest of the Old Testament books.

OT217 Numbers-Joshua

Numbers-Joshua: The Tragedy of Fear and the Glory of Faith is a study of contrasts. Israel's fear prevented them from entering the land God promised to give them, resulting in the story of wandering and death recorded in Numbers. In contrast, the books of Deuteronomy and Joshua record the preparation and triumph of faith as the people allowed God to win the Promised Land for them.

OT218 Judges-1 Samuel

This course, Judges-1 Samuel: Israel's Choice from God-Rule to Human-Rule, covers the books of Judges, Ruth and the book of 1 Samuel. These books contrast Israel as they rebelled against God's rule in the period of Judges, but Ruth gives a snapshot of obedience during that same period. 1 Samuel examines Israel's amazing transition from having God-as-their-King to having men-as-their kings.

OT219 2 Samuel-2 Kings

2 Samuel-2 Kings: The Difference Leaders Make will guide students through a study of Israel's kingdom era—as a united nation and as a nation divided into Israel and Judah. It not only covers this critical time in Israel's history, but also provides an essential foundation for studying Israel's prophets.

OT220 1 Chronicles-Nehemiah

1 Chronicles – Nehemiah describes the fact that while Israel and Judah flaunted their disobedience in God's face and persecuted His prophets, He kept His commitment to His covenant promises. Chronicles traces the Davidic kings through whom God would bring His Messiah. Although God exiled His people, Ezra and Nehemiah tell how He restored them to their land and life.

OT221 Lamentations-Job

Pressure and pain are realities of life. One of the verifying realities of the Old Testament record is its openness about the difficulties God's people often suffered—and were often confused by. This course, Lamentations-Job: God's Path through Pain, studies three books that deal head-on with the pain and pressure often associated with being God's people.

OT222 Proverbs-Psalms

Times change and life's issues take new forms. Solomon never sat in a traffic jam on the freeway and we never fret over an attack by the Philistines, but human emotions remain the same. In this course, Proverbs-Psalms: Singing the Sounds of Real Life, students will study the distilled language of Israel's poets as they sang the songs of their lives. They are, amazingly, like the songs of people's lives today.

OT223 Daniel-Micah

God's prophets stood up and spoke out when it was very unpopular to do so. As men with a message from God, they were preachers with a message that God-rejecting Israel and Judah wanted no part of. This course, Daniel-Micah: Studies of Integrity—Good Men in Bad Times, presents the men, their messages and their times.

OT224 Ecclesiastes-Isaiah

This course, Ecclesiastes-Isaiah: God Guides His People Through Poets and Prophets, takes students through two of the Old Testament books of poetry and then introduces them to the writing prophets—who also used a great deal of poetry in their writings. Ecclesiastes and Song of Songs present the importance of living life under God's direction. Isaiah introduces the prophetic literature, which is a series of calls to abandon the pursuit of alternative lifestyles and live life God's way.

OT225 Jeremiah-Ezekiel

In this course, Jeremiah-Ezekiel: Human Failure and Divine Success—A Study in Contrasts, students will learn about two prophets whose ministry related to Jerusalem's fall to the

Babylonians. This unthinkable event—that the city where God lived in His temple could be destroyed—is studied as a threat in Jeremiah and as a historical reality in Ezekiel. Both the miserable failure of God’s people and God’s success in judging and yet preserving His people are surveyed in this course that studies these two prophets.

OT226 Jonah-Habakkuk

Jonah-Habakkuk: The God of Israel and the God of the Nations is a course which demonstrates the fact that while God had chosen Israel as His covenant people, His compassion extended beyond Israel to all people. The course presents prophets whom God sent to Israel’s great oppressor and prophets God sent to Judah.

OT227 Haggai-Malachi

The prophets studied in this course, Haggai-Malachi: No Substitute for Obedience, ministered after Jerusalem’s destruction and, in Haggai, Zechariah and Malachi, during the return and reconstruction of Jerusalem after the exile in Babylon. They demonstrate God’s concern for all His people, Jew and Gentile, and emphasize the essential place of obedience to His moral will.

ODB1400—INTRODUCTION TO THE NEW TESTAMENT 6 credits

NT109 New Testament Basics

New Testament Basics: Things We Thought We Knew provides an introduction to the New Testament as it surveys vital information that guides the student’s thinking in the study of the New Testament books. This information is both basic and essential to an accurate understanding of New Testament Scriptures.

NT218 Matthew-Mark

Matthew – Mark: Two Presentations of Jesus introduces students to the Gospels as literature and then focuses in on the Gospels of Matthew and Mark. Students will study the specific purposes of each book and how the writers told the account of Jesus’ life to accomplish their unique goals.

NT219 Luke-John

Luke-John: Two Interpretations of Jesus provides two different renditions of Jesus’ life and ministry. Adding the perspectives of Luke and John to those given by Matthew and Mark will provide additional detail and explanation to the incredible life of Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God.

NT220 Jesus in Galilee

During Jesus’ time in Galilee, He introduced the basic rules of life for the Kingdom He was offering to His people. This course, Jesus in Galilee: Popularity and Misunderstanding, studies the great Galilean phase of Jesus’ ministry, which is the setting for the Sermon on the Mount, and then actually studies the Sermon itself.

NT221 Jesus in Judea

As amazing as it seems, the people Jesus came to save actually rejected Him. In Luke-John: Jesus in Judea – Opposition and Rejection, students will survey the Judean phase of Jesus' ministry and gain insight into His teachings and actions that increased the Jewish opposition to the point where they would turn one of their own countrymen over to the Romans for crucifixion.

NT222 Acts

Most people recognize the fact that the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus Christ was the turning point of world history. After His resurrection and ascension, His disciples spread His Church across the Roman Empire and changed the world. Acts: Crucifixion, Resurrection & Proclamation will add depth to the student's understanding and appreciation of these world-changing and individual life-changing events.

NT223 Galatians-1 Corinthians

The New Testament epistles to the Galatians and Thessalonians are Paul's earliest preserved letters. In them, he began to lay a theological and behavioral foundation for Christian belief and conduct. This course, Galatians – 1 Corinthians: Paul's Earliest Letters, surveys these early writings.

NT224 1-2 Corinthians

The Corinthian church was planted in a moral cesspool. The people who came to Christ and formed that church brought a wagon-load of philosophical, religious, and moral baggage with them that made this a tough church. The two letters we have from Paul to the Corinthians deal with some of the most thorny spiritual and moral issues addressed anywhere in the Bible. This course, 1 & 2 Corinthians: Two Letters to a Tough Church, contains essential help for the Church in any age.

NT225 Romans-Ephesians

Rome was the capital of the world. Although Paul hadn't yet visited there when he wrote his epistle to the Christians at Rome, he wanted to make certain they were clear on what the Gospel really was. In the Roman epistle, we have Paul's great theological statement on God's salvation. Later, Paul was imprisoned in Rome while waiting for his trial before Caesar. While there, he wrote four letters. In this course, Romans – Ephesians: The Letter to the Roman Church & Letters from a Roman Prison, we study the letters Paul wrote both to and from Rome.

NT226 1 Timothy-Hebrews

This course, 1 Timothy – Hebrews: Letters to Pastors & a Church Struggling to Believe, combines three letters of instruction to young pastors and a letter to a church struggling with its foundational beliefs. The Pastoral Epistles provide doctrinal and tactical help to those who lead God's people; and Hebrews presents Jesus Christ as the sovereign Savior and Lord of His church and encourages its readers to pursue unreservedly their relationship with Him.

NT227 James-Jude

Unlike Paul's epistles, the general epistles were not addressed to a particular city or person. These letters deal more with the broader topics of suffering and the dangers of false teachings and unbelief among Christians. This course, James – Jude: Letters to Everyone – General & Johannine Epistles, covers these epistles.

NT228 Revelation

In Revelation: The Book of Revelation – The End and the Beginning, the New Testament and the Bible culminate with this glorious description of the Revelation of Jesus Christ. All of history's events are culminated in this fantastic story of Christ's ultimate triumph over evil and the restoration of all things to their created design.

ODB1600—INTRODUCTION TO WORLDVIEWS 3 credits

WE101 World Religions Basics

The world is getting smaller all the time. People are moving into your neighborhood that have different religious beliefs than you do. How can you be respectful and genuine with them if you don't really know and understand what they believe? The World Religions Basics course will provide you with an overview of the religious faiths and practices of Hinduism, Buddhism, Islam, Christianity, and Judaism, comparing their beliefs about God, creation, sacred scriptures, and salvation

WE102 Worldview Basics

How would your life be different if you had been born into another home, culture, or religious faith? Your perspective of life is influenced by your culture, your background, and your life experiences. This is called your worldview. The Worldview Basics course will compare seven major worldviews and examine what makes a biblical worldview so unique. Dig in and discover how worldviews influence you and others in ways you and they may not always be conscious of.

WE504 Christian Worldview

How do you view reality? What is the source of your knowledge? Do you live what you believe? Such are the questions that a worldview answers. This course examines the nature and function of belief structures, and the value of developing and living a distinctly Christian life. The course develops a Christian worldview from a redemptive history model of biblical theology, which is then clarified using the philosophical categories of metaphysics, epistemology, and axiology. Learners will gain an understanding of modern and postmodern thought and how to critique them biblically, and are encouraged to develop and apply a Christian worldview to life and ministry.

ODB1800—FOUNDATIONS OF THEOLOGY 6 credits

ST410 Introduction to Theology

Welcome to Introduction to Theology, an online undergraduate-level course designed to introduce you to the basic doctrines of the Christian faith. The teaching method is systematic, but it locates each topic within Scripture and with reference to formative historical concerns. The course assumes that you have some basic familiarity with the Bible; it is intended primarily to serve as a general education survey for undergraduate students.

ST305 Building Biblical Theology

Faithful Christians have always recognized the importance of the progress of biblical history, especially as it relates to humanity's fall into sin and to God's redemptive work. The discipline of biblical theology arose as a means to study this progress in responsible ways. Much like systematic theology, biblical theology organizes theological ideas in ways that increase our understanding of Scripture. But whereas systematic theology organizes its ideas according to topics, biblical theology organizes its findings in historical periods or epochs. Used rightly, biblical theology is a powerful and helpful tool for interpreting and applying the Bible.

ST311 Building Systematic Theology

Many of us have read systematic theology, but we seldom consider the process behind its development. This course analyzes the steps of building systematic theology, especially the formation of technical terms, theological propositions, and doctrinal statements. It examines the legitimacy of systematic theology, the place of human logic in the process, and the dangers and benefits of this tool.

ODB2000—MINISTRY LEADERSHIP 3 credits

ML219 Ultimate Leadership I

Based on spiritual principles of leadership and character development, this four-lesson course offers studies on Character and Leadership, Knowing God's Will, Building Trust and more. The Ultimate Leadership course will give you practical skills that will increase your success in every area of life.

ML220 Ultimate Leadership II

Based on spiritual principles of leadership and character development, this course five-lesson course offers studies on Setting Boundaries, Identifying Travel Companions, Dealing with Toxic People and more. The Ultimate Leadership course will give you practical skills that will increase your success in every area of life.

ODB2200—APOLOGETICS FOR MINISTRY 3 credits

ML314 Foundations of Interpretation

Evangelical Christians affirm the Scriptures as God's inerrant word, but we still disagree sometimes over the meaning of particular verses or passages, and these differences can influence our Christian doctrine and practice. One reason for these disagreements is that there are many different approaches to interpreting the Bible. But how do we know which approach to interpretation is the most responsible? This course will help answer that question. It is based on the lecture series, *He Gave Us Scripture: Foundations of Interpretation*, produced by Third Millennium Ministries and hosted by Dr. Richard L. Pratt, Jr. with contributions from a variety of professors.

CA312 Christian Evidences

Christians are told to give an explanation for the hope they have in Christ and believers through the ages have prepared themselves accordingly for such a task. In this course, Dr. Victor Matthews introduces learners to apologetics as he shows the solid evidences for the Christian faith. Students will grapple with the relationship between faith and facts and understand the role that apologetics has played in the meaning of biblical Christianity.

CA513 Exploring Approaches to Apologetics

"Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have" (1 Peter 3:15). Peter's words ring true in today's world. In this course, learners compare biblical, historical, and recent approaches to defending faith in God, Christ, and Scripture. The course emphasizes the apologetics of Peter among Jews in Jerusalem (Acts 2), and Paul among the Gentiles in Athens (Acts 17). It compares the influential approaches of Augustine and Aquinas, but focuses on the approaches of six apologists who led in the resurgence of evangelicalism during the last half of the 20th century.

ODB2400—ETHICS FOR MINISTRY AND LEADERSHIP 3 credits

SF403 Spiritual and Ethical Formation

Spiritual and ethical formation is a topic of discussion in many circles. We all long for intimacy with God, but how is spiritual growth and maturity developed? What are the dynamics in which God most often works in the heart of believers to make them like his Son, Jesus Christ? In this seminar, Richard Averbeck and James Grier address these and other questions in order to lay a biblical, theological foundation for proper Christian thought. In addition, they identify and describe specific practices that the listener can apply immediately to his/her life of faith.

WE503 Christian Ethics: A Biblical Theology of Morality

In a self-centered culture, how do we demonstrate a God-centered ethic? This course presents a biblical model for ethics in a postmodern world, examining the ethical theories of obligation and value from a philosophical perspective. The lectures survey various ethical systems, identify unstated assumptions in ethical theories, and evaluate those theories for legitimacy, relevancy,

and cogency. The goal of the course is to provide learners with a Christian framework of values and ethics, leading them to make God-honoring decisions in a truth-relative world.

ODB2600—CHURCH HISTORY 3 credits

CH507 Church History since the Reformation

Since the Reformation, the church has experienced countless changes and advancements. In this course, learners survey the development of the Christian church's doctrine, faith, and practice from the Protestant Reformation to the present. The lectures focus on the cultural, political, and economic backgrounds of the Reformation, Enlightenment, and Great Awakenings, and emphasize the contributions of key figures of these eras. The course highlights the rise and spread of various traditions, including Lutheranism, Calvinism, Anglicanism, Puritanism, Evangelicalism, and Fundamentalism. Students will also study the nature and trends of modern and postmodern Christianity, with the goal of applying insights to contemporary life.

ODB2800—INTRODUCTION TO MISSIONS 6 credits

WM501 Introduction to World Christian Missions

God has one unified, global purpose for all He does. This course introduces the exciting biblical, historical, cultural, and strategic dimensions of His plan. It addresses key issues: the basis of and necessity for world missions, and the status of and plan for world missions. Students are introduced to the basics they need to pursue missionary training or to help lead their local church in its global ministry.

WM504 The Missionary Encounter with World Religions

Nothing demonstrates the pluralism of our world better than religion. Christians must be able to respond to the myriad of religious systems that permeate society. This course develops a biblical theology of religions by studying current models and approaches. Using major religious systems as examples, the lectures sketch five characteristics of all religions. Students will learn the major concepts in religious encounter, including the concept of elentics, various definitions of "religion," and the five magnetic points of religions. The course culminates with practical suggestions for approaching world religions evangelistically.

ODB3000—URBAN MISSION AND MINISTRY 3 credits

WM503 Urban Mission and Ministry

As the cities go, the world goes – politically, intellectually, economically, socially, and religiously. This course addresses Christian mission and ministry in the world's growing cities. A biblical basis for urban ministry is presented and case studies of effective urban strategies worldwide are examined. The course provides key logistics, strategies, models, and insights from one of today's leading experts in urban missiology. Throughout the lessons the instructor

emphasizes holistic ministry, i.e., meeting all needs: social, civil, and political, as well as the spiritual.

WM510 Urban Missiology

The large cities of the world present enormous challenges and opportunities to the church of Christ. The purpose of this course is to develop a relevant evangelical practice for the church within the urban context, understood as contextual, or local theology. This course will expose the student to various dimensions of post-modernity as examined by several contemporary authors. The goal of the course is to help learners develop pertinent theological, missiological, and strategic initiatives for urban settings that can be applied to their own ministry.

ODB3200—CONTEMPORARY THEOLOGY 6 credits

ST503 Contemporary Theology I

For good or for bad, philosophy has played a pivotal role in the development of theology and culture. In this course, learners examine the major trends in contemporary theological thought in light of their philosophical contexts. The course begins with a review of the major developments in Western thought prior to Hegel, and then explores the theologies of Hegel, Kierkegaard, Barth, Bultmann, and Tillich. The course culminates in the "Death of God" theologies of Paul Van Buren and Thomas Altizer. The course enables learners to evaluate contemporary, non-evangelical theologies and to recognize their impact on everyday life.

ST507 Contemporary Theology II

Post-Modernism is having a profound influence on the Church, from within and without. Changing ideas about the source and nature of truth are affecting Christians' lives and ministry. In this course, learners examine current trends in contemporary theology, and how these trends arose. The course focuses on the theologies that were prevalent in the 1960's, including Theology of Hope, Liberation Theology, Feminist Theology, Process Theology, New Age Theology, and four forms of Post-modern Theology. Students are encouraged to draw from the course content so as to relate and communicate better to their post-modern world.

ODB3400—CHURCH LEADERSHIP AND ADMINISTRATION 3 credits

ML501 Church Leadership and Administration

What is leadership? How do I make effective decisions? How do I motivate those around me? This course addresses such theoretical and practical questions by examining the administrative process, including goal setting, organization, delegation, human relations, group dynamics, supervision, and leadership training. Though administration principles are universal, the course focuses on Christian organizations, particularly the local church. The course is designed to help students become more effective church leaders in both theory and practice.

ML503 Adv. Leadership and Administration

A church leader wears many hats. In this course, learners discover how to maximize productivity in the various functions of church leadership. The course examines the biblical foundation and practical functions of administrative leadership in churches and Christian organizations and focuses on developing successful, biblical attitudes and skills among team leaders. Students will analyze basic leadership principles from secular and evangelical sources, analyzing them through a biblical/theological grid.

ODB3600—MINISTRY AND MANAGEMENT 6 credits

ML502 Interpersonal Communication and Conflict management

Organizational communication is a powerful tool for either construction or destruction. In this course, learners discover biblical principles of interpersonal communication and conflict management in human relationships. The course gives attention to communication models, self-concept, nonverbal messages, stress, and strategies that assist Christian leaders in developing interpersonal communication skills. In addition, the course focuses on the nature of conflict, how to identify common styles of conflict management, and how to manage conflict acceptably and productively.

ML504 Adult Ministries in the Church

How do adults learn? What are the most successful ways to teach them? This course presents principles of adult education and their application to various adult age levels within the church. Learners explore theories in young, middle, and older adult education, and examine successful ministries to singles, single parents, and families. The course promotes Knowles' andragogical model of adult education, emphasizing such important subjects as how adults learn, how structure the classroom, and how to facilitate learning.