



# Nazarene Theological Seminary

1700 E Meyer Blvd • Kansas City, MO 64131 • 816/268-5400

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## MSS660— Theology and Strategies for Compassionate Ministries FALL, 2010-11

### ***Essential Information***

Please refer to the following resources for information essential for the successful completion of courses and degree programs at Nazarene Theological Seminary. Links to these resources are available at [http://support.nts.edu/index.php/Essential\\_Information](http://support.nts.edu/index.php/Essential_Information). Additional technical support information can be found at <http://support.nts.edu>.

- NTS Mission Statement & Purpose and Master of Divinity Objectives
- Tips for online learning success
- NTS library services
- NTS bookstore procedures
- Online technical requirements and Moodle support information
- NTS Student Handbook including statements on quality of work, plagiarism, and academic probation
- *A Handbook for Inclusive Language*

### ***Instructor Information***

Professor: Fletcher L Tink, PhD  
Office: (816) 268-5496  
Office Hours: daily or by appointment

Email: [fltink@nts.edu](mailto:fltink@nts.edu)  
Home/Cell: (816) 805-4115 Please do not call  
between 9:00 p.m. and 8:00 a.m.

### ***Catalog Description***

An introductory course in the basic components of compassionate ministries, both as the core impetus of all ministries and as a specialized service of a formal nonprofit organization. The course deals with correct and incorrect theological motivations, forms and expressions of compassionate ministries, compassion-evangelism and social justice as Christian responsibility seen both in its diversity and effectiveness.

### ***Course Narrative & Rationale***

“Compassionate Ministry,” otherwise known as “holistic discipleship”, “caring ministry” or “compassion-evangelism” is a growing field of service to people caught in crisis, or facing specialized needs as described by Jesus in Matthew 25. Beyond this, it encompasses those areas of practical service that, within the conventional ministries of a local church, are often neglected or ignored.

Forms of compassionate ministries are frequently the first line of ministry in those nations that prohibit conventional evangelism or “missionizing”. Recognizing this, this seminar will tie together the compatible and mutual goals of compassion and evangelism as means of exhibiting the Kingdom of God to believers and non-believers alike.

The course will examine the “why?”, that is, the theological underpinnings of compassionate ministries, in reference to a Biblical understanding of the “stranger within the gate”, the poor, the

oppressed, the sick, the imprisoned, widows, orphans and the disabled. It will also examine various historical and contemporary case studies. Special attention will be given to the controversial concept of the “culture of poverty”, also to “asset-based” development as opposed to “deficiency-based” models.

In addition, the seminar will discuss the “how?”, by walking the participant through need assessment, planning and implementation of compassionate ministry centers including, for the U.S. context, the application process for registered NGO’s and the faith-based Initiatives of the current Washington administration. Management issues, fund raising and accountability will also be studied. The class will produce a group power-point presentation worthy of public distribution on a DVD on the “Why’s and How’s” of Compassionate Ministries, suitable for both domestic and international audiences. Each student will compile a notebook of practical resources for developing a 501 c(3), or non-profit.

The class will meet in various venues after the first session, to be announced. These will be venues related to the theme of the class. The course will meet from 1:30 to 4:30 on Mondays beginning on September 20, 2010, initially in room 302.

### **Course Outcomes**

1. To understand compassionate ministry as an essential feature of holistic discipleship. This will be accomplished through each of the readings, the compilation of the toolkit resource binder and through the semester project
2. To understand the Biblical foundations and imperatives for compassionate ministry. This will be accomplished through the readings, especially Stone.
3. To be able to identify Biblical, historical and contemporary examples of compassionate ministry. This will be accomplished through the readings, field visits and the interviews.
4. To be able to identify significant compassionate ministry models within the Kansas City area. This will be accomplished through the field visits, the interviews and the toolkit resource binder.
5. To compile a “tool kit” of significant readings, books, web resources for future reference. This will be accomplished through the compilation of the toolkit binder.
6. To integrate “Compassion as a Lifestyle” into one’s own understanding and conduct of Christian witness. This will be accomplished through the development of the project/PowerPoint
7. To develop skills related to compassionate ministries, i.e. to assess needs. This will be accomplished through the project/PowerPoint
8. To create a capstone group project that combines various power point presentations into a DVD that is of quality and content to be serviceable to the larger Christian community. This will be accomplished through the PowerPoint presentation and CD compiled.

### **Required Texts & Course Materials**

- Linthicum, Robert C. *Empowering the Poor*, MARC (Monrovia, CA). 2000, ISBN#: 978-0912552750. \$23
- Lupton, Robert. *For Theirs is the Kingdom: Celebrating the Gospel in Urban America*. HarperOne, 1989. ISBN#978-0060653071. \$12
- Nassal, Joseph. *The Conspiracy of Compassion: Breathing Together for a Wounded World*. 1997 Forest of Peace. ISBN# 978-0939516346, \$16
- Pohl, Christine: *Making Room: Recovering Hospitality in the Christian Tradition*. Eerdmanns Press (Grand Rapids, MI), 1999. ISBN# 978-0802844316. \$14
- Stone, Bryan. *Compassionate Ministry: Theological Foundations*, Orbis (MaryKnoll: NY), 1996. ISBN#: 978-1570750694. \$19
- Tink, Fletcher L. *Reader in Compassionate Ministry*, 2002. Will be made available in class.

The Tink Reader cannot be used for book review.

## **Recommended Texts & Course Materials**

- Christensen, Michael. *City Streets: City People*, Abingdon Press (Nashville, TN), 1989. ISBN#: 978-0687083954. \$24
- Kretzmann, John P. and John McKnight. *Building Communities from the Inside Out: A Path Toward Finding and Mobilizing a Community's Assets*. ACTA Publication (Chicago, IL), 1993. ISBN#: 978-0879461089. #18
- Rans, Susan and Hilary Altman. *Asset-Based Strategies for Faith Communities* ACTA Publications (Chicago) 2002. No ISBN: \$60
- Sapp, Gary, ed. *Compassionate Ministry*. Religious Education Press (Birmingham, AL), 1993. ISBN#: 978-0891350903, \$22

## **Course Outline**

- Mon, Sept 10            Course Orientation, Introduction to the Subject  
Distribution of Materials, First Sessions of CM PP Presentation
- Mon, Sept 27            Second Session of CM PP Presentation  
Developing a Theology of Compassion
- Mon, Oct 4              Third Session of CM PP presentation  
Developing a Theology of Compassion, cont'd
- Mon, Oct 11             "Ascertaining Call and Response"  
Determining Individual Projects
- Mon, Oct 18             Reading and Research Week
- Mon, Oct 25             Guest Lecturer: Dale Jones  
"Surveying the Resources"  
Assessing the Need
- Mon, Nov 1              "Forming the Vision", "Mission" "Values", Best Practices  
Visit to Servant Christian Foundation
- Mon, Nov 8              Determining the Assets, Resources, "Asset Mapping"  
"Assembling the Team", "Creating the Documents"  
Groups Sessions
- Mon, Nov 15             "Responsibilities inherent in CM Ministry: Legal and Financial"  
DVD Group Sessions to cross reference materials
- Mon, Nov 22             "Responsibilities inherent in CM Ministry: Personnel"  
DVD Group Sessions to create materials"
- Mon, Nov 29             "Assessment and Evaluation"  
"Personal Issues in CM"  
Group Finesses Final Presentation  
DVD Group Session to pool materials
- Mon, Dec 6              **Final Project Presentations and Tool Kit Binder Presented**

## **Course Assignments & Requirements**

1. Attendance at all sessions unless otherwise excused by the professor in advance.
2. Reading of all required texts, handouts and supplementary materials. Listening to any spot-assigned tapes. There will be required a written account at the end of the semester on all materials read and listened to.
3. Writing of three reviews of the texts, while reporting having read four of the five listed: The reviews will be 3 pages in length, organized into three somewhat equal sections of 1. Overview; 2. Critique; 3. Personal Application. A book from the optional books may be chosen to replace one text.
4. One interview project with persons engaged in formal compassionate ministry activity. The project will have three facets: (a) the formal, written documentation of the ministry; (b) a staff rendition of it; and (c) a recipient version of it. This is to be presented both in written form and in oral class presentation.
5. A 5-8 page proposal for a compassionate ministry project design giving it a name, a description, a marketing need, resourcing base, implementation plan, etc.
6. The compilation of a toolkit binder of resources that might address the project presented in #5.
  - Vision Statement
  - Mission Statements
  - Biblical Support
  - Statistical Assessment of Need
  - Anecdotal Assessment of Need
  - By-laws, and Official Documents
  - Organizational Plan
  - Sample Personnel and Policies
  - Fund-raising Ideas and Financial Budgeting
  - Job Descriptions
  - Marketing Ideas
  - Grant Possibilities
  - Evaluations
  - Support Networks
  - A review of relevant materials available and services offered by NCM International, NCM USA/Canada and NCM Inc.

## **Distribution of Student Learning Hours**

	hours
Face-to-face Class Sessions	33
Exposure experiences, interviews, etc	10
Reading	40
Writing	26
Other Assignments and Learning Activities	20
Exams & Quizzes	0
TOTAL	129

## **Method for Submitting Assignments**

During class times, assignments may be handed in as hard copies to the professor. Outside of class times, assignments may be emailed to [fletcht@aol.com](mailto:fletcht@aol.com), as Word document attachments.

## ***Form and Style Expectations***

Assignments should be presented using a word processor rather than handwritten, following a consistent format that is easy to read, and conforms to any of the formal templates of acceptable written form. Footnotes or endnotes, appropriate bibliographic format, and title pages should be used. Accurate spelling and acceptable grammatical constructions are imperative.

## ***Inclusive Language***

NTS is committed to the equality of women and men. Recognizing that people have often used the English language in ways that imply the exclusion or inferiority of women, NTS urges students, faculty, and staff to avoid sexist language in public discourse, in classroom discussions, and in their writings. All written work presented to meet course requirements must use gender inclusive language.

## ***Policy Regarding Late Work & Missed Exams***

Any assignment that is not turned in on the due date will be discounted in accordance to the reasons and context of the assignment. No grade will be deducted by more than a letter grade if not turned in on a timely fashion. However, all work must be turned in by final exam time in order to receive a grade. Materials turned in after that time, will be given failure grades.

## ***Additional Costs***

The Reader will cost each student \$5.

## ***Course Grading***

1.	Attendance and Participation	10%
2.	Report of Reading/Listening of Texts	10%
3.	3 Reviews of Text	15%
4.	Interview Projects and Class Reports	20%
5.	CM Project design	20%
6.	Tool Kit of Resources and Presentation	25%
	Total	100%

The course will use the conventional grading scale of 90+ as "A" or "A-". 80+ as "B+", "B", "B-" etc.

In accordance with the provisions of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, NTS is committed to providing students with disabilities the opportunity to participate and benefit from its programs and activities, Accordingly NTS will make reasonable modifications to its programs and activities to accommodate otherwise qualified students with disabilities, unless such modifications would impose an undue burden on the operation of the particular program or activity or would fundamentally alter the nature or purpose of the program or activity. Students needing accommodations should contact the Office of the Registrar. They also should contact the instructor no later than the end of the first class session to discuss learning needs and adaptive strategies which have been beneficial for the student in the past.

## ***Course Calendar of Assignments***

Date	Week	Assignment
October 4	3	First Book Review Due
October 11	4	Exposure Experience Due, written and oral
November 1	6	Second Book Review Due
November 8	7	Presentation of Project Proposal
November 15	8	Linthicum Book Review Due
November 22	9	Written exposure experience, 3 perspectives Due
November 29	10	Fourth Book Review Due
December 6	11	Major Project Due; Tool Kit Presentations Due