



Nazarene Theological Seminary

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

CED780 — Senior Seminar

Spring 2011

Online Components Feb. 13-March 17

Retreat Dates: March 16-17, Friday Noon – Saturday Noon

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 in the Essential Information section at <http://support.nts.edu>.

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

Instructor Information

Professor: Dean G. Blevins, Ph.D.

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Office Hours: by appointment

Catalog Description

An integrative seminar designed to help the student integrate the various components of the MA in Christian Education curriculum

Course Narrative & Rationale

Senior Seminar serves as both a synthetic learning event and as an assessment strategy for the MACFD degree. The class seeks to inform both the student and faculty of issues remaining in the development of a theology of ministry and implementing strategies for ministry practice. In addition the class serves to help the student discern their self-understanding as a minister. The seminar will have three components.

1. We'll begin with **two online synthesis sessions**. The first session (two weeks online) deals with foundational issues and the second (two weeks online) takes a long hard look at discipleship as a "profession."

2. The second component is comprised of a **two-day intensive** exploration of your philosophy/theology of Christian Discipleship and understanding of practice.
3. You will submit **several written pieces summarizing your journey** including summative Theology of Ministry, Plan for Professional Development and a Final Ministry Portfolio to help assess your progress in the community. These documents will be retained so **plan on submitting copies**.

Finally, faculty will spend time with each of you **individually reflecting** on your preparation for ministry and strategies to keep your “edge” as a professional Christian Educator. We look forward to this event and anticipate that you will as well.

Degree Objectives/Outcomes

The MACFD Degree Program affords participating students opportunities to meet the following ministry objectives:

1. Appropriate and enhance the student's ecclesial understanding of the Word of God, the heritage of the faith, the doctrines of the church, and the fellowship of believers, sufficient to enable him or her to deepen a personal commitment to God and His Church and to inform a passionate, vital, and redemptive ministry.
2. Develop a practical theology of Christian ministry consistent with his or her theological heritage and vision of the transformed life.
3. Discern the various developmental and cultural forces that influence people's lives in their growth along the life course, and design appropriate ministry strategies that forms persons into ongoing faithful disciples.
4. Learn the complexities and creative potential inherent within social contexts that influence leadership practice, particularly within staff ministry.
5. Cultivate practices and abilities necessary for skillful performance of age-level and family ministries, for educating the laity in faithful discipleship, for guiding relationships in the church, for spiritual and professional development, and for engaging in theological discernment of sound educational practice.
6. Exhibit a capacity and desire for growth in the context of ministry through research and leadership; demonstrating a spirit of integrity, openness, cooperation, and care in ministry.

Course Outcomes

Upon completion of the course students should demonstrate:

1. A self-understanding of their own theology of ministry
2. Knowledge of their ability to practice ministry
3. A self-understanding of their stewardship of life (spiritual, professional, personal and financial) for ministry.
4. Awareness of their readiness for ministry

Church of the Nazarene COSAC Competencies

Upon completion of this course, students should satisfy the competency requirements as set forth in the Course of Study for Ministers in the Church of the Nazarene. The following will be addressed through the course objectives and requirements:

CP25 Ability to prepare, organize and deliver a biblically sound basic scheme of teaching and discipleship formation using age-appropriate techniques and skills in culturally appropriate ways

CP26 Ability to develop and utilize existing age appropriate ministry forms by which individuals, families, and congregations may be formed into Christlikeness

CP27 Ability to assess and implement emerging age appropriate ministry approaches to ministry in light of enduring theological (Bible, doctrine, philosophy) and contextual (history, psychology, sociological) perspectives

Required Texts & Course Materials

Title	Author(s)	ISBN (13 characters)	Publisher	Copyright Date	List price
<i>The Courage to Teach: Exploring the Inner Landscape of a Teacher's Life, 10th Anniversary Edition</i>	Parker J. Palmer	978-0787996864	Jossey Bass	2007	28

Course Outline

Unit 1: Theology of Discipleship

Unit 2: Discipleship as Professional Practice

Unit 3: Retreat Assessment: Scheduled March 16-17; Friday Noon to Saturday Noon) King Conference Center (please make arrangements for absence from work and family).

Unit 4: Portfolio Submission/Review: Due on or before March 15th at Retreat

Unit 5: Exit Interview: Schedule tbd between March 26-April 15

Course Assignments & Requirements

1) Unit One: Theology of Ministry (CO 1; DO 1 & 2; CP27)

The senior seminar experience will provide an intensive review of the curriculum you have experienced, the crystallizing of your philosophy / theology of Christian Education, and the challenge of dealing with basic issues you may soon face in your professional assignment. **For the first online unit** you should begin organizing your notes and **submit a bibliography** of the most important authors and titles **that inform your theology of CE**. The second week of the initial unit you will be asked to respond to the following questions:

1. What makes your approach to Christian Discipleship... Christian?
2. What makes your Christian Discipleship... Wesleyan?
3. What formative issues are at work in the individuals who participate in your Christian Discipleship programs?
4. What are two or three key biblical / theological issues for your age level or family specialization?

2) Unit Two: CO 3, 4; DO 4, 5 & 6; CP 26

Unit two focuses on your experience as a professional in the field of Christian Discipleship. Your first session will require you to provide a **1000-1500 word (4-6 page) review of Parker**

Palmer's work on the spirituality of teaching, *The Courage to Teach*. The second session will ask you to submit a 750-1000 word (3-4) page **preliminary plan for professional development. Incorporate key texts, journals, and professional organizations you will engage with as you continue your journey in Christian Education.** In addition reflect on your spiritual journey and develop a basic plan for cultivating your spiritual walk for the next two years in ministry.

3) Retreat/Interview: CO 1, 2; DO 2, 3 & 5; CP26

Students will engage in a summative scenario exercise to test their ability to think and respond in ministry. The retreat merely requires your presence and your willingness to work out your ministry assumptions with your classmates. The retreat will be held at King Conference Center and will require you stay overnight to preserve the group experience (Dinner Friday and Breakfast Saturday are provided). **Closing Interview:** In preparation for your closing interview, submit a copy of your ministry portfolio (may be electronic in nature) incorporating both SME and class resources as you see them assisting you in your next phase of ministry. Please submit at least one week before final interview.

4) Portfolio Review/Assessment: (CO 1-4, DO 1-5, CP25-27)

Students will present a summative portfolio representing key documents that represent their growth and competency in ministry. The portfolio may be a compilation of materials developed through coursework and in supervised ministry. This document may also include other pertinent resources that demonstrate the student's ability as a leader/minister in Christian education. The portfolio should be organized in a manner that clearly communicates your sense of organization and presentation, including a table of contents. Students may arrange in any manner suitable (as if you were providing this to an organization or church when considered for a position) but should include a Table of Contents detailing the rationale for the organization. However, the portfolio should include documentation representative of the MACFD program goals stated below. **The portfolio will be submitted at the time of the retreat.**

1. Appropriate and enhance the student's ecclesial understanding of the Word of God, the heritage of the faith, the doctrines of the church, and the fellowship of believers, sufficient to enable him or her to deepen a personal commitment to God and His Church and to inform a passionate, vital, and redemptive ministry.
2. Develop a practical theology of Christian ministry consistent with his or her theological heritage and vision of the transformed life.
3. Discern the various developmental and cultural forces that influence people's lives in their growth along the life course, and design appropriate ministry strategies that forms persons into ongoing faithful disciples.
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Distribution of Student Learning Hours

SUMMARY

	hours
Online Participation in forums, groups, etc.	18
Reading	6
Writing	
Other Assignments and Learning Activities	26
Exams & Quizzes	0
TOTAL	50

Method for Submitting Assignments

Students will submit all assignments via the online Moodle Course Management System

Form and Style Expectations

All writing projects should meet the Form and Style expectations of Turabian

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

All assignments are due the date assigned.

Additional Costs

Students will be expected to participate in the 24 hour Senior Retreat. Housing will be provided at the King Conference Center so students should arrive in time for check-in prior to the start of the retreat. Additional information will be provided online.

Course Grading

Course is pass/fail based on quality of submitted work and full participation online and in during the retreat.

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 that have been beneficial for the student in the past.

Class Attendance

Attendance at classes is essential for realizing the maximum benefit of your education. Since the professor in each course is best acquainted with the importance of consistent attendance, he or she will determine the rules for attendance.

If you must be absent because of extenuating circumstances, contact the professor as soon as possible to discuss the situation.

Course Calendar

Date	Week	Assignment
2/6	1	Online Introductions
2/13	2	Theology of Discipleship
2/20	3	Theology of Discipleship cont.
2/27	4	Discipleship as a profession
3/5	5	Discipleship as a profession
3/12	6	Portfolio Preparation
3/16-17	7	Retreat
3/19	8	Reading and Research
3/26	9	Exit Interviews
4/2	10	
4/9	11	
4/16	12	
4/23	13	Course Evaluations (approximate release time by the Dean's Office)
4/30	14	

Preaching Faith at Work (week 2 assignments)

Student Reading Reaction Report No. _____

Name: _____ Date: _____

Title and Author: _____ N T S (Circle one)

(N = took notes/captured information; T = read thoroughly; S = scanned)

Because I read this . . .

Because of this reading, I have this question:

My signature indicates that I completed this assignment and that what is presented here is
entirely my own work.