

Austin Graduate School of Theology
MIN 4350: Ministry & Outreach in the Community

Fall 2020

Thursday 7:00 – 9:40 PM

Instructor:

Scott Elliott

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Office Hours by appointment

Catalog course description:

Ministry and Outreach in the Community introduces the student to the particulars of understanding and participating in the mission of God in the area in which a congregation is located. In the course the student will develop a theology of mission. The student will explore how the role of spiritual formation and congregational leadership applies to community outreach. The course will also invite students to consider various communities where ministry is done and imagine what redemption might look like in these communities. Students will engage in developing a ministry and outreach plan for a particular community.

Course objectives:

- The student will be able to articulate a clear theology of the mission of God and describe how it relates to local congregations and communities.
- The student will be able to adequately describe how spiritual formation and congregational leadership relate to the mission of God.
- The student will be equipped with the skills to recognize needs in a community that a local congregation may be able to address.
- The student will create a theologically grounded plan to engage a community through the work of a local congregation.
- The student will be better prepared to engage in the life of ministry.
- The student will be equipped with the resources and skills to lead a local congregation in its efforts to minister to and reach out to the community.

Means of assessment:

- Attendance in class sessions is required. The instructor must be notified and convinced of the worthiness of any absence.
- Students are expected to be prepared for each class having read the assigned material and participate in class discussions.
- Midterm on **10/15**.
- Students will read *The Gospel Comes with a House Key* and write a 4-5 page personal reflection on the book. Students must explain how the methods found in the book can be incorporated into their own ministries. The personal reflection will be turned in on **11/5** and students should be prepared to discuss the contents of the book in class.
- Students will develop a detailed plan to engage a community through the work of a congregation. The plan must include theological reasons for every action recommended. Students must be familiar with both the congregation and community in which they choose. Students will present their projects on **12/3** and **12/10** along with a 6-8 page paper explaining their plan.

Grading:

- 20% - Class Participation
- 20% - Midterm
- 20% - Personal Reflection
- 40% - Final Project

Grading scale:

- 90 – 100 = A
- 80 – 89 = B
- 70 – 79 = C
- 60 – 69 = D
- 0 – 59 = F

Resources for Learning:

Textbooks:

Williams, Paul S. *Exiles on Mission: How Christians Can Thrive in a Post-Christian World*. Grand Rapids: Brazos Press, 2020.

Butterfield, Rosaria. *The Gospel Comes with a House Key*. Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2018

Articles: Distributed as needed

Class Expectations

Most classes will be divided into three sections. The class will begin with lecture including time for appropriate questions and answers. Next the class will discuss the readings for the week. These will either come from one of the textbooks or handouts provided by the professor ahead of time. Each student is expected to have read the readings and be prepared to participate in the discussions. Finally, each class will end with a mission and community workshop. The professor will provide a scenario. Students are expected to engage in discussion on how best to minister to the community. Students will be graded on preparedness, participation, and interaction with others.