

Course #
: PM 10308
Spring 2014
Tuesday 1:00p.m. – 4:00p.m.
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MEMPHIS THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
Financial Leadership for Ministry
Course Syllabus

Course Description: How will you as a minister develop an approach to both personal and church finances that will reflect your theological convictions? How will you organize your own finances and provide leadership within your church in addressing financial matters? In this course, students seeking a Master of Divinity degree, we will seek to answer those questions by considering biblical and theological resources for developing a theology of finance, along with developing the tools needed for personal financial planning and the management of finances in a church setting.

Course Goals

1. Scholarship: develop a critical understanding of theologies of finance and money and how they draw upon biblical, theological, and cultural resources
2. Piety: develop one's own theological understanding of finances and money and how that understanding can be integrated with personal financial practices and pastoral leadership within the church
3. Justice: gain an understanding of the relationship between personal finances, and church finances within the cultural and institutional dynamics in contemporary society

Required Reading

Craig L. Blomberg, *Neither Poverty nor Riches: A Biblical Theology of Possessions*, (IVP Academic 2000)

Daniel Bell, *Economy of Desire, The: Christianity and Capitalism in a Postmodern World*, (Baker Academic, 2012)

Dan Hotchkiss, *Ministry and Money: A Guide for Clergy and Their Friends*, (Alban, 2002)

Janet T. and Philip D. Jamieson, *Ministry and Money: A Practical Guide for Pastors*, (Westminster John Knox Press, 2009)

Gil Rendle, and Alice Mann, *Holy Conversations: Strategic Planning as a Spiritual Practice for Congregations*, (Alban, 2003)

Robert N. Bacher and Michael L. Cooper-White, *Church Administration*, (Fortress, 2007)

Course Plan

1. ***Biblical, Theological, and Cultural Resources for Personal and Church Finance*** (Weeks 1-4)

Blomberg, *Neither Poverty nor Riches: A Biblical Theology of Possessions*, (IVP Academic 2000)

Bell, *Economy of Desire, The: Christianity and Capitalism in a Postmodern World*, (Baker Academic, 2012)

Interview Paper due

2. ***Integrating Theology and Practice: Personal Finances (Weeks 5-7)***

Hotchkiss, *Ministry and Money: A Guide for Clergy and Their Friends*, (Alban, 2002)

Money autobiography due

3. ***Integrating Theology and Practice: Church Finances*** (Weeks 8-13)

Bacher and Cooper-White, *Church Administration*, (Fortress, 2007)

Rendle and Mann, *Holy Conversations: Strategic Planning as a Spiritual Practice for Congregations*, (Alban, 2003)

Jamieson, *Ministry and Money: A Practical Guide for Pastors*, (Westminster John Knox Press, 2009)

Sermon due

Final Integrative Paper due

Requirements/Evaluation for Grade

All course papers must be submitted through www.turnitin.com.

Instructions for submitting papers will be provided prior to the assignment's due date.

1. ***Attendance and participation in class sessions.*** Per MTS policy, failure to attend 1/3 or more of the course sessions will result in a failing grade for the course.
2. ***Reflection papers on the readings:*** for each assigned reading, students are required to prepare a two to three page reflection paper. These are due in the class for which the reading is assigned. Students are to critically engage with the reading in these papers. Students may wish to respond such questions as: How does this reading affect my perception of money in relation to my personal life, the life of the church, or the broader culture? What do I find difficult or challenging in this reading for my own theology and/or practice in relation to money? What help does this reading give for developing my own theology of money or for developing leadership within ministry in relation to finances?
3. ***Interview Paper:*** Each student will interview a person in their congregation regarding money, Christian life and the church. The person's approach to money and experience with money in relation to the Christian life is to be considered in relation to themes raised in course readings and discussions. (5-6 pages)

4. **Money Autobiography:** Each student will answer the following question: In my own life and ministry what has been my approach to money and experience with money thus far? (3-4 pages)
5. **Sermon:** Each student will write a sermon reflecting on the role of finance/money within the Christian life. This sermon could address one of the following concerns: development of wealth, use of wealth, financial planning, role of insurance, paying taxes, saving, spending. The sermon topic should be developed in consultation with the course instructors. (7-9 pages)
6. **Final Integrative Paper:** Each student will write a final integrative paper that develops a theological integration of one's approach to personal finances with leadership in developing church finances. This paper must discuss at least two specific practices that would embody one's theological approach. (10-12 pages)

GRADES

The final grade will be determined based on the following percentages:

1. Attendance and class participation	5%
2. Reflection Papers	25%
3. Interview Paper	15%
4. Money Autobiography	15%
5. Sermon	15%
6. Final Integrative Paper	25%
7. Grading Scale	
A	94 – 100
B	86 – 93
C	75 – 85
D	66 – 74
F	65 and under

A STATEMENT OF RESPECT

Because of the diversity among our students (race, gender, age, culture, experience and theological position), we have an opportunity in this institution to bear witness to our relationship with God who “so loves the world” by the way we relate to one another. Toward this end, we are encouraged to respect ourselves and each other as a value we practice within the classroom. Specifically, classmates should listen with care to one another, not allow personal agendas to dominate class time, refrain from using masculine language when referring to all people (use “humanity” rather than “man,” etc.), and describe God with a wide variety of images.

This seminary's policy on Academic Misconduct (plagiarism and other forms of cheating) will be strictly observed. Students are urged to respect the dignity of each other by observing the Sexual Misconduct/Harassment policy.

Class Schedule:

- January 28 First Class. Introductions, Syllabus Review, Class Overview, Assignments
- February 4 Biblical and Theological Perspectives: Possessions and Money; (Blomberg, Chapters 1-4)
- February 11 Biblical and Theological Perspectives: Possessions and Money; (Blomberg Chap. 5-8)
Reflection Paper due
- February 18 Christianity & Capitalism (Bell)
Reflection Paper due
- February 25 Personal Finances (Hotchkiss, Preface/Chapters 1 & 2)
Guest Presenter
Interview Paper due
- March 4 Personal Finances (Hotchkiss, Chapters 3&4)
- March 11 Personal Finances (Hotchkiss, Chapters 5&7)
Reflection Paper due
- March 18 Church Administration (Bacher/Cooper-White, Chapters 1-6)
Guest Presenter
Money Autobiography due
- March 25 Church Administration (Bacher/Cooper-White, Chapters 7-12)
Reflection Paper due
- April 1 Spiritual Practices (Rendle/Mann, Chapters 1-6)
- April 8 Spiritual Practices (Rendle/Mann, Chapters 7-16)
Reflection Paper due
- April 22 Ministry and Money (Jamieson, Chapters 1-4)
Sermon due
- April 29 Ministry and Money (Jamieson, Chapters 5-12)
Guest Presenters
Reflection Paper due

May 6 Reading week

May 13 ***Final Paper due***