

Ministry, Church and Society

GS/CED/PRTH 3023

MWF 11 a.m.

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405-721-1915

MCS course web page: <http://home.snu.edu/~hculbert/mcs.htm>

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| <p>What we try to do in MCS</p> | Affirm you and your unique mix of spiritual gifts as an important part of a community of faith (that's the "church" part of the title) Introduce you to the religious mosaic of American culture (that's the "society" part) Look at ways you can effectively evangelize and minister in that culture (that's the "ministry" part). |
| <p>To do that, we will . . .</p> | <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Lay an informational base for a life of fruitful ministry and evangelistic relationships and encounters, including giving you abilities to . . .<ol style="list-style-type: none">a. Explain the nature of culturesb. Describe and interpret the relationship between culture and individual behaviorc. Explain the operational cultured. Be engaged in personal evangelisme. Be a leader in discipling and assimilating new converts into the church2. Help you identify and cultivate your spiritual gifts3. Look at the importance of the Reformation, the Methodist revival and the significance of P.F. Bresee in the Church of the Nazarene4. Through your involvement in a group presentation in class, try to develop abilities to deliver a quality presentation using multiple methodologies, media, and materials5. Use some case studies, to help you make assessments, synthesize, analyze, reason logically for discernment, solve problems even learn to live with some ambiguity6. Seek to foster lifelong ministry habits through weekly involvement and reflection plus an individualized hands-on ministry project. Such involvement will help you conceive and articulate purpose, mission, vision and to be involved in developing strategic plans for local churches7. Try to enhance your ability to write clearly and in a grammatically correct manner through a variety of writing assignments |

This course should produce in students the following outcomes:

1. Ability to explain the operational culture
2. Ability to analyze the validity of arguments and to identify their presuppositions and consequences
3. Ability to identify and explain the main characteristics of the nature of the Church
4. Ability to reflect theologically on life and ministry
5. Ability to identify and describe the significance of the major figures, themes and events of the Reformation and of the Wesleyan revival
6. Ability to identify P.F. Bresee as a major figure in the formation of the Church of the Nazarene
7. Ability to identify social and congregational factors that influence church growth
8. Ability to conceive and articulate purpose, mission, vision and to develop strategic plans in a local church
9. Ability to develop team building skills, identify and cultivate spiritual gifts

10. Ability to demonstrate a realistic self-understanding including personal strengths, gifts, weaknesses and areas of needed growth
11. Ability to be engaged with personal evangelism
12. Ability to discern and make theologically based ethical decisions in the midst of a complex and/or paradoxical context
13. Ability to synthesize, analyze, reason logically for discernment, assessment, and problem solving and live with ambiguity
14. Ability to communicate publicly through oral and written mediums with clarity and creativity for the sake of fostering meaning
15. Ability to write clearly and in a grammatically correct manner in the modes of discourse used in ministry

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| Textbooks | <p>Kimball, Dan. <i>The Emerging Church</i> McKenna, David L. <i>What a Time to Be Wesleyan!</i> Sire, James W. <i>The Universe Next Door</i></p> |
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Projected Due Dates for Assignments

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| January 16 | Sire reading report -- notes or other option #1 (Sire 9-44) |
| 18 | First days' thoughts about class on Moodle Report on two online survey regarding gifts (half page or more of reflection) |
| 23 | Sire reading report -- notes or other option #2 (Sire 44-86) Lab report 1 (Moodle) |
| 25 | Sire reading report -- notes or other option #3 (Sire 87-111) |
| 30 | Sire reading report -- notes or other option #4 (Sire, 112-140) |
| Feb. 1 | Sire reading report -- notes or other option #5 (Sire, 141-210) 1-2 Page Ministry Project Proposal due |
| 6 | Sire reading report -- notes or other option #6 (Sire, 211-250) Lab report 2 (Moodle) |
| 8 | First Exam |
| 13 | Kimball question due |
| 15 | Group presentation: Kimball, pp. 7-56 Interviews: 2 pastors |
| 20 | Lab Report 3 Group Presentation: Kimball, chapters 5-8 Kimball question due |
| 27 | Group Presentation: Kimball, chapter 9-12 Kimball question due |
| 6 | Lab Report 4 |
| 13 | Group Presentation: Kimball, chapters 13-16 Kimball question due |
| 27 | Group Presentation: Kimball, chapters 17-20 Kimball question due Interview of lay volunteer |

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| April 3 | Second exam Lab report 5 (Moodle) |
| 5 | Group presentation: McKenna 1-2 Project checkup report |
| 10 | Group presentation: McKenna 3-4 |
| 17 | Lab Report 6 (Moodle) / Group presentation: McKenna 5-6 |
| 24 | Interviews of 2 believers |
| 26 | Group presentation: McKenna 7-8 |
| May 1 | Final project report due Lab Report 7 (Moodle) |
| 3 | Group presentation: McKenna 9-10 |
| Final Exam week | |
| 6 | 10 a.m. Final Exam (Monday) |

“How do I pass this course?”

1. Be there and do stuff

- a. **Attendance** Everything we do in class is important to the course design.
- b. **Classroom Presentations of Text Material.** The class will be divided into small teams to prepare 10-15 minute presentations of highlights of the textbook material listed as “Group Presentations.” Creativity in teaching methodology is encouraged in these presentations: drama, cross-word puzzles, a short videotape, contests, PowerPoint presentation, etc. For more creative possibilities, go to:
<http://home.snu.edu/~hculbert/creative.pdf>

2. Hand in stuff

- a. **Take any TWO of the following online surveys:**

<http://www.gifttest.org/survey.html>
<http://www.mintools.com/spiritual-gifts-test.htm>
http://www.umc.org/site/c.lwL4KnN1LtH/b.1355371/k.9501/Spiritual_Gifts.htm
<http://www.churchgrowth.org/cgi-cg/gifts.cgi?intro=1>

Submit to Moodle at least 150 word of reflection on the results of these TWO surveys. Keep the results of these two evaluations in mind as you select your personal ministry project. At the end of the semester you will need to reflect back on the results of these two evaluations in the written project report.

Based on your answers to a list of questions, these evaluations will suggest which spiritual gifts may be the most operative in your life as well as what you see as priorities in your Christian walk.

- b. **Week One Moodle posting:** By class time on Wednesday, post a short message with the following two items: (1) Something about yourself, (2) A reaction to something in opening of class and (3) something about the church you think about as your “home church.”

- c. **A Burning Question.** Using the paper form provided (also available as a PDF file in Moodle), turn in a question early in the semester. These questions will be answered in class (although the questioners' names will not be used.)

- d. **Textbook written assignments**

- i. **Sire reading report options. Choose one of these two:**

- (1) Submit to Moodle your reactions to three or four phrases or sentences in each assigned section of Sire. Here's the format to use:

Sentence or phrase or word from Sire:

My reflection:

This format -- sentence of phrase or word from Sire followed by your reflection beginning on the next line -- should be repeated three or four times in each Moodle submission.

Beginning with #3 (the chapter on Deism), I'd like to see an occasional reflection on how you might share your Christian faith with someone of the worldview being described by the chapter.

- (2) Create or come up with a graphic that illustrates the main idea of the reading. This can be a photo, a painting, a drawing or even a doodle. Upload into Moodle and submit along with it two or three sentences of explanation.

- ii. **Kimball's book:** On the due dates listed, post a written response to the ONE of the questions at the end of either of two chapters. Give the question from the book as well as your one-paragraph response to it (minimum of 150 words).

- e. **Bi-weekly "laboratory" reports.** By class time of every second Wednesday, post in Moodle a summary/reflection report from your participation during the previous two weeks in the worship/evangelistic services and/or ministries of a local congregation. Reflect, if possible, on how the textbook or classroom lectures/discussion related to what you saw and experienced. I am not looking for summaries of the pastor's sermon. I want you to reflect on that particular community of faith as it seeks to be an authentic Body of Christ. For more info, go to: <http://home.snu.edu/~hculbert/lab.htm>

- f. Interviews

- i. **Interviews of two pastors.** Get a definition of "the church" from two pastors. Also ask them about the "best" and "worst" things about the church. Submit at least 250 words. In your report, include the pastors' names as well as the churches they serve.

- ii. **Interview of lay volunteer.** Interview a local church volunteer worker. Ask about what they do, how they got involved, what brings them the greatest joy and satisfaction . . . Submit at least 250 words. Be sure to identify the person as well as the church in which they serve.

- iii. **Interview of 2 believers.** Interview two Christians. Find out how they came to Christ. What finally motivated them to accept the Lordship of Jesus Christ. Submit at least 250 words. Be sure to identify the people by name as well as the churches in which they are involved.

- g. **Project: 8 hours of ministry** During this semester you must give 8 hours of volunteer service to a church or compassionate ministry organization. Your reporting of that (and your grades for it) will come in two Moodle submissions and a final written papers:

Note: An approved alternate way of fulfilling this assignment is to participate in the Cross-Cultural Orientation Seminar on campus in early March. In order for this to count, you must participate in all sessions of the weekend seminar.

- i. **A 1-2 page Ministry Project Proposal.** This proposal for doing your ministry service hours must clearly include:
 - (1) A statement of purpose including your reasons for choosing this avenue of ministry.
 - (2) An indication of which of your spiritual gifts will be used (based on the results of the two personal evaluations you have done).
 - (3) The tasks you expect to be involved in.
 - (4) The name of your supervisor in the church or organization and his/her phone number.

The Ministry Project may involve something you are already doing such as teaching a Sunday School class, singing in a choir, or being a greeter at church. The project could be the little “push” you need to get you started doing something in a local church. Or it may be serving on a two- or three-time basis at places like Love Link, Reaching Our City, or the City Rescue Mission.

Compassionate Ministries Resource people

Some organizations in addition to the thirty or so Nazarene churches and the hundreds of other churches in the OKC area:

Marilyn Stark -- LoveLink Ministries 239-6219

Dick Bond -- OKC Compassion / Penn Ave. Nazarene Church 524-8082

Jennifer Lester -- Reaching Our City (Greenvale Community Center) 440-9994

Ruth Boyd -- Women's Prison Ministry -- 721-1219

BJ Webb -- Whiz Kids Tutoring -- 602-2815

City Rescue Mission -- cityrescue.org (\$5 background check)

Peggy Hibbert -- Quail Creek Nursing Home -- 720-0010

Stan Engle -- Life House - 236-5433

Judy Mills -- Angel Tree -- 642-9558 (cell) or 720-9111

Lewis McClain -- Nursing Home and Shut-In Ministries -- 789-2050

Judy Cathner -- Birth Choice -- 495-6919

- ii. **Mid-Course Ministry Project Check-up Report.** A report form will be provided in Moodle. At least four of the 8 required ministry hours should be completed by the due date of this report.
- iii. **End-of-Term Ministry Project Paper.** This 8-10 page wrap-up reflection and summary paper, due near the end of the semester, should include the three sections outlined below. Your paper must include at least two properly documented quotations from the textbooks.
 - (1) Reporting.
 - (a) Name and describe the organization or local church with which you worked.
 - (b) Indicate the goals that you had hoped to achieve as you began the project.
 - (c) Describe the form of ministry and specific tasks and also the larger purpose your ministry served to the church or organization.
 - (d) Keep track of and report the actual clock time spent with specific dates and hours. A minimum of eight hours must be put in during this semester (even if your ministry began earlier and you have already invested a substantial amount of time in it).
 - (2) Evaluating.

- (a) Indicate what your specific gifts and spiritual strengths were from the Spiritual Gifts Inventory. Answer the question: What contribution can my unique strengths and gifts add to a Body of Believers (church) or to a volunteer compassionate ministry organization?
 - (b) Note what the results for you were personally. How did your ministry involvement impact you?
 - (c) Evaluate the effectiveness of what you accomplished for the organization.
 - (d) If you were involved directly with people, what impact did you observe on them?
 - (e) Your evaluation will be strengthened by including anecdotal examples.
- (3) Planning. (Approximately one-third of the paper should be given to this future dream)

Do some daydreaming about what you would like to accomplish in ministry (whether lay or professional). Do that dreaming based upon:

- 1) your own interests, dreams, ambitions and career goals
- 2) your ministry project involvement in this course
- 3) insights from the texts and lectures.

Spell out those hopes and dreams both short-range (2-3 years) and long-range (5-10 years).

- 3. Show up for exams and take them.** Exams will be both objective and subjective. Study guides will be given ahead of time.
- Exam I will cover lectures and all of Sire's book.
 - Exam II will cover all of Kimball's book and the lectures.
 - The final exam will cover McKenna, lecture material and possibly questions from the first two tests.

| Grading | |
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| 1. Report on two online surveys | 25 |
| 2. First days' thoughts on Moodle | 10 |
| 3. A Burning Question | 5 |
| 4. Interviews of 2 pastors | 50 |
| 5. Interview of lay volunteer | 50 |
| 6. Interviews of 2 believers | 50 |
| 7. Sire reading reports @15 pts | 105 |
| 8. Questions from Kimball @15 pts | 75 |
| 9. Bi-weekly church "laboratory" reports @10 pts | 70 |
| 10. Ministry Project Proposal | 50 |
| 11. Group presentation of text material | 100 |
| 12. Project Checkup Report | 50 |
| 13. Project Final Paper | 200 |
| 14. 3 Exams @ 100 pts. | 300 |
| 15. Attendance | 100 |

The standard SNU letter grade equivalents for percentages will be used.

Late work will be penalized for each class period that the work is late. This includes exams taken late.

Academic dishonesty is never acceptable (especially in a religion class) and will be penalized severely.

“How important is attendance?”

Absences can affect your grade. Included in course grade calculations will be a percentage of the number of class sessions you attended. Three tardies or early departures equal one absence. If you arrive tardy, see me right after class to make sure you are counted tardy, not absent.

“How come you grade my writing? This isn’t a comp course, is it?”

Most courses at SNU contain writing components. That's done on purpose to help you develop the ability to clearly articulate your ideas. I expect students to produce written work that is focused, well developed, organized and relatively free of grammatical, punctuation and spelling errors. Papers that fall short of this standard will not be accepted; the work may well be returned to the student for revision within a reasonable time.

If you need assistance with a learning or physical disability that may affect your academic progress, I encourage you to contact the Academic Center for Excellence at 491-6694. In addition, specialized services are available for first-generation (neither parent earned a bachelor's degree), low-income, disability, and international students. All traditional, undergraduate students are encouraged to seek assistance from the ACE office for their academic needs.

Interested in extra credit?

Here's some books that can be used. An extra credit report would be a 1-2 page listing of pages read, main ideas encountered, new insights gained and a question or two that the reading raised in your mind.

Barna, George. *Evangelism that Works*
Billheimer, Paul E. *Destined for the Throne*
Clark, Stephen B. *Building Christian Communities*
Colson, Chuck. *Loving God*
Ferguson, Dwight. *Motivated Men*
Garlow, James L. *Partners in the Ministry*
Graham, Kevin. *Jesus for a New Generation*
Green, Michael. *One to One: How to Share Your Faith with a Friend*
Hamilton, James D. *Directions*
Hunter, George G. III. *To Spread the Power*
Hurn, Raymond W. *Finding Your Ministry*
Innes, Dick. *I Hate Witnessing*
Johnston, Jon. *Christian Excellence*
Kramp, John. *Out of Their Faces and Into Their Shoes: How to Understand Spiritually Lost People and Give them Directions to God*
Little, Paul. *How to Give Away Your Faith.*
Magalit, Isabelo. *How to Share Jesus*
Maner, Robert E. *Making the Small Church Grow*
McGavran, Donald *How to Grow a Church*
McGavran, Donald *Church Growth*
McGrath, Alister. *Explaining Your Faith Without Losing Your Friends*
Nelson, Alan. *Five Minute Ministry*
Orjala, Paul R. *Get Ready to Grow*
Ortlund, Anne. *Disciplining One Another*
Parrott, Leslie. *Trying to Live Like a Christian*
Peace, Richard. *Witness*
Peterson, Jim. *Living Proof: Sharing the Gospel Naturally*
Pippert, Rebecca. *Out of the Saltshaker and Into the World*
Posterski, Donald. *Why Am I Afraid to Tell You I'm a Christian?*
Powers, Elvin M. *Building a Caring-Sharing Community of Believers*
Rainer, Thom. *Great Awakenings: Makings the Most of Nine Surprising Trends*
Raney, Jerry. *How to Go to Work on Your Faith: 10 Tips for Being a Vital Christian on the Job*
Rinker, Rosalind. *You Can Witness with Confidence*

Rinker, Rosalind. *Sharing God's Love*
Robinson, Darrell. *People Sharing Jesus*
Rubin, Barry. *You Bring the Bagels, I'll Bring the Gospel: Sharing the Messiah with Your Jewish Neighbor*
Sanderson, Leonard and Ron Johnson. *Evangelism For All God's People*
Stedman, Ray. *Body Life*
Stenbock, Evelyn. *Soul-Winning Laymen*
Stiles, J. Mack. *Speaking of Jesus: How to Tell Your Friends the Best News They Will Ever Hear*
Strobel, Lee. *Inside the Mind of Unchurched Harry and Mary: How to Reach Friends and Family Who Avoid God and the Church*
Wagner, Peter. *Church Growth: State of the Art*
Wagner, Peter. *Your Spiritual Gifts*
Wagner, Peter. *Your Church Can Grow*
Wagner, Peter. *Leading Your Church*