

I        Theo 381 The Christian Teacher's Ministry

II       2 hours

III      Course Description: Th 381 is one of the core courses in the Education Program. Note that it is a theology class rather than an education class. This means that our study is not so much about teacher practice (though we will carefully consider our practices, too) but is about what education programs call "foundations." That is, it's a course about our basic assumptions and beliefs in life, community, and the purpose of education. For us Christians at Concordia this would naturally be a theology class. While we will process a good deal of *information*, this course is intended to be more of an experience in *formation*, calling for participation from each class member and reflective yet documented writing. Using dialogue and position papers, we will create a forum for spiritual reflection to shape ministers of the Gospel both within the priesthood of all believers and on the roster of commissioned teaching ministers for the church (Eph 4:1-12).

IV      Place of the course in the curriculum: Theo 381 serves as the professional ministry and Christian vocation formation course prior to student teaching and placement.

V        Goals for the course: The goal of the course is that you will consciously and deliberately identify yourself as a minister of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. This ministry occurs either as a sanctified disciple and member of the priesthood of all believers whose vocation includes the work of public or private school teacher; or as a called and commissioned member of the public ministry of the church in a congregation's (or association's) school, functioning as a minister of the means of grace teaching God's Word. What's more, our goal is that you will be able to articulate that identity not merely in some personal, private sense but by knowledge and use of the public and historical documents and teachings of the church. Specific objectives for the course are described in the writing assignments in the course outline.

VI      Outline of the course: (assessment coding after each unit heading)

UNIT 1:        THE TWO KINGDOMS AND THE MINISTRY (T-S1, T-S3, T-S4, T-D1, LD-S2)

UNIT 2:        THE PRIESTHOOD OF ALL BELIEVERS, THE DOCTRINE OF VOCATION, AND THE PUBLIC MINISTRY (LD-D1, LR-S1)

UNIT 3:        THE OFFICE OF THE MINISTRY – VIEWS AND MODELS (T-D2, LD-S1, LD-D1)

UNIT 4:        THE CALL AND GOD'S WILL (T-S2, T-S4, LD-K1, LR-D1)

UNIT 5:        THE CALL PROCESS: THOSE WHO CALL AND THOSE CALLED (T-D2, LD-S1, LD-D1, LR-S1)

UNIT 6:        SUSTAINING THE WORKER--SALARY AND BENEFITS (T-D2, LD-S1, LR-

S1)

VII Methodology: instructional methods include

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|---|----------------------|
| 1. cooperative and collaborative learning | 5. case study        |
| 2. role play                              | 6. mastery learning  |
| 3. large/small group mixes                | 7. writing-to-learn  |
| 4. advance organizer                      | 8. concept formation |

VIII Roles of the student:

- class participation
- regular and extensive reading in primary and secondary sources.
- six critical, documented essays on professional work and ministry
- annotating the required text used for unit readings

IX Evaluation:

The grade is based on your class involvement and written work. The first area of written work is annotating the text, *A Teacher of the Church*, and is weighted at 20%. The second collection of written work, the Ministry Manual, is weighted at 70% of the course grade. Note that turning in the MM assignments on time is a required part of this grade. The remaining 10% of the grade reflects responsible class involvement, including on-time attendance. See the “Planning Your Course Grade” handout for our second class session.

**Grade I:** On-time attendance, involvement, and participation. (required for an A)

**Grade II:** One or two grades on brief annotations of our text, *A Teacher of the Church*. See the annotations handout for guidelines.

**Grade III:** The biggest part of the course grade will be the **ministry manual** you will write. This is not a journal but is a series of 3 page documentation-and-reflection papers that build on each other in theme and direction. Each paper will be based on the material we cover in class, so you'll have lots of help. By the time you are done, you should have a clear understanding of the nature, spirit, context, and purpose of the Christian teacher's ministry.

Because the ministry manual content is relatively unstructured, I follow these mechanical guidelines for assigning grades: each paper should

- # be clearly documented, citing what you've read from Scripture, the Confessions and the other assigned readings. (These are not opinion or reaction papers.) No need to footnote or use endnotes or a references cited page. Just indicate your source in the body of your paper.
  - # conspicuously reflect class content and readings.
  - # be 3 pages (500-700 typed words).
  - # use proper grammar and construction.
- be submitted on time—the min mans get my top priority and I grade them immediately.

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