

# **(HT 647 D) Redeeming the Routines of Ministry and Life:**

## **A Theological/Practical Approach to Ordering Ministry & Life**

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### **Course Description:**

This course is designed to help the student develop a theological and practical approach to the problem of ordering her/his ministry/life in the context of American culture with its increasingly hectic style and pace of life. The course will culminate in a final project/paper in which the student will develop a personal strategy for ordering his/her ministry and life, including a theology/ethics of work and leisure, and an ecology of time.

### **Course Objectives:** By the end of the course students should be able to:

1. Understand the current experienced scarcity of time and problems in work/leisure associated with it.
2. Understand the shifting perspectives on time, work, and leisure in Western culture.
3. Develop a distinctly Christian approach to work, leisure, character formation, & ordinary routines of life.
4. Develop strategies for character formation and ordering the routines of ministry & life.
5. Relate the subject matter of the course to the lives of laity.

### **M.Div. Curricular Goals Fulfilled By this Course (emphasis added):**

- *Nurture habits and disciplines of study, prayer, and reflection* that increase their love of God and neighbor and shape their personal and professional lives
- *Be formed by, live in, & minister out of Scripture & the historical & theological tradition of the Church*
- *Engage contemporary theological and ethical issues with insight and humility*
- *Integrate theology and practice in all areas of life and ministry*

### **Required texts:**

Robert. Banks, *The Tyranny of Time* (InterVarsity Press, 1983).  
James A. Roberts, *Too Much of a Good Thing: Are You Addicted to Your Smartphone?* (Sentia Publishing, 2016.).  
Leland Ryken, *Work and Leisure in Christian Perspective* (Multnomah Press, 1987).  
Matt Bloom, *Flourishing in Ministry* (Roman & Littlefield, 2019)  
James A. Roberts, *Too Much of a Good Thing: Are You Addicted to Your Smartphone?* (Sentia Publishing, 2016.).  
Merrick Rosenberg & Daniel Silvert, *Taking Flight* (FT Press, 2013).  
R. Johnson, *Your Personality & the Spiritual Life* (Center for Applications of Psychological Types, 1999).  
Chris Crowley & Henry Hodge, *Younger Next Year* (Watchman Publishing, 2019 ed. men and women versions).  
Stephen Covey, *The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People* (Simon & Schuster, 1989).  
Stephen Covey, *First Things First* (Simon & Schuster, 1994).

### **Recommended texts:**

Miroslav Volf, *Work in the Spirit: Toward a Theology of Work* (Oxford University Press, 199).  
Richard Bolles, *What Color Is Your Parachute?* (The Ten-Speed Press)  
Chris Crowley & Henry Hodge, *Younger Next Year: The Exercise Program* (Watchman Publishing, 2016).  
Gail Sheehy, *New Passages* (Ballantine Books, 1995).  
Michelle Tullier, *Complete Idiot's Guide to Overcoming Procrastination* (Alpha Books, 2000).

### **Course Requirements:**

1. Completion of readings (15% of final grade)
2. Conscientious participation and a day of redeeming your routines (15% of grade)
3. Short written assignments (10% of grade)
5. Final project/paper (60% of grade)