

## IN519 THEOLOGY AND PRACTICE OF MINISTRY - FALL 2024

3 Credits: letter grade only

Rev. Dr. Susan Forshey - [sforshey@dbq.edu](mailto:sforshey@dbq.edu), Van Vliet 318

### Course Description

This introductory course for all incoming MAM students introduces theological education for ministry, with a focus on gaining basic skills in biblical literacy, theological reflection, practical theological strategies for ministry context analysis; and practices for a flourishing discipleship and ministry.

**Course Learning Objectives** By participating fully in this class, students will:

- Identify key theological concepts and vocabulary.
- Implement methods of contextual and practical theological reflection
- Identify major genres and themes of the Bible, and implement strategies for personal and ministerial study.
- Articulate and perform practices for a flourishing discipleship and ministry.
- Implement basic methods of theological and biblical research and writing.

### Master of Divinity Curricular Goals Fulfilled by This Course

- Be formed by, live in, and minister out of Scripture and the historical and theological tradition of the Church.
- Educate and equip individuals and congregations to live and minister joyfully and faithfully as part of their own denomination and the ecumenical church.
- Lead and nurture congregations to promote peace and justice in the public arena and encourage the witness and service of the church in mission to the world.
- Integrate theology and practice in all areas of life and ministry.

### MA in Mission & Discipleship Curricular Goals Fulfilled by This Course

- Develop, implement, and assess strategies for missional living in a specific cultural context.
- Develop skills and capacities for faithful and competent Christian witness.

### MA in Ministry Goals Fulfilled by This Course

- Articulate and interpret key themes from the Christian scriptures in conversation with contemporary and ecclesial contexts.
- Articulate and interpret key Christian theological affirmations for Christian discipleship and ecclesial life.
- Develop pastoral and practical theological methods and strategies for cultivating renewed and transformative ministry contexts.
- Construct a biblically, theologically, and contextually coherent expression of Christian pastoral identity and practice in life and ministry.
- Apply key practices for personal, communal, and ministerial flourishing and compose a coherent plan for life and ministry.

### Required Course Texts

Julia Gatta. *The Nearness of God: Parish Ministry as a Spiritual Practice*. ISBN: 978-0819223180

Harold Percy. *Your Church Can Thrive: Making the Connections that Build Healthy Congregations*. ISBN: 978-0687022564

Aundi Kolber. *Try Softer*. ISBN: 978-1496439659

Alister E. McGrath. *Theology: The Basics, 4th Edition*. ISBN: 978-1119158080

Maria Lichtmann. *The Teacher's Way: Teaching and the Contemplative Life*. ISBN: 978-0809143030

Teresa A. Blythe. *50 Ways to Pray: Practices from Many Traditions and Times*. ISBN: 978-0687331048



**Assignment Policy:** If an assignment needs to be turned in late, please let me know the situation prior to the due date. My expectation: keep me informed and do the assignment “well enough” for the current circumstances you find yourself in.

**Online Materials Policy:** Lack of engagement online for three consecutive weeks may lead to failure of the course. Please let me know if an unforeseen circumstance prevents you from participating on-line.

**Attendance Policy:** Students are building or deepening habits of completion and good communication while in seminary. Please gift your colleagues with your consistent presence online:

- Please contact me immediately if you must be absent due to illness, emergency, and prior unchangeable commitment.
- The **first unexcused absence**--absent for 1 full week online without notifying me through email or via phone call--will receive a warning; the **second unexcused absence** will reduce the course grade by one full grade letter. The **third unexcused absence** may result in failure of the course. **In summary: Just let me know what’s going on.**

### **ADA Compliance Statement**

Reasonable accommodations are available for students who have a documented disability. Please notify Dr. Forshey during the first week of class of any accommodations needed for the course. Late notification may cause the requested accommodations to be unavailable. Confidentiality of all requests will be maintained. All requested accommodations must be approved through the Academic Success Center, 2nd floor Myers Library (563-589-3262 or ASC@dbq.edu).

### **Title IX and Jeanne Clery Act Policy Information:**

Title IX: The University of Dubuque is committed to providing a learning, working, and living environment that promotes personal integrity, civility, and mutual respect in an environment free of discrimination on the basis of sex; which includes all forms of sexual misconduct. More information may be found at <https://www.dbq.edu/AboutUD/TitleIX/>

**Jeanne Clery Act:** The Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Policy and Campus Crime Statistics Act requires the distribution of an Annual Security Report and Annual Fire Safety Report to all current faculty, staff, and students and notice of its availability to prospective students, faculty, and staff no later than October 1st of each year. More information may be found at <https://www.dbq.edu/SafetySecurity/JeanneCleryAct/>