

University of Dubuque Theological Seminary

FE 603 Leadership Ethics Online and Residential Fall 2024

Course Overview

Instructor Information

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563-589-3630 (Rev. Blue)

Van Vliet 205 (Rev. Blue)

Course Description

This course focuses on developing a theological understanding of ethical Christian leadership which can guide decision-making and the setting of priorities in the parish. Students engage in practical reflection on the shape of the good pastorate. *The residential and online sections will be meta-linked in order to provide wider class interaction in a number of discussions and exercises.*

Curricular Objectives

M.Div.

This course helps fulfill the following M.Div. curricular goals:

1. Nurture habits and disciplines of study, prayer and reflection that increase love of God and neighbor and shape personal and professional life
2. Integrate theology and practice in all areas of life and ministry

M.A.M.D.

This course helps fulfill the following M.A.M.D. curricular goal:

1. Develop skills and capacities for faithful and competent Christian witness

M.A.M.

This course helps fulfill the following M.A.M. curricular goals:

1. Articulate and interpret key Christian theological affirmations for Christian discipleship and ecclesial life.
2. Apply key practices for personal, communal, and ministerial flourishing and compose a coherent plan for life and ministry

Course Learning Objectives

1. Develop an understanding of clergy ethics practiced in particular pastoral situations (particularly the challenges of money, maintaining integrity/accountability, confidentiality, healthy boundaries, and abuse of power)
2. Identify the importance of and create a plan for a system of accountability beyond seminary.
3. Cultivate a network of collegiality and mutual support for developing excellence in the practice of ministry.
4. Evaluate current and past experience in ministry in order to improve as a leader in future ministry settings.

Required Text(s) and Other Materials

De La Torre, Miguel. *Doing Christian Ethics From the Margins* (3rd ed.). (Maryknoll, 2014). Selections.

Trull, Joe E and Creech, R. Robert. *Ethics for Christian Ministry* (Baker Academic, 2017). Selections.

Ruth, Kibbie Simmons and Karen A. McLintock, *Healthy Disclosure* (Herndon, Virginia: The Alban Institute, 2007). Selections.

FaithTrust Institute. *Healthy Boundaries 101-Fundamentals; Course Workbook*. (FaithTrust Institute: 2012). This can be downloaded for free from <https://vawnet.org/sites/default/files/assets/files/FaithTrust-HealthyBoundaries101-English-2012.pdf>.

FaithTrust Institute Instructional Videos: Parts 1-4 from “A Sacred Trust” will be used: https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLTWkWVNslIGzTwE_bwaYmkYmxbYKUmUbmY

Technology Requirements - Students are expected to check their UD e-mail accounts regularly for course updates and University announcements.

Electronic Devices: Students are expected to have or locate their own access to computer equipment and a reliable internet connection.

Moodle is UD’s Learning Management System, giving students access to course resources and gradebook as well as allowing them to upload assignments. Use Google Chrome or another compatible browser to navigate to <https://moodle.dbq.edu>. If this is your first time using Moodle, then your initial password is the same as that assigned as your network password.

As this is an **online course**, students are expected to login to Moodle on a regular basis to access course resources, such as readings and discussion forums, as well as upload assignments. For this course, three logins per week are recommended: 1. When the topic opens and recorded material is available for viewing (begins Tuesday). 2. To engage with the material and class discussion. 3. At the close of the week or early the following week to view responses and/or summaries.

Technical Support: If you have any difficulty with your UD e-mail account or with accessing Moodle, please contact the Technology HelpDesk at 563-589-3737 (HelpDesk@dbq.edu) or Moodleadmin@dbq.edu.

Student Evaluation & Grading

Requirements, Evaluation and Feedback:

- Prepared weekly engagement, including reading and video content review prior to class engagement. See University policy below on attendance. 20%
- Completion of all video content and written reflections based on FaithTrust materials. *Note: Boundary training certification cannot be credited apart from these.* 20%
- An outline for training on boundaries to be used in a ministry setting, including best practices related to child/vulnerable adult protections, sexual misconduct, financial integrity, and information sharing, due Oct. 28 30%
- Personal Ministry Ethic code compiled from select weekly posts; complete code due Dec. 9. 30%

Grading Scale

70-100 Pass

Course & University Policies

Course Policies – “House Rules”

In a course on ethics in life and ministry there will be scenarios and illustrations reflecting personal experiences. Do not share personal information about others without their permission, whether in class or outside of class.

Diverse perspectives will be represented in readings, videos and discussion regarding the expression and practice of Christian values. Dialogue conducted in a spirit of respect and grace will be part of formation for engagement in the wider church and society.

Engagement in class exercises within a topic’s given week blesses each student with the wisdom and perspectives of classmates. If a student has an emergency requiring absence for a number of days, be in touch with the instructor as soon as the need emerges so that alternate arrangements can be made for the student and for discussion groups.

During several weeks live zoom alternatives will be made available as optional enrichment opportunities. These are never required to meet the course requirements.

University Policies

Student Engagement to Establish “Attendance”:

Engagement in online courses is determined by student active participation using Moodle – submitting an assignment, taking a quiz, or participating in a discussion forum. Students who have not engaged within the first week of class in at least one of these methods as determined by the instructor will be dropped from the course by the Registrar for non-engagement. Missing more than three weeks of real-time class engagement places the student at the threshold of the minimum requirements for award of class credit.

Academic Dishonesty Policy:

The University of Dubuque expects students to be honest in academic matters. We expect each person on campus to be forthright and direct, and to value integrity in all his/her dealings. Activities and attitudes should be consistent with high academic standards and Christian commitment and should be consistent with the Mission and Values of the University. Please see the “Values & Values Violations” section of the current UD Student Handbook for appropriate definitions, procedures and possible sanctions related to Academic Dishonesty. www.dbq.edu/CampusLife/InformationforStudents

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Statement

Reasonable accommodations are available for students who have a documented disability. All requested accommodations must first be approved through the Academic Success Center, 2nd floor of the Charles C. Myers Library (589-3262).

Please notify your instructor during the first week of class of any approved accommodations needed for the course. Late notification may cause the requested accommodations to be delayed or unavailable, and approved accommodations are not retroactive. Confidentiality of all requests will be maintained.

Academic Resources

Academic Success Center

The Academic Success Center (ASC) is located on the second floor of the Charles C. Myers Library and can be reached by phone at 589-3262. Please contact your instructor to discuss ASC services that might assist you in achieving course outcomes.

Library Support

Librarians are available to assist you in every stage of research assignments. The Reference Desk is located on the first floor of the Charles C. Myers Library. The phone number for the Reference Desk is 589-3770. Librarians also answer questions by email (reference@dbq.edu). Librarians can assist you in developing basic academic research skills and provide referrals as needed. Please contact your instructor to discuss library materials and services that will assist you in achieving course outcomes.

OFF-CAMPUS MINISTRY DISCLAIMER

Students carry out ministry responsibilities in the church and under the jurisdiction and oversight of their denominational judicatory and/or local congregation. Students engaging in ministry shall receive permission, guidance and oversight from these sources, including compliance with common requirements such as background checks, and authorization to preach or participate in the administration of the sacraments. All students enrolled in UD programs are expected to abide by the requirements described in the UD/UDTS student handbook.