

**MNST 5108 – Ministry Identity and Practice Syllabus  
January 2023 - NPTS**

**Meeting Times: Monday-Friday January 23-27  
9am-5pm (with lunchbreak)**

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**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

Participants in this course will explore a variety of ministries of the church with a view to developing a practical vision to guide their own work and to equip others for theirs. Practices such as pastoral care, leadership, worship and the arts, Christian education and formation, evangelism, compassion and justice, and missions will be introduced with an emphasis on developing communication skills appropriate to each.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES**

MNST 5108 will challenge students:

1. To *understand* oneself as a person shaped by culture therefore approaching cultural difference with humility.
2. To *recognize* metaphor as a tool for self and others in both pastoral and lay identity.
3. To *analyze* self-understanding in terms of both Word and Sacraments both individually and collectively.
4. To *apply* ministerial identity both in spoken and written mode in a way that is anchored biblically and theologically.
5. To *create* an identity paradigm that can apply to your ministry context and/or call.

**REQUIRED READINGS:**

*Beholding and Proclaiming*. Kristian David Hernandez. Createspace Independent Publishing Platform, 2018.

*Calling: A Song for the Baptized*. Westerhoff, Caroline A. Church Publishing, Inc., 2004.

*The Courage Way*. Shelly L. Francis. Berrett-Koehler Publishers, 2018.

*Healing our broken humanity : practices for revitalizing the church and renewing the world*. Grace Ji-Sun Kim, & Hill, G. Intervarsity Press, 2018.

*This Here Flesh : Spirituality, Liberation, and the Stories That Make Us*. Cole Arthur Riley. Convergent, 2022.

Other short readings will be available via Canvas.

**GRADING RUBRIC:**

- 5% Gospel presentation
- 10% Metaphor Oral Presentation
- 40% Reflection Papers
- 40% Final Paper
- 5% Class participation and attendance.

**EXPECTATION OVERVIEW:**

- Prepare for each class session by reading the assigned texts.
- Actively participate in class with humility and curiosity.
- Complete four reflection papers of 3-4 pages each.

- Prepare a 5-minute presentation on one of the four gospels presenting key themes and how they relate to your personality or passion for ministry. (Due on the second day of class)
- Complete a 10 minutes presentation on their ministry metaphor. (Due final day of class)
- Complete a Final Paper/Project

## **ASSIGNMENT INSTRUCTIONS:**

### **Reflection Papers**

1. Read the book, *This Here Flesh*. Write a three page introduction of who you are to the class. Due January 4, 2023.
  - a. Why are you doing what you are doing (ministry, seminary etc).
  - b. What aspects (please integrate the book) influence and shape your identity?
2. Read *Healing Our Broken Humanity* and write a four page reflection answering four of the following questions: Due January 11, 2023.
  - a. The authors say that we are on body, with one Messiah, one Spirit, one life, one table, one politic, one righteousness, one peace, one mission, one faith, one hope and one love. Which of these is the most difficult to understand? Which is the hardest to express in your local church? Why is it vital for the church's witness and community that it pursue this oneness?
  - b. Does your church practice lament? Does your culture?
  - c. Repentance helps us welcome, embrace, and listen to those marginalized by society. Do you agree? Why or why not?
  - d. Who do you know that models the relinquishment of power well? (someone you know personally, or maybe someone you've heard or read about?
  - e. Why is silence a form of injustice?
  - f. At the end of chapter 7 the authors challenge us to be "flowerpot breakers and seed sowers." What does this mean? What does this mean for you and your ministry?
  - g. What did you learn from chapter 9 about the Beatitudes and the Sermon on the Mount?
3. Read *Calling of the Baptized* and write three pages reflecting on your own baptism. What is YOUR theology and experience of baptism. Has your theology changed or been challenged by the book or by other life circumstances? Be sure to reference and integrate the book but refrain from long quotes. Due January 18, 2023.
4. Write a three page reflection incorporating the books by Francis, Hernandez and Lartey (excerpt on Canvas) on how you Lead Well, Preach Well and Care Well. These are three of four competencies discussed in the ordination process for the Evangelical Covenant Church. Due February 8, 2023.

### **Instructions for the Final Paper/Project**

- Identify the metaphor for ministry that you are considering for your final paper. Examples will be provided. (Due on the second day of class)
- Prepare a 10 minute presentation outlining the key ideas for your final paper. (Due on the final day of class)

- Write a 10 page (double-spaced) paper outlining a metaphor for ministry which provides a biblical and theological basis for your ministry. The paper should integrate material from the course presentations and readings. Due March 1, 2023
- This is a graduate level course. Please cite your sources and proof for grammar and spelling.

### **ADDITIONAL COURSE GUIDELINES**

1. Attendance & participation. Because this course is only 5 days in the classroom, all days are required to be in attendance. There will be exceptions but only in case of emergency and with proper communication with instructor.
2. Assessment submission
  - Submit all work through Canvas as Word files, including your last name in the document title.
  - All assessments are due 11:59pm on the date indicated. Work submitted late without prior arrangement will receive a 1/3 grade reduction each day (e.g., an A grade would receive A- after one day late, B+ after two, etc.). Work submitted over two weeks late will not receive credit.
3. Communication. I encourage you to email me with any questions and concerns, and I will respond within 24 hours M–F. Before emailing a question, be sure the answer isn't contained in the course syllabus or assessment guidelines (Canvas).

### **ACADEMIC HONESTY**

In keeping with our Christian heritage and commitment, North Park University is committed to the highest possible ethical and moral standards. Just as we will constantly strive to live up to these high standards, we expect our students to do the same. To that end, cheating of any sort will not be tolerated. Students who are discovered cheating will receive a failing grade on the assignment and are subject to discipline up to and including failure of a course and expulsion. Our definition of cheating includes but is not limited to:

1. Plagiarism – the use of another's work as one's own without giving credit to the individual. This includes using materials from the internet.
2. Copying another's answers on an examination.
3. Deliberately allowing another to copy one's answers or work.
4. Signing an attendance roster for another who is not present.

For additional information, see the [Seminary Academic Catalog](#), pp. 25–27.

### **ACCOMMODATIONS**

Students with disabilities who believe that they may need accommodations in this class are encouraged to contact the program's office as soon as possible to ensure accommodations are implemented in a timely manner. For further information, see Seminary Academic Catalog, pp. 19–20 and “Disability Resources” provided through North Park's Office of Student Enrichment Services and Support.

### **TITLE IX**

Students who believe they have been harassed, discriminated against, or involved in sexual violence should contact the Dean of Students (773-244-5565) or Director of Human Resources (773-244-5599) for information about campus resources and support services, including confidential counseling services. As a member of the North Park faculty, we are concerned about the well-being and development of our students, and are available to discuss any concerns. Faculty are legally obligated to share information with the University's Title IX coordinator in certain situations to help ensure that the student's safety and welfare is being addressed, consistent with the requirements of the law. These disclosures include

but are not limited to reports of sexual assault, relational/domestic violence, and stalking. Please refer to North Park's Safe Community site for contact information and further details.

### **INSTRUCTOR COMMITMENTS & STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES**

*I will...*

- Return graded assessments within one week (provided they are submitted on time);
- Post all grades to Canvas gradebook in a timely manner so you can monitor your progress;
- Gladly be available for one-on-one conversation by phone or video chat. Please do not hesitate to reach out for clarification on course content, expectations, etc.
- Respond to all email inquiries within 24 hours M–F, for items not already covered in the course syllabus or weekly announcement (do please check these first).

*You are responsible for...*

- All information provided in the course syllabus and class emails sent to your northpark.edu email address. This includes all assessment deadlines and course policies (grading, assessment submission, late penalties, etc.).
- Remaining up to date regarding your course progress, tracking grades in the Canvas gradebook and being apprised of seminary drop deadlines. NPTS policy extends incompletes in exceptional circumstances only and require requisite paperwork on file prior to the final day of the semester. ▸ Weekly and week-to-week time management. The rule of thumb for graduate education is that each hour of classroom time entails an average of 2–3 hours of weekly work outside the classroom. This means that you should expect to devote a minimum of six to nine hours to course work each week on average outside of class sessions. It also means you should not regularly be spending more than nine hours each week on this course. Please communicate with instructor if you find yourself doing so. Metrics for weekly reading (page numbers) and lectures (minutes) are provided in syllabus to assist your planning. Note that some weeks are heavier and others lighter in terms of reading, lecture, and written submissions.
- Communicating with instructor in a timely manner as questions and/or difficulties arise. Be sure to take initiative to email questions or schedule a conversation, recognizing that it may be 24–48 hours before a mutually feasible meeting time is available.

### **INCOMPLETE GRADES**

If, due to extenuating circumstances (specifically, pregnancy, illness, personal and family issues, military assignment, etc.), a student anticipates they will be unable to complete course work within the allotted time, that student may request a grade of incomplete from the course instructor before the last week of class clearly stating the reason(s) for this request. Overscheduling and/or lack of self-discipline are not considered extenuating circumstances. If the request is timely and meets the criteria, student and instructor will submit the incomplete grade form and the grade for that class will be listed as “I” until the last day of the following semester. If coursework is not submitted by the last day of the following semester the listing of “I” will automatically be changed to “F.” For the full policy, see page 15 of the [Seminary Academic Catalog](#).

### **CLASS SCHEDULE:**

1/4/2023	Read <i>This Here Flesh</i> . Submit reflection paper and read your classmates papers.
1/11/2023	Read <i>Healing Our Broken Humanity</i> and submit reflection paper.
1/18/2023	Read <i>Calling</i> and submit reflection paper.
1/23/2023	Review the first two chapters of all four gospels as well as Eugene Peterson's introductions to the Gospels in <i>The Message</i> Review Regina Lowe's paper as an example of a ministry metaphor (see Canvas) Read <i>Beholding &amp; Proclaiming, In Living Color &amp; The Courage Way</i>
<b>Day #1 Identity</b>	Class Introduction Discussion on <i>This Here Flesh</i> The 4 Gospels discussion Examples of Ministry Metaphors
<b>Day #2 Identity</b>	Oral Reports/Gospels Baptism in the Gospels/Exegeting Your Name Class discussion on <i>Calling</i> Table as Metaphor (R. Lucco video)
<b>Day#3 Lead Well</b>	Principles of Written Communication (K. Bruckner) Discussion on <i>Healing our Broken Humanity</i> Reflective/Empowering Leadership Discussion on <i>The Courage Way: Leading with Integrity</i>
<b>Day #4 Preach Well Care Well</b>	Principles of Oral Communication <i>Beholding and Proclaiming</i> mini-workshop Pastoral Care Basics: Discussion on chapters 3&4 of <i>In Living Color</i> (available on Canvas)
<b>Day #5 Be Well Presentations</b>	The Healthy Pastor: Rev Karen Ingebretsen from Develop Leader Oral Presentations on Metaphors for Ministry
	Various case studies and guest presenters will be utilized as the schedule permits. Guest presenters subject to change.
	Please submit all of your assignments through CANVAS
2/10/21	Lead Well, Care Well, Preach Well Paper Due
3/1/2023	Final Paper Due: Ministry Metaphor