



MNST 5108 – Ministry Identity and Practice Syllabus

January 2023 - NPTS

Meeting Times: Monday-Friday January 9-13
8 am-5pm Central (with lunchbreak)
3 credit hours

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Rev. Dr. Bret M. Widman, Associate Professor of Ministry
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Office hours: Tuesdays & Thursdays 9 am to 12 pm

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 TEXTS

Arthur Riley, Cole, *This Here Flesh. Spirituality, Liberation, and the Stories That Make Us* (New York: Convergent Books, 2022) [ISBN9780593239773]

Chittister, Joan D., *Scarred by Struggle, Transformed by Hope* (Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 2003) [ISBN 9780802829740]

Edwards, Gene, *A Tale of Three Kings* (Newnan: Tyndale House Publishers, Inc., 1992) [ISBN 9780842369084]

Khang, Kathy K., *Raise Your Voice. Why We Stay Silent and How To Speak Up* (Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 2018) [ISBN 9780830845408]

Weems, Renita J., *Listening for God. A Ministers Journey Through Silence and Doubt* (New York: Touchstone, 1999) [9780684833231]

Westerhoff, Caroline, A., *Calling. A Song for the Baptized* (New York: Seabury Books, 2005) [ISBN 9781596280090]



ASSESSMENTS AND GRADING SCALE

- Prepare for each class session by reading the assigned texts.
- The Arthur Riley book is to be read by **January 9th** along with a three page reflection which will serve as your means of introduction to the instructor as well as your classmates.
- The Khang book is to be read by **January 9th** along with a three page reflection which will serve as further introduction to the instructor as well as your classmates.
- 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. **January 11th**
- Final Paper: Identify the metaphor for ministry that you are considering for your final paper. **January 11th. Presentations will be on the 12th and 13th**
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, Times New Roman 12) 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. A minimum of 10 references from a variety of the required text cited correctly is required. (Due on February 25, 2022)**

Instructions for Pre-Class Book Reviews:

Read Arthur Riley book and write a three page introduction of who you are to be submitted on canvas prior the week intensive. Write about yourself as it pertains to contemplative rhythms, racial reconciliation, and interior examination using what you read in Riley's book. *Please note*, this is a class and we may know some in the class, we do not know everyone in the class. In other words, trust has not been built. This is not the place to share deeply personal, private, and sensitive narratives. What part of Riley's book had the most impact on you regarding why you are taking seminary classes and in your current ministry context (if one). **Due 1/9/23**

- Read the book by Kathy Khang and write a three page reflection identifying one dynamic or experience that has enhanced your voice and one dynamic or experience that has stifled your voice. This will need to be submitted on canvas. **Due 1/9/23**

GRADING

- 5% Gospel presentation
- 10% Metaphor oral presentation
- 40% Book Reviews (20% each for the Arthur Riley and Khang)
- 40% Final Paper
- 5% Class participation and attendance.

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](#).

COURSE SCHEDULE

Course Pre-work DUE	*Read the books by Arthur Riley (1/9/23) and Khang (1/9/23), submit reflection papers and read the papers of your classmates. *Review the first two chapters of all four gospels as well as Eugene Peterson’s introductions to the Gospels in The Message *Review Regina Lowe’s paper as an example of a ministry metaphor (see Canvas)
Day #1	*Class Introduction *Discussion on Arthur Riley and Khang *The 4 Gospels *Principles of Oral Communication *Examples of Ministry Metaphors
Day #2	* DUE: Oral Reports/Gospels *Baptism in the Gospels/Identity *Table as Metaphor
Day #3	*The Healthy Pastor *Panel: Cultural Context *Principles of Written Communication



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	* DUE: Writing Workshop/One page outline of Paper
Day #4	*Reflective/Empowering Leadership *Conflict: Organizational Health and Mess
Day #5	* DUE: 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
2/10/23	DUE: Book Reports
2/24/23	DUE: Final Paper: Ministry Metaphor