

**HT 647 D Redeeming the Routines of Ministry and Life:
A Theological/Practical Approach to Ordering Ministry & Life**

Instructor: Rev. Dr. Elmer M. Colyer

3 credits: letter grade

Prerequisite: HT540D & HT556D, or permission by the professor

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. This is a seminar-style course with presentations and open discussions oriented around the readings. 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 and 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):

X Nurture habits and disciplines of study, prayer, and reflection that increase their love of God and neighbor and shape their personal and professional lives

X Be formed by, live in, & minister out of Scripture & the historical & theological tradition of the Church

X Engage contemporary theological and ethical issues with insight and humility

X Integrate theology and practice in all areas of life and ministry

Required Texts:

B. J. Miller-McLemore, Also a Mother

R. Banks, The Tyranny of Time

L. Ryken, Work and Leisure in Christian Perspective

S. Covey, The Seven Habits of Highly Effective People

S. Covey, First Things First

R. Johnson, Your Personality and the Spiritual Life

M. Volf, Work in the Spirit: Toward a Theology of Work

Additional handouts from Dr. Colyer

Course Requirements:

1. Completion of readings (10% of final grade)
2. Conscientious class participation (10% of grade)
3. Short written assignments (10% of grade)
4. Book report, oral & written (20% of grade)
5. Final project/paper (50% of grade)

Course Meetings:

Fridays, January 29, February 5, 12, 19 and March 5 from 9:00-11:40am **and** 1:30-4:20pm

An additional day to be arranged with the professor

Reading Assignment to be Completed for January 29

Banks, The Tyranny of Time, pp. 11-133

"Many alter lives for more leisure time" and "Sleeplessness"