

CLC1001 Research for Ministry: Online Seminar
Church Leadership Center
Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary
July 1 – December 31, 2016

INSTRUCTORS:

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SEMINAR DESCRIPTION

Pastors and other church leaders will pursue independent research on biblical, theological, and pastoral topics of their choice with the goal of identifying resources to inform and enrich their ministries. They will share research findings and the contributions of these findings to their leadership responsibilities. They will respond to the projects of other seminar participants, providing constructive criticism and suggestions. Interaction among class participants will take place online using the Moodle course management system. This course is not offered for academic credit.

SEMINAR GOALS

The goals of the seminar are for the student:

1. To utilize available scholarly resources to address pastoral and theological concerns growing out of their ministry contexts.
2. To test learnings from their research with other pastors and church leaders.
3. To learn from the research pursuits of other pastors and church leaders.

TEXTBOOK AND ELECTRONIC RESOURCES

There are no assigned textbooks for this seminar. Students will select readings from the AMBS Library collection of e-books and online journal articles.

SEMINAR REQUIREMENTS

The course is structured around student-designed research. Two design options are suggested. Consult with instructors if you wish to propose other activities.

1) **Research project**

Option A. Keep a research journal and share entries.

- (a) The journal includes
 1. an annotated bibliography of relevant resources for each topic considered.
 2. descriptions of how research has informed ministry and leadership tasks. (Example: resources and ideas collected in preparing a sermon)
- (c) Once or twice a month, post selections from the journal and the writings you have developed that were informed by your research.
- (d) The final post is due on November 18 and should include a summary of findings and an annotated bibliography of ten to twenty relevant resources.

Option B. Read at least four books.

- (a) Locate and read reviews of each book in the library's online databases or in other sources. (Reviews may not be available for more recent books.)
 - (b) Post a detailed summary of at least one book by the last day of each month.
 1. List reviews of the book that you have found, if any.
 2. Describe of how reading the book has informed your ministry and leadership tasks.
- 2) **Comment on student posts.** Each month (July through early December), comment on at least two posts made by other students in the class. Offer suggestions and constructive critique. Responses to student comments are optional.
- 3) **Closing and evaluation.** By December 2, participate in closing activities online and complete seminar evaluation. Access to library resources continues through December 31.
- 4) **Expectations for participation.** Each student's full participation according to the established schedule is necessary to fulfill course goals and to create a vibrant learning community. A student who is one month behind in meeting course expectations will be suspended from Moodle participation and library resource access. To request a return to class activities, the student may send the instructors a plan for fully completing course requirements.

PLAN FOR FACULTY AND STUDENT INTERACTIONS

The instructors will host an optional webinar in July 2016 to introduce the seminar and the library's online resources. They will help individual students locate relevant scholarly resources. They will offer counsel to each student's research process, as requested by the student.

SEMINAR EVALUATION

As part of the AMBS commitment to improve the quality of teaching and learning, we take seriously the feedback we receive from student evaluations. The online seminar evaluation will become available to students the last month of class by way of an e-mail notice.

PLAGIARISM POLICY

"Plagiarism results from the unacknowledged use of material found in print sources, oral presentations, or visual, electronic or other media sources. Plagiarism does not require an intention to deceive. It can result when a student submits as his or her own work ideas, language, data or other material contained in a source not acknowledged by the student, if the student knew or should have known that such acknowledgement was required."

(<http://law.slu.edu/policies/plagiarism.html>)

SEMINAR OUTLINE AND SCHEDULE

July

1. Create your profile in Moodle. Introduce yourself to others in the class.
2. Attend optional webinar with instructors, if possible.

3. Examine all instructional materials provided by instructors.
4. Begin browsing library resources relevant to your research interest.
5. Consult with one of the instructors on topics of interest.
6. Decide which of the research options you will follow or design an alternative in consultation with one of the instructors.
7. Begin an annotated bibliography of significant resources on your chosen topic(s).
8. Post a description of the research activity you have chosen by July 31.

August - November

1. Research and write.
2. Post a research project update by the last day of each month. The November update is a summary of research pursued in one topic area during the seminar. Comment on how this study has informed ministry and leadership tasks. Post a final complete annotated bibliography.
3. Each month, comment on research postings of at least two other students.

By December 2

1. Comment on the final research summaries of at least two other students.
2. Participate in a closing discussion forum.
3. Complete the online seminar evaluation.

MOODLE INSTRUCTIONS

Each student will receive an email message from AMBS Director of Information Technology, Brent Graber. This message will have login information for Moodle.