

## COURSE SYLLABUS

Theology of Ministry I, OPT528, 2 hours

Joel C. Hunter, Ph.D.

Reformed Theological Seminary, Virtual

### *Professor*

Dr. Joel C. Hunter is a visiting lecturer in Practical Theology at RTS-Orlando, and the senior pastor of Northland Community Church, one of the largest and fastest-growing churches in America. Dr. Hunter received his B.A. in History from the University of Ohio, and his M.Div. and D.Min from Christian Theological Seminary. He is the author of *The Journey to Spiritual Maturity*, *The Challenging Road*, and *Prayer, Politics, and Power*, and has other volumes forthcoming. He has also contributed to *Leadership Magazine* and other periodicals.

### *Course Description*

This course is designed to give the student practical information on subjects relevant to ministry and the Church in America as we move into the 21st century. It covers topics such as theology, leadership, educational programs, organizational techniques, finances, conflict management, and more. Pastors and others in church leadership will find this course readily applicable to their situations and a helpful resource in their ministry.

### *Required Textbooks*

Berkley, James D., ed. *Leadership Handbooks of Practical Theology*, Volumes 1-3. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1992.

All required books are available through the RTS Online Bookstore at <[www.rts.edu/bookstore](http://www.rts.edu/bookstore)>.

## Course Requirements

### *Online Student Handbook*

The Online Student Handbook is a guide that contains information for participation in this course. Needed forms may be downloaded and printed from this site. You will find it located on the RTS/Virtual website under Resources. Check here for all the latest updates.

### *Requirements in brief*

All work is to be completed within four months from the time that you enroll in this course.

Follow the Study Guide provided.

Listen to all recorded lectures.

Complete all readings.

Research paper

Final exam

Mentor report/Course application paper

### *Research Paper (50%)*

The research paper is a master's level paper. That means that the work needs to be done at a graduate level. The paper should include not only the raw data that you use, such as historical facts, but the paper should show that you have digested and analyzed those data, and then that the data have been evaluated. To do this, multiple sources are needed where possible. Analyze and evaluate the data at several key points, such as data sources for critical data. The analytical process that is being used should be evident. If others have already done something in the way of research on your subject, you will want to bring that in.

#### *Length and References*

The paper is to be ten pages long, counted without footnotes and bibliography, using a Times New Roman twelve point font or its equivalent. For a paper of this length, no less than eight, and preferably fourteen references, should be used. At least half of these should be specifically referred to or quoted in the paper and properly cited in footnotes, endnotes, or in-text citations. Any other sources also need to have been used in some way by the student in the research for the paper (as background knowledge), even if not specifically cited or footnoted.

References listed in the Bibliography or Reference List may include individual chapters in books, especially when the book is an anthology, and each chapter actually constitutes a separate article. Journal articles and web sites may also be used as references.

#### *Development of the theme*

The paper itself needs to develop and unfold your subject, giving enough of the background by way of introduction to show the significance of your subject and to enable your reader to ascertain your purpose in writing the paper. Develop your subject by selecting and presenting data that you have accumulated, and include any additional background that will be helpful.

Then analyze, synthesize and evaluate what you have found. Your personal interaction with the data is important, showing your line of thinking, your analysis, your synthesis and evaluation.

## Submission

Submit the paper in your online portfolio, or electronically, as an attachment to a cover e-mail message, using RTF (Rich Text Format), MS Word, or Word Perfect. If you submit your paper as an e-mail attachment, notify us in the cover e-mail message what format you used in the paper. Since RTF strips away formatting, this is the least desirable way to send your papers.

You may use any one of the three forms of citation: Footnotes, endnotes, or in-text citations. Be consistent, however. If you use in-text citations, explanatory footnotes or endnotes may be used, but not as a substitute for bibliographic data used in the in-text citation and Reference List. For submitting your paper in the online portfolio, use either in-text citations or endnotes.

## Style

Use *The Chicago Manual of Style* or the *MLA Style Manual and Guide to Scholarly Publishing*, Second Edition, for formatting, including Title page; Table of Contents; headings and sub-headings; and a Bibliography or Reference List. One of the criteria for evaluating the paper will be style: Is the paper written in a clear, straightforward style of academic prose? Use the guidelines in Strunk and White, *The Elements of Style*.

## *Final Examination (45%)*

After you have completed all the other requirements for the course, you may request the final examination. It will cover the course material in its entirety.

All exams are to be requested online (<http://virtual.rts.edu/>). All exams are proctored. Upon completion, please follow all instructions on the Exam Request page concerning how to submit your exam to RTS/Virtual.

## *Mentor Report/Course Application Paper (5%)*

Each MA Distance student is required to have his mentor submit a report at the end of the course. This report will contribute to 5% of the student's grade. For students who are not registered in the MA program, you are asked to write a 200 word summary of how you perceive what you have learned in this course will fit into the objectives you have for your ministry, your educational goals, or other objectives you wish to achieve in life.

## *Assignments*

All Assignments are due the last day of the course (See start letter), unless stipulated otherwise in this syllabus. Any student who needs an extension must get approval from the Virtual Campus before the deadline. Assignments are to be submitted as e-mail attachments. Please place course title in the subject heading (E-mail: [vcstudentservices@rts.edu](mailto:vcstudentservices@rts.edu)).

## *Time Limit*

All course work, including exams, papers, reading requirements, is to be completed within four months from your course start date.

*Contact Information*

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COURSE OUTLINE  
Theology of Ministry I, OPT528, 2 hours  
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	<u>Title</u>	<u>Reading Assignment</u>
Lesson 1:	The Theological Nature of the Church	Read Vol. 1, pp. 1-50
Lesson 2:	Group and Individual Ministry	Read Vol. 2, pp. 247-262
Lesson 3:	Theology of the Environment	Read Vol. 1, pp. 137-260
Lesson 4:	The Context of Ministry	Reread Vol. 1, pp. 137-156, 189
Lesson 5:	Personality of a Congregation	Read Vol. 2, pp. 197-246, 263-342
Lesson 6:	Organizational Theories	Read Vol. 3, pp. 145-186
Lesson 7:	Finances	Read Vol. 3, pp. 81-98, 403-504
Lesson 8:	Group Leadership	Read Vol. 3, pp. 203-308
Lesson 9:	Conflict and Programming	Read Vol. 2, pp. 343-442; Vol. 3, pp. 187-202

RESEARCH PAPER TOPICS  
Theology of Ministry I, OPT528, 2 hours  
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The servant nature and role of church leaders

An exegesis of some portion of the gift passages in 1 Corinthians 12 and 14, Romans 12, Ephesians 4, and 1 Peter , and the application of that portion of Scripture to ministry in the local, national, or international church.

The relation of international missions to the local church, including the theological basis for it, and the local church's involvement in international missions.

Covenant relations

The role of preaching in the life and health of the church.

Worship

Church Discipline

The Responsibilities of a Pastor (including the theological foundation for those responsibilities)

The Church and (its) Finances

The subject must be adequately dealt with in the fifteen page limit of this paper, so do not choose a passage or application that will be too extensive for the space allowed. Do not write, "The limits of time and space do not permit..." in your paper. This course is "The Theology of Ministry," so papers should include theological foundations for positions for which you argue, and the papers should show theological reflection.