

Religious Philosophy Curriculum Course Syllabus

3MMM, Inc. Seminary Sponsored

Developer/ Facilitator: Dr. Mark A. McCleary, Ph.D., D. Min., M. Div.

Curriculum Description:

This course series will assist students in discovering and learning about religion as an organized approach to spirituality and group facilitation and coordination. These courses will survey and facilitate students understanding individual and group search for practice of worshipping God that is social, cultural, and practical for self, relationship building, and family formation.

This curriculum consists primarily of research and writing of student learning and the praxis of religion for leadership and structural, organized significance and impact. Dr. Mark A. McCleary's church/ ministry materials will be used to inform and trigger student thinking, designing, and deploying rational modus operandi for a local church/ ministry setting.

Rationale:

The posted title for this curriculum course series is RELIGIOUS PHILOSOPHY which is designed to help students understand humankind's need, search, and decisions on acknowledging and applying worship and ministry practicums that are meaningful as moral and ethical mediums for fulfilling spiritual demands.

I. Ministry begins with VISION and a Paradigm

Course Description

This course will explore what church/ ministry logistics involve and what it means to be religious in practical ways. It will survey why, how and what to consider when establishing and growing a congregation of Christian believers. This course invites students to explore, describe, and explain the many questions and logistical demands for planting, establishing, developing, and growing an organized group of Christian believers.

Course Assignments:

1. Review and write an opinion paper on Dr. McCleary's Vision and Philosophy PRIMER for church organizational ministry, 5-7 pages.

2. Write an analysis and critique of Dr. McCleary's RENEWAL and PEMFY Congregational Ministry blueprint, 5-7 pages.
3. Review Dr. McCleary's 3MMM VISION, MISSION, and OBJECTIVE example. Write a 4-6 page analysis on how they might be used for formulating, promoting, and implementing the same in your local setting. Include your/ church-ministry's vision, mission, and objective statements and how they were developed, 5-8 pages.
4. Use Dr. McCleary's Ministry Organizational chart/ Ministry Descriptions example. Write an opinion paper on pros and cons, agreement or disagreement, and strengths or weaknesses for your local setting, 5-8 pages.
5. Use Dr. McCleary's Ministry Calendar example, and Planning Sheet example. Write an analysis and praxis report on pros-cons for designing and deploying the same in your local setting, 5-7 pages.

II. A Christian Paradigm to Philosophy

This course will expose you to the historical discipline of philosophy, from its secular and "pagan" roots to its influence on early Christian thinkers. Some posit that Christian, philosophy, and theology are not connected. However, the historical development of theological and liturgical praxis says otherwise, especially, when they are studied in their *sitz en leben* or "life situation."

Prerequisite: The student for this course should have completed the Ministry begins with VISION and a Paradigm course.

1. Philosophy and Christianity

- a. What is the basic definition for Philosophy and Christianity? What do you know or know about either? How does each express meaning in life? What aspects of human existence are either concerned with? (3-5 pp.).
- b. List and summarize 5-7 Ancient Philosophers. Do you agree or disagree with their position? (3-5 pp.).
- c. List and summarize 5-7 Modern Philosophers, from the Enlightenment era and Contemporary times (i.e., 20th century). Compare them with one ancient philosopher. Do you agree or disagree with at least one or two of these Modern philosophers? (3-5 pp.).
- d. What did you discover was Christian or anti-Christian in 2-3 of the above philosophers? (2-3 pp.).
- e. How are Philosophy, Theology, and Christianity related or unrelated? How do purpose to consider, embrace, and share either/ all, or not? (Reflection, Opinion paper, with citations), 3-5 pp.

III. Ethics and Christianity

This course focuses on the integration of theory and practice--living according to God's will. It focuses on discovering and deploying God's values and principles for living in time and space.

Prerequisite: The student for this course should have completed the Ministry begins with VISION and a Paradigm, and A Christian Paradigm to Philosophy course.

- a. List and summarize some of the famous historical Ethicists (2-3 pp.).
- b. Research the Bible—"God's will" and write a summary and theology thereof (2-3 pp.).
- c. Exegete John 7:17 for empowering believers to know and do God's will (2-3 pp.).
- d. How does "I will" reveal a theology of God's ethics for believers? (2-3 pp.).
- e. Author an essay on Galatians 5:16-26 as it speaks to Christian ethics . (2-3 pp.).
- f. Write an opinion report on the application of ethics to real life instances(2-3 pp.).
- g. What are some major ethical and philosophical cases since 2000 CE and what is your opinion concerning them? (3-5 pp.).
- h. How does Spiritual Warfare affect ethical discourse and application? (2-3 pp.).

IV. Apologetics and Christianity

This course will introduce students to basic Apologetic issues and how they relate to Christian Faith. Students will explore the Christian-biblical worldview, consider and respect cultural analysis, and how to apply the gospel values and principles for Christian praxis's sake.

Prerequisite: The student for this course should have completed the Ministry begins with VISION and a Paradigm, A Christian Paradigm to Philosophy, and Ethics and Christianity courses.

- a. Research, pinpoint the great Apologists of the last two hundred years—5-7, summarize major and salient positions, write your thoughts about 2-3 of them (3-5 pp.).
- b. How do you view Christianity and apologetics relating? (2-3 pp.).
- c. Author an essay on the following biblical phrases/ terms:
 1. The Word of the Lord (O.T.). How does it relate to Apologetics? (3-5 pp.).
 2. The Truth (N.T.). How does it relate to Apologetics? (3-5 pp.).
- d. Research the topic of Christian Belief? How does it relate to Apologetics? (2-3 pp.).
- e. How would you deal with someone who professed the following:
 1. "I am an atheist." (3-5 pp.).
 2. "I am an agnostic." (3-5 pp.).
 3. "I am do not believe in religion or Christianity." (3-5 pp.).
- f. What is your worldview—is it biblical-based? Explain.
 1. What is your understanding of epistemology and your worldview and or Christian Faith? (3-5 pp.).

V. Christianity and History

History concerns persons, places, and things. It also comprises the observations, interactions, events, and reflective impact of these factors. Among these considerations is the Christian aspect to social-political-religious life. It is from within the matrix of history that Christian theology has developed. These courses will help you research and understand the reasons for why Christians do what they do and believe what they believe in relationship to historical theological liturgical praxis.

Prerequisite: The student for this course should have completed the Ministry begins with VISION and a Paradigm, A Christian Paradigm to Philosophy, Ethics and Christianity, and Apologetics and Christianity courses.

This course looks at events, key persons, and important trends in the history and development of the Christian church. Such observations should help students to see God's faithfulness in the past and to better understand the church's present challenges and opportunities.

- a. What noteworthy events, persons, and trends in church history do you know? Include sources.
- b. Google and research ten notable events, persons, and trends in church history. Summarize and give your brief opinion. (3-5 pp.).
- c. What is the history of Christianity in your location? (2-3 pp.).
- d. How is Christianity received or rejected where you are and its surrounding region? (2-3 pp.).
- e. How has Christianity and culture related in your area, country since 2000 CE? (2-3 pp.).
- f. What is your opinion concerning Christianity and God's purpose going forward? (2-3 pp.).
- g. What is your ministry vision, mission, and objectives and how do they relate to Christianity and history? (2-3 pp.).

Write a Course summary on what you learned and how you might use it in your congregational/ ministry setting, (4-6 pp.).