



May 2012

PT 501 Personal Formation and Development

Course Description

This course will provide students with the means to assess their person formation and growth to date. It will require them to plan steps of growth that will guide them in making choices either while in seminary or while entering ministry. It will use insights from the Christian spiritual tradition and from psychology in the form of the Myers-Briggs Type Indicator and contemporary understandings of sexuality. It will provide a structure for evaluating personal vocational development and sexuality as these bear on preparing for and applying ministry.

Class Schedules

Monday – Friday, May 14-18, 2012

Note: To facilitate informal interaction I'll spend the lunch hour in the *Seminarea* in the link above the food court. Students are cordially invited to join me there.

Instructor Information

Dr. Peter Ralph pralph@ambrose.edu

Office L2079

Students wishing to speak with the professor out of class hours may arrange an appointment via email. Drop in meetings are subject to availability.

Additional Information

Students have paid a fee which enables students to take the MBTI electronically, receive a professionally generated description of their type and its application, and establish their profile in the Ministry Placement Office for future use. The MBTI profile will be used in PT710 also. Students' email addresses will be collected on the first day of class in order to begin this process. Students should receive the MBTI test instrument in the first week of class and must complete it before the end of the second week. See Fern Buszowski, Manager of the Practicum Program and Career Development Centre at CTS with any issues. **A significant portion of this course cannot be completed without completing the MBTI.** fbuszowski@ambrose.edu 403-410-2908

Advisory regarding Ambrose email addresses.

Every student is assigned an Ambrose email address at the start of the semester. The address is *first initial, last name@my.ambrose.edu*. All correspondence relating to this course will take place with this address. This includes all handout material related to class. Students must activate this address at the Ambrose IT dept. in the faculty area. Students should test the address to ensure that it is not blocked by students' software packages. It is the student's responsibility to do this before the end of the first week of class. Regular checking of this address is also the student's responsibility. Students using free email such as hotmail should note that external servers regularly block traffic to and from these addresses. Relying on them while at Ambrose may be problematic. Please note also that our systems at Ambrose do not work well with Blackberry communication devices.

Paper submission

Papers will be submitted and grades and comments returned electronically. Students will identify, on the first or cover page of all assignments, the course name, the instructor's name and their own name, along with their student ID number. If the submission is a book report, a precise bibliographic notation and the number of pages read must be identified on the title page.

Paper Format

Seminary papers are to follow the guidelines of the most recent issue of *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses and Dissertations*, by Kate L. Turabian and/or *The Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association*. The instructor will indicate where these guidelines may be waived or substituted. Students will refrain from using graphics of any kind in preparing papers. Papers will be double-spaced, no more and no less, whether between lines or between paragraphs. All type will be 12 point.

Incomplete work

Failure to submit any one piece of required work for the course will result in an "Incomplete" grade. Such grades are automatically converted to a "Fail" at the end of the semester by the Registrar's office.

Textbooks

None

Attendance

Students are expected to attend all class sessions for their entire duration.

Course Outline

Personal Formation, Spirituality and Vocation

Personal Formation and Temperament

Personal Formation and Sexuality

Expected Learning Outcomes

Students will be able to:

- evaluate their spiritual formation in light of Christian Trinitarian faith
- evaluate their spiritual formation in the light of classic spiritual cultures.
- evaluate the development of their sense of vocation to Christian ministry

- assess their sexual development in light of vocation to Christian ministry
- assess their personal formation and alignment with Christian ministry in terms of the Myers Briggs Type Indicator.

Course Requirements

Reading and Reports

Students will complete 1125 pages of reading from the recommended reading list. Substitute reading material may be negotiated with the instructor. Students will submit a (minimum) three-page report of each book read. A section of a book is read. Paper length can be pro-rated if only a section of a book is read. The report will include a brief (one page maximum) analysis of the content of the reading, and an assessment (at least two pages) of the relevance of the material to the student's present and future formation as discussed in class. The ability to integrate across topics will be a key to success in this report.

Students will choose readings that correspond to class topics, and will read as added learning for their assigned papers. Reports of this reading will be handed in at the same time as the papers to which they relate, but must be attached as separate documents.

Readings not found on the reading list may be suggested to the professor and included in course reading with the professor's approval. Books that are convenient to acquire but unrelated to course topics will be rejected.

Assigned Papers

Paper 1. Personal Formation, my Spirituality and my vocation (will assess the student's formation, including the categories discussed in class, and their assessment of calling to God, the world and ministry: Please note, a "personal testimony" alone will not fulfill the requirements of this or any other paper.)

Paper 2. Personal Formation and my Temperament (will assess the student's present and future development in terms of the Myers Briggs Type Indicator.)

Paper 3. . Personal Formation: an Integration (will integrate all course material including discussions of sexuality, all course reading, previous learning and experience, and will offer short-term and long-term plans for future choices based on this integration.)

Due Dates

Paper and reading report #1: week of June 11-15

Paper and reading report #2: week of June 25-June 29

Paper and reading report #3: week of July 23-27

Students are strongly urged to remain on campus until they have selected course reading material for all subjects of the course, gained all approvals requiring the professor's agreement, and written a preliminary draft of the first paper and submitted it to the professor for comments.

Incomplete work

Failure to submit any one piece of required work for the course will result in an “Incomplete” grade. Such grades are automatically converted to a “Fail” at the end of the semester by the Registrar’s office.

Cover Sheet Format.

Students will identify, on the first or cover page of all assignments, the course name, the instructor's name and their own name, along with their student ID number. If the submission is a book report, a precise bibliographic notation and the number of pages read must be identified on the title page.

Examinations:

None

Grading: The available letters for course grades are as follows:

<u>Letter Grade</u>	<u>Description</u>
A+	
A	Excellent
A-	
B+	
B	Good
B-	
C+	
C	Satisfactory
C-	
D+	
D	Minimal Pass
F	Failure

Important Notes/Dates:

Students are advised to take note of the dates for the last day to enter a course without permission and /or voluntary withdrawal from a course without financial penalty in each semester. These can be found in the academic calendar for the relevant year.

Please note that final grades will be available on your student portal. Printed grade sheets are no longer mailed out.

NOTE

It is the responsibility of all students to become familiar with and adhere to academic policies as stated in the Student Handbook and Academic Calendar. Personal information, that is information about an individual that may be used to identify that individual, may be collected as a requirement as part of taking this class. Any information collected will only be used and disclosed for the purpose for which the collection was intended. For further information contact the Privacy Compliance Officer at privacy@ambrose.edu.

Although extensions to coursework in the semester are at the discretion of the instructor, students may not turn in coursework for evaluation after the last day of the scheduled final examination period unless they have received permission for a “Course Extension” from the Registrar’s Office. Requests for course extensions or alternative examination time must be submitted to the Registrar’s Office by the appropriate deadline (as listed in the Academic Calendar <http://www.ambrose.edu/publications/academiccalendar>). Course extensions are only granted for serious issues that arise “due to circumstances beyond the student’s control.”

We are committed to fostering personal integrity and will not overlook breaches of integrity such as plagiarism and cheating. Plagiarism and cheating can result in a failing grade for an assignment, for the course, or immediate dismissal from the university college. Students are expected to be familiar with the policies in the current Academic Calendar and the Student Handbook that deal with plagiarism, cheating, and the penalties and procedures for dealing with these matters. All cases of academic dishonesty are reported to the Academic Dean.

Students are advised to retain this syllabus for their records.

Course changes, including adding or dropping a course, may be made during the Registration Revision period, as outlined in the Calendar of Events. All course changes must be recorded on a Registration form, available from the Office of the Registrar. Due to circumstances such as class size, prerequisites or academic policy, the submission of a Registration form does not guarantee that a course will be added or removed from a student's registration. Students may change the designation of any class from credit to audit up to the date specified in the Calendar of Events, although students are not entitled to a tuition adjustment or refund after the Registration Revision period.

Withdrawal from courses after the Registration Revision period will not be eligible for tuition refund. Students intending to withdraw from some or all of their courses must submit a completed Registration form to the Registrar's office. The dates by which students may voluntarily withdraw from a course without penalty are listed in the Calendar of Events. A grade of 'W' will be recorded on the student's transcript for any withdrawals from courses made after the end of the Registration Revision period and before the Withdrawal Deadline (also listed in the Calendar of Events). 'W' grades are not included in grade point average calculations. A limit on the number of courses from which Academic a student is permitted to withdraw may be imposed. Students wishing to withdraw from a course, but who fail to do so by the applicable date, will receive the grade earned in accordance with the course syllabus. A student obliged to withdraw from a course after the Withdrawal Deadline because of health or other reasons may apply to the Registrar for special consideration.

An appeal for change of grade on any course work must be made to the course instructor within one week of receiving notification of the grade. An appeal for change of final grade must be submitted to the Office of the Registrar in writing within 30 days of receiving notification of the final grade, providing the basis for appeal. A review fee of \$50.00 must accompany the appeal to review final grades. If the appeal is sustained, the fee will be refunded.

Academic dishonesty is taken seriously at Ambrose University College as it undermines our academic standards and affects the integrity of each member of our learning community. Any attempt to obtain credit for academic work through fraudulent, deceptive, or dishonest means is academic dishonesty. Plagiarism involves presenting someone else's ideas, words, or work as one's own. Plagiarism is fraud and theft, but plagiarism can also occur by accident when a student fails or forgets to give credit to another person's ideas or words. Plagiarism and cheating can result in a failing grade for an assignment, for the course, or immediate dismissal from Ambrose. Students are expected to be familiar with the policy statements in the current academic calendar and the student handbook that deal with plagiarism, cheating, and the penalties and procedures for dealing with these matters. All cases of academic dishonesty are reported to the Academic Dean and become part of the student's permanent record.

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Larson, Lyle and Walter Goltz. Clergy Families In Canada: An Initial Report.

Lee, Cameron and Jack Balswick. Life In A Glass House: The Minister's Family In Its Unique Social Context.

O'Brien, Gene. Couples Praying: A Special Intimacy.

Richardson, Ron. Becoming a Healthier Pastor: Family Systems Theory and The Pastor's Own Family.

Shelley, Marshall. The Healthy Hectic Home: Raising A Family In The Midst Of Ministry.

Desert Wisdom

Nomura, Yushi. Desert Wisdom: Sayings From The Desert Fathers.

Intimacy

Brennan, M. Bridget. Claiming our Deepest Desires: the Power of an Intimate Marriage

Brenton, Myron. Friendship

Burr, R. Develop Your Secret Closet of Prayer.

Covington, Stephanie. Leaving the Enchanted Forest: The Path from Relationship Addiction to Intimacy

DeMoss, Robert G. Sex and the Single Person: Dealing Honestly with the Need for Intimacy

Diamond, Jed. Looking for Love in all the Wrong Places: Overcoming Romantic and Sexual Addictions

Ferder, Fran and John Heagle. Your Sexual Self: Pathway to Intimacy.

Fischer, Kathleen R. Promises to keep: Developing the Skills of Marriage
Groom, Nancy. Risking Intimacy.

Harvey, Donald R. The Spiritually Intimate Marriage

Hershey, Terry. Intimacy: Where Do I go to Find Love?

Joy, Donald M. Re-bonding: Preventing and Restoring Damaged Relationships

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MacDonald, Gordon. The Tests Men Face. (cassettes)

Manning, Brennan. Abba's Child

Mayhue, Rich. Spiritual Intimacy.

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McGinnis, Alan Loy. The Friendship Factor: How to get Closer to the People you Care for.

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Oden, Thomas. Game Free: A Guide To The Meaning Of Intimacy.

Phillips, Holly Faith. What does she want from me, Anyway?: Honest Answers to the Questions Men ask about Women

Purnell, Dick. Becoming a Friend and Lover

Rainey, Dennis. Lonely Husbands, Lonely Wives: Rekindling Intimacy in every Marriage

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British Council Of Churches: The Forgotten Trinity.

Coppedge, Allan. Portraits of God: a Biblical Theology of Holiness

Downey, Michael. Altogether Gift: A Trinitarian Spirituality

Duck, Ruth C. Praising God: the Trinity in Christian Worship

Fairbairn, Donald: Life in the Trinity: An Introduction to Theology with the Help of The
Church Fathers.

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Houston, James: Prayer: The Friendship That Transforms.

Johnson, Darrell W. Experiencing the Trinity

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Sexuality

Allender, Dan. The Wounded Heart.

Every Man's Battle: Winning The War on Sexual Temptation.

Balswick, Jack. Men At the Crossroad

Authentic Human Sexuality.

The Family

Bell, Rob Sex God: Exploring the Endless Connections Between Sexuality and Spirituality.

Brown, David Mark. Tainted Love: God, Sex and Religion For The Not-So-Pure At Heart.

Crabb, Lawrence. Men And Women.

Dalbey, Gordon. Father And Son.

Healing The Masculine Soul.

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