



CORRECTIONAL MINISTRIES INSTITUTE

CM103: Christian Formation in Correctional Ministry

Course Instructor: Karen Swanson, Ed.D.

Director, Correctional Ministries Institute (CMI), Wheaton College Billy Graham Center

Karen.swanson@wheaton.edu

630-752-7400

Course Description

This course examines the personal, theological, process, and praxis of Christian formation for those working in correctional ministry as they seek to fulfill the great commission, “to make disciples of Christ.” The relationship between Christian formation and rehabilitation is also explored.

Course Objectives

Upon completion of the course, you should be able to do the following:

- A. Commit to an ongoing life of personal self-awareness and growth in Christ as foundational to effective ministry.
- B. Describe Christian formation theology and process, spiritual disciplines, spiritual pathways, and frameworks for witnessing and discipleship.
- C. Explain the relationship between faith, crime and rehabilitation and providing support for Christian ministry.
- D. Design strategies for witnessing and discipling those you serve in your ministry context.

Course Text

Sacred Rhythms. Arranging Our Lives for Spiritual Transformation by Ruth Haley Barton. (Be sure to order the book, not the participant’s guide)

Cape Town Commitment <https://lausanne.org/statement/ctcommitment>

Course Requirements

This course consists of two virtual meetings, mentor meetings, readings, lecture videos, quizzes, group discussions, and writing assignments. The information regarding these course components and expectations is as follows:

Virtual Meetings. Tuesday , April 7, 6:00 pm (Central) and May 5, 6:00 pm (Central). Links and information will be emailed to you.

Mentor Meetings. Meet with your mentor in-person or by phone two times to share what you are learning and hearing from God through the course.

Readings. Reading assignments covered in this course should be read in the context of the module in which they are assigned. In addition to the required textbooks, you may be asked to read supplementary materials included in the lesson.

Lectures/Videos. Each lesson includes lectures/videos from the instructor or field experts.

Quizzes. Each module will include a multiple-choice quiz over the readings and lectures for that module.

Discussion Forums. Discussion questions related to each week’s lectures are provided. The Discussion Forum for each week begins on Monday at 12:01 a.m. Central Standard Time (CST), and your first post is required by Wednesday each week. All posts must be submitted prior to the following Sunday at 11:59 p.m. CST. You are required **to post an initial response and respond to two other posts** (total of 21 posts for the course). Posts should include:

- A. Substantial thoughts: Ideas and positions explained clearly. Refers back to course content when appropriate. Reply posts extends discussion.
- B. Completeness: Answers the question completely.
- C. Support: provides support for responses

Practice and Reflection. Each week, you will practice the corresponding spiritual practice (from the reading) and reflect on your experience. Directions and questions are found in the weekly assignments.

Assignment Evangelism Practice. (Due Week 5) Share the gospel using a evangelism tool with a person (can be Christian or NonChristian). Reflection: How do you think it went? How did the person think it went? What changes would you make to improve your presentation?

Assignment Discipleship Strategy. (Due Week 6) Answer the following questions:

- A. Describe context (jail, prison, reentry, etc.) and learners (men, women, boys, girls).
- B. Ministry type. One-on-one, small group bible study, support group, worship/preaching, etc.?
- C. Topic. (ie. How to study the Bible. How to pray. Growing in your faith. The fruit of the Spirit. Sermon series, etc.)
- D. Objectives. What will participants *know, do, and be committed* to after participating?
- E. Curriculum used. (Name of curriculum)
- F. Criminogenic needs addressed. (Responsible thinking, empathy, substance recovery, anger management, moral thinking, healthy relationships, prosocial people, etc.)

Course Grading

Grades will be issued within one week of the end of the course.

Your grade for the course will be determined as follows:

Discussion Forum and Virtual Meetings	30% of Course Grade
Spiritual Practice and Reflection	20% Course Grade

Assignments	20% of Course Grade
Quizzes	20% of Course Grade
Mentor Meetings	10% of Course Grade

Grading scale will be as follows:

A	92-100	A-	90-91	B+	87-89
B	84-86	B-	80-81	C+	77-79
C	72-76	C-	70-71	D+	67-69
D	62-66	D-	60-61	F	0-59

Weekly Topics and Assignments

Module 1: Overview and Personal Reflection

DUE: April 12

VIRTUAL MEETING

Tuesday, April 7 at 6:00 pm Central

1.1 Welcome and Syllabus

LISTEN

1.2 Introduction to Christian Formation

1.3 Spiritual Formation Principles

1.4 Discipleship Approaches and Spiritual Pathways

READ

1.1 Syllabus

1.2 Introduction to Christian Formation

1.3 Spiritual Formation Principles

1.4 Discipleship Approaches and Spiritual Pathways

Barton Ch. 1-2

DISCUSS

Share your discipleship experience and critique/reflect on the spiritual principles reading. (1 post, 2 responses)

QUIZ

Readings and lectures

PRACTICE AND REFLECTION

Practice Longing for More, p. 28. Reflect on your practice. What do you want God to do for you?

Practice Solitude, p. 43-44. Describe your practice and questions, emotions, or awareness of God.

Module 2: The Gospel and Beliefs

DUE: April 19

LISTEN

2.1 The Gospel

2.2 The Lausanne Covenant

2.3 Confession of Faith

READ

2.1 The Gospel

2.1a Our Position in Christ

2.2 The Lausanne Covenant
2.3 The Cape Town Commitment, Part 1
Barton, Ch. 3

DISCUSS

Select one question:

- a) What does it mean to you to be “in Christ” in your own words and how does it affect your daily life?
- b) What does it look like for you to “preach the gospel” to yourself each day?

QUIZ

Readings and lectures

PRACTICE AND REFLECTION

Practice Lectio Divina, p. 59-61. What scripture did you use? What word or phrase was addressed to you? How was your life touched by this word? What was your response to God based on what you read/encountered? How will you live out the Word of God?

Module 3: Christian Formation

DUE: April 26

LISTEN

- 3.1 Spiritual Assessments
- 3.2 Christian Formation Goals and Process
- 3.3 Call to Action
- 3.4 Confronting Our Idols (Chris Wright)

READ

- 3.1 Spiritual Assessment
 - 3.2 Christian Formation Goals and Process
 - 3.3 The Cape Town Commitment, Part 2
 - 3.4 Confronting Our Idols
- Barton, Ch. 4, 5

DISCUSS

From the readings, what has God impressed on you. What questions do you have?

QUIZ

Readings and lectures

PRACTICE AND REFLECTION

Practice prayer, p. 76-77. What is your breath prayer? Reflect on using your breath prayer (How did you feel? What did you think?)

Practice honoring your body, p. 89-90. Reflect on any of the questions or your experience.

Module 4: Spiritual Formation Principles

DUE: May 3

LISTEN

- 4.1 Mansions of the Heart
- 4.2 Follow Me
- 4.3 Transformational Discipleship
- 4.4 Stages of Spiritual Growth

READ

- 4.1 Mansions of the Heart

- 4.2 Follow Me
 - 4.3 Transformational Discipleship
 - 4.4 Stages of Spiritual Growth
- Barton, Ch. 6

DISCUSS

Share what has helped you to grow in your own spiritual journey. Did you stall? What barriers hindered your growth or experienced intensified spiritual attacks? What from the models, research and principles do you think will influence your discipleship strategy?

QUIZ

Readings and lectures

PRACTICE AND REFLECTION

Self-examination practice (p. 108-109). You do not need to share specific sins you confessed – you can generalize it – attitude, action or moment or the share about the process of self-examination.

MENTOR MEETING

Meet with your mentor (if you haven't already met)

Module 5: Effective Evangelism

DUE: May 10

VIRTUAL MEETING

Tuesday, May 5, 6:00 pm Zoom Call

LISTEN

- 5.1 The 5 Elements of Effective Evangelism (Becky Pippert)
- 5.2 Evangelism as Incarnational Reality (Becky Pippert)
- 5.3 3 Approaches for Bold Witness (Archbishop Kwashi)
- 5.4 The Alpha Course (Eileen Dudich)

READ

- 5.1 The 5 Elements of Effective Evangelism
 - 5.2 Evangelism as Incarnational
 - 5.3 3 Approaches for Bold Witness
 - 5.4 The Alpha Course
- Barton, Ch. 7

QUIZ

Reading and lectures

PRACTICE AND REFLECTION

Practice Discernment p. 127-129. What brought you consolation? What brought you desolation? What is an area where you are seeking God's discernment?

ASSIGNMENT: Evangelism Practice

Module 6: Effective Discipleship

DUE: May 17

LISTEN

- 6.1 Making Disciples
- 6.2 Strategic Program Planning
- 6.3 Scripture Engagement

READ

- 6.1 Making Disciples

6.2 Strategic Program Planning
6.3 Scripture Engagement
6.3a Scripture Card (resource)
Barton, Ch. 8

DISCUSS

How will you apply what you have learned so far into discipling those you serve?

QUIZ

Readings and lectures

PRACTICE AND REFLECTION

Practice Sabbath p. 145. Reflect on your experience of taking a Sabbath.

ASSIGNMENT: Discipleship Strategy

Module 7: Teaching for Transformation

DUE: May 24

LISTEN

7.1 Transformational Learning
7.2 Learning Styles and Participatory Model
7.3 One on One Discipleship

READ

7.1 Transformational Learning
7.2 Learning Styles and Participatory Model
7.3 One on One Discipleship
Barton, Ch. 9 and p. 186-187

DISCUSS

What have you found helpful when you have been a learner in a small group? Who was one of your favorite teachers and why?

QUIZ

Readings and lectures

PRACTICE AND REFLECTION

Practice p. 162-166. Answer the following questions: 1. What practices will I seek to engage in on a daily basis? Weekly? Monthly? Yearly? Where will I engage in these disciplines? What time of day/week/month/year? 2. What spiritual disciplines will I share with a spiritual friend, or a group of friends, so as to grow together? 3. What additional activities or practices are particularly important given my personality and spiritual gifts? 4. How will I need to adjust my schedule in order to consistently choose this rule of life?

Module 8: Relationship between Faith, Crime and Rehabilitation

DUE: May 31

LISTEN

8.1 Religions and the Justice-involved
8.2 The Faith Factor
8.3 More God, Less Crime

READ

8.1 Religions and the Justice-involved
8.2 The Faith Factor
8.3 More God, Less Crime

DISCUSS

What has been a “take away” from this course that has changed your thinking and ministry?

QUIZ

Readings and lectures

MENTOR MEETING

Submit mentor meeting report.