

Money and Your Ministry
3 Credit Hours ~ Directed Study

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Statement of Understanding

This syllabus constitutes an agreement between learner and supervisor. Though unlikely, this agreement is subject to adjustment by the supervisor. Any such adjustments will be communicated clearly in a timely manner.

Course Description

Money and Your Ministry is an elective, directed study course for students matriculating through Central's prior curriculum. The emphases of the course are threefold: Personal Reflections, Biblical Foundations, and Contextual Applications. The course will challenge learners to engage their own money history and habits, money and possessions in the biblical text, and their commitment to lead others in the faithful use of resources.

Course Goals

Pillar Goals:

- Demonstrate habits of mind and practice for thinking, being, and doing the work of ministry.
- Practice religious leadership that enacts the dispositions and habits of religious commitment.

Course Goals:

- To equip learners for financial wellbeing: practicing thoughtful and intentional money management that facilitates personal contentment, reflects faith in Jesus Christ, and demonstrates commitment to Christian vocation.
- To empower learners to be confident leaders in the financial realms of their ministries.

Course Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course the learner will:

1. Increase self-awareness through personal reflection.
2. Examine and question cultural messages about money and finances.
3. Demonstrate an understanding of both Hebrew Bible and New Testament teachings about resources.
4. Articulate a personal theology of money and possessions.

5. Demonstrate the ability to apply knowledge and belief in practical ministry contexts.

Procedures and Requirements

1. Attendance: as a directed study, this course will not pre-schedule class times. Students are instead required to meet with supervisor either face-to-face or by Zoom video-conference for one hour every two weeks (12 wks = 6 hrs).
2. Methodology: learner performance will depend on thorough reading, thoughtful reflection, and significant investment of time and energy. Authentic engagement of reading materials and clear articulation of ideas in a variety of written assignments will constitute the primary participatory elements of the course.
3. Written Assignments
 - a. Personal Money Story: each learner will write his/her money story. Beginning in your childhood, what do you remember being taught (either implicitly or explicitly) about money? Did your parents talk about money? How did your parents manage money? What did your church teach you? What messages did your community/culture send? How did those lessons manifest in your life as you grew into adulthood? What are some of the ways in which those examples/lessons influenced your money management? Have you made mistakes with money? Do you experience guilt/shame with regard to money?
(2-3 pages – one page might be a timeline or diagram if that is helpful for the learner to visualize and tell his/her story)
Due week #2 ~ September 13, 2017
 - b. Reading Response Papers: each learner will respond to the asterisked texts from the required reading list. These papers should be a personal response on not only the substance of the reading but also reflective of the ways in which the reading intersects and applies to your own life and ministry.
(2-3 pages x 2 *texts)
Due weeks #4 and #6 ~ September 27 & October 10, 2017
 - c. “I believe...” Credo: each learner will articulate his/her theology of money, resources, and possessions based on their study of the biblical text and course reading materials. What do you believe? Why? How do these beliefs inform your personal life and your ministry vocation? Compare and contrast what you believe and how you choose to live with the dominant messages of today’s culture.
(6-8 pages)
Due week #10 ~ November 8, 2017

- d. Contextual Application Project: each learner will design an application of this study for his/her ministry context. Examples might include a plan for a sermon series accompanied by sermon outlines, a small group Bible study, a congregational stewardship program, a capital campaign plan, a video of sermon or lesson accompanied by written manuscript, a narrative organizational budget, youth/children stewardship lessons/activities, etc.

(length will vary)

Due week #12 ~ November 20, 2017

4. Required Reading

Brueggemann, Walter. *Money and Possessions*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox, 2016. ISBN-10: 0664233643

Nouwen, Henri J.M. *The Spirituality of Fundraising*. Nashville: Upper Room Books, 2010. ISBN-10: 0835810445

*Marcuson, Margaret. *Money and Your Ministry: Balance the Books While Keeping Your Balance*. Portland: Marcuson Leadership Circle, 2014. ISBN-10: 0976436647

*Twist, Lynne. *The Soul of Money: Reclaiming the Wealth of Our Inner Resources*. New York: W.W. Norton & Company, 2017. ISBN-10: 0393353974

5. Grading

Meetings with Supervisor	10%
Personal Money Story	10%
Reading Response #1	10%
Reading Response #2	10%
Credo	30%
Contextual Application	30%

6. Scale

90-100	A
80-89	B
70-79	C
69-Below	F

Rules of Conduct

Communicate early and often. Learner accepts the responsibility of scheduling and attending conferences with supervisor.

The class will adhere to the expectations of conduct outlined in CBTS handbooks and catalogs.