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### MM 511 512 Mentored Ministry

Ellen L. Marmon

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## MM511-512W and X (SP08) MM611-612W and X (SP08)

Ellen L. Marmon, Ph.D.  
FM 103, 858-2054

[ellen\\_marmon@asburyseminary.edu](mailto:ellen_marmon@asburyseminary.edu)  
Office Hours: T 9:30-10:45am  
1:15-3:00pm, and by appt.

Mentored Ministry is a supervised, field-based experience, designed to teach an active/reflective pattern of ministry. We start with some basic assumptions, and we provide students with the opportunity to achieve some specific goals. This class combines students on the Wilmore and ExL campuses, giving us opportunities to interact in person and online with each other. Once you register, I'll send you an electronic copy of the **MM Handbook**, which will acquaint you with our case study format, as well as the forms and guidelines you'll use with your mentor.

### Basic Assumptions

1. Fruitful Christian leadership requires a life that is increasingly formed in the image of Jesus Christ (II Timothy 3: 14-17; I John 2: 3-6).
2. Vocational tasks are best learned through:
  - Mentor-modeling (II Timothy 2:2);
  - Reporting on our actions and reflecting on those actions in an accountability group setting (Mark 1: 29-39);
  - Practicing with instructive feedback from respectful and supportive mentors and peers (Proverbs 19:20).

### Specific Goals

By the conclusion of the 3-semester Mentored Ministry experience (and your time at Asbury), you will be able to:

1. Articulate a practical theology of education/youth ministry grounded in the Biblical narrative and orthodox theology, informed by human sciences; insights from church history; and life experience.
2. Demonstrate competency (faithfulness & fruitfulness) in ministry practices of leading, teaching, and nurturing, to equip congregations and organizations in making disciples.

3. Practice an incarnational ministry that respects and engages diversity: the age, gender, race, traditions, culture and context of persons.
4. Demonstrate enhanced understanding of and commitment to personal and social holiness in a context of accountability to a community of faith and dependence on the Spirit of Christ.

## **Getting Started with MM511-512**

Because learning involves being, doing, and knowing, we want you to have hands-on experience alongside your seminary studies. This first semester you may be observing ministry, as well as building relationships and a knowledge base of the ministries of your site. You will need to invest 5 hours each week (not counting driving time or regular worship attendance) in the following ways:

- Participate in Christian education or youth ministry each week.
- Observe leadership and participate in the planning of the ministry.
- In the reflection group, be strengthened for the challenges of life and ministry.
- Support one another in personal, spiritual, and vocational growth.
- Integrate classroom learning, life experience, and practice of ministry by learning how to write up, present, and discuss a case study.

## **Procedures (MM511-512)**

- Invest 5 hours in Christian education or youth ministry each week.
- Meet with the reflection group for one hour each week on campus.
- Prepare one case study and submit it to the group for discussion.
- Actively participate in the discussion of cases presented by other group members.
- Interact with an on site mentor 10 times during the semester, receiving feedback and evaluation (10 out of the 13 weeks).
- Prepare in advance to connect with a cross-cultural aspect of ministry next semester (MM611-612).
  - Training/participating on a short-term missions team

- Working with volunteers who focus on ministry to the poor in the local community (homeless, prison ministries, half-way houses, immigrant support, GED or ESL tutoring, correspondence with missionaries, etc.)
- Discuss vocational growth in a one-on-one conversation with reflection group facilitator.

## **Continuing the Journey with MM611-612**

This second semester gives you an opportunity to increase your participation in ministry as well as leadership. While the format for the case study and on campus group remains the same, you will also keep a journal for part of the semester, as well as add a cross-cultural component to your experience.

### **Goals**

- Participate in Christian education or youth ministry each week (5 hours).
- Develop leadership and planning skills by providing leadership in your placement.
- In the group be strengthened for the challenges of life and ministry.
- Support one another in personal, spiritual, and vocational growth.
- Include a cross-cultural component to your ministry (missions, either local or global).
- Integrate classroom learning, life experience, and practice of ministry.

### **Procedures**

- Invest 5 hours in Christian education or youth ministry each week.
- Take on a leadership role in your placement.
- Complete the Dialog Journal for discussion and reflection.
- Develop leadership and equipping skills by supporting a volunteer.
- Meet with the reflection community for one hour each week.
- Prepare one case study and submit it to the group for discussion.
- Actively participate in the discussion of cases presented by other group members.

- Interact 10 times during the semester with an on site mentor for feedback and evaluation (10 out of 13 weeks).
- Begin to identify basic biblical/theological beliefs , as well as social science principles for ministry, moving toward a Philosophy of Ministry paper for 711-712.
- Discuss vocational growth in a one-on-one conversation with your reflection group facilitator.

### **Required Text for MM611-612**

Harris, Paula & Schaupp, Doug. *Being White: Finding Our Place in a Multiethnic World*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press. ISBN: 0-8308-3247-5

### **The Campus Reflection Group**

*Let us not give up the habit of meeting together. We should keep on encouraging each other until the day of Christ Jesus.*

Hebrews 10:25

Along with your ministry site and mentor relationship, some of your most important processing will unfold in your Campus Reflection Group (1.25 hours/week for MM511-512 and MM611-612; 2 hours/week for MM711-712). It serves as a safe and creative place for ministry reflection, as well as for connecting spiritual formation with ministry.

For this group to function best, each member needs to model commitment to one another by:

- Attending faithfully either by your presence on campus or your feedback online;
- Preparing in advance (case studies, readings, etc.);
- Engaging actively in discussion and reflection (both in class and online);
- Praying for the MM process and for one another.

### **Course Credit Requirements**

Since the Mentored Ministries program is based on an action/reflection model, a satisfactory performance in both of those dimensions in their respective settings (ministry site and reflection group) is essential. There is an interdependence of both components. Strength in either dimension does not necessarily compensate for weakness in the other. ***“Credit” or “No Credit” is not based upon mathematical averages but upon***

**complementary relationships.** Each responsible party (student, faculty seminar leader, and mentor) views the experience from a different but valid vantage point. For this reason the reporting of gaps or deficiencies from any one of the three persons is regarded as important. It is your responsibility to submit the self-evaluation and the mentor's evaluation on schedule according to the course calendar. The evaluation should be **discussed** with the mentor before this date and **signed** by both parties.

**The official grading policy for Mentored Ministries courses is as follows:**

**CREDIT:** The student has faithfully fulfilled course requirements, has functioned effectively in relation to the learning covenant, and has evidenced facility with the action/reflection process.

**CREDIT/NO CREDIT:** The student has evidenced weaknesses in professional skills/knowledge, difficulties in interpersonal relationships, or unmet responsibilities. Upon successful completion of an established "*Growth Plan*," the grade will be changed to "*Provisional Credit*."

**NO CREDIT:** The student has failed to meet requirements, has performed unsatisfactorily, has exhibited weakness in the action/reflection process, or has demonstrated other concerns related to this grade.

When "*Credit/No Credit*" (CR/NC) is recommended for a student, the faculty seminar leader must state a set of concerns as reason for the assessment. The student will then be required to fulfill a *Growth Plan* addressing the stated concerns. The student is to initiate the *Growth Plan* process no later than 2 weeks after receiving a grade of "*No Credit*." A working contract with the student will be drafted with specific objectives to be fulfilled. The contracted experiences must be completed before the end of the following semester. Students may not take another Mentored Ministries course until satisfactory completion of the *Growth Plan* has taken place. When the *Growth Contract* is successfully completed, the faculty seminar leader will authorize a change of grade from NC ("*No Credit*") to PC ("*Provisional Credit*").

If inquiries are made by prospective employers, Boards of Ordained Ministries, etc., as to the meaning of PC, the student may request that the Mentored Ministries office send a letter explaining the process and indicating the growth plan which the student subsequently and satisfactorily completed.