

Spring 2017/Main Campus

MF4331

Feemster

MF4331: Spirituality and Law Enforcement Training (S.A.L.T.) Dr. Samuel L. Feemster

2 Credits

Thu, 8:10-9:50pm

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

DESCRIPTION: The purpose of the course will be to investigate the nexus between the roles of pastors and police in our society and to develop and recommend nontraditional interventions to sustain officer wellness and community security.

SIGNIFICANCE FOR LIFE AND MINISTRY: The course is designed as a forum for exploring nontraditional networks for pastor and police alliances. Students will reflect upon the role of police and pastors as reconcilers and discuss essential training required for vocational vitality. This course is designed to originate or sustain ongoing projects to facilitate the development, implementation and evaluation of wellness initiatives designed to promote sustainable community wellbeing.

LEARNING OUTCOMES: Through participation in this course students will:

* Review the traditional and current role of law enforcement in our society vis-à-vis its mission
* Investigate the historical role of the church in our society considering its ordained mission
* Compare the mission of the church and the mission of law enforcement
* Identify the essentials required for both pastors and police to experience vocational vitality
* Think about law enforcement as a ministry of reconciliation
* Agree or disagree with this statement: Law enforcement is a ministry of reconciliation and therefore an inherently spiritual vocation **(Mid-term paper)**
* Suggest amendments to extant law enforcement training curricula to include multi-dimensional training
* Discuss the commission of the church as social justice advocates considering the Bible’s teachings on justice.
* Explore sustainable ways communities can provide tangible support for police and pastors

COURSE FORMAT: The course will be taught in a hybrid format. Throughout the semester, students will

meet with their partners or small groups and conduct appropriate discussions with law enforcement personnel, church personnel, community leaders and representatives, and other stakeholders to advance one of the following task:

* Prepare a relevant officer wellness/community trust initiative,
* Submit a prepared initiative for appropriate review and implementation,
* Evaluate the impact of an ongoing officer wellness/community trust initiative,
* Analyze and prepare project data for publication

REQUIRED READINGS (Selected Chapters-some text on reserve at the Leland Library, main campus):

Campolo, Tony & Battle, Michael; The *Church Enslaved: A Spirituality of Racial Reconciliation* (Minneapolis, MN: Fortress Press, 2005) ISBN 0-8006-3697-X

Colwell, Jack L. & Hutch, Charles “Chip”; *Unleashing the Power of Unconditional Respect: Transforming Law Enforcement and Police Training* (Boca Raton, FL: CRC Press, 2010) ISBN: 978-1-4200-9974-4

Francis, Leah Gunning; *Ferguson & Faith: Sparking Leadership & Awakening Community* (St. Louis, Missouri: Chalice Press, 2015) ISBN 978-0-827211-05-6

Hicks, Donna, Ph.D.; *Dignity: Its Essential Role in Resolving Conflict* (York, Penn: The Maple Press, 2011) ISBN 978-0-300-16392-6

Marshall, Chris; *The Little Book of Biblical Justice* (Intercourse, PA: Good Books, 2005) ISBN 978-1-56148505-5

Sparrow, Malcom; *Handcuffed: What Holds Policing Back, and the Keys to Reform* (Brooking Institution Press, Washington, D.C., 2016) ISBN 978-0-8157-2781-1

Stone, Douglas; Patton, Bruce; and Heen, Shelia; *Difficult Conservations: How to Discuss What Matters Most* (New York, New York; Penguin Books, 2010) ISBN 978-0-14-311844-2

Wallis, Jim; *America’s Original Sin: Racism, White Privilege, and the Bridge to a New America* (Grand Rapids, Michigan, Brazos Press, 2016) ISBN 978-1-58743-342-9

ASSIGNMENTS AND ASSESSMENT: Students are expected to complete required readings prior to class. All students will either prepare a joint pastor/police/community intervention for recommendation to their local police agency (or employer, if the student is a police), church (network of churches), and their community. Or, move a current initiative towards implementation, evaluation, or publication. Proposed projects designed to advance wellness in law enforcement agencies and security/trust in the communities that serve them must include short and long term attainable goals. Composition of the final grade will be as follows:

Class attendance – 25% (50% if no small groups)

Small group Participation – 25%

Mid-term paper – 25%

Proposal or evolution of a clergy/cop/community intervention – 25%

Project Participants only:

Prospective students who desire to participate in an ongoing project, only, should contact Samuel L. Feemster at sfeemster@leland.edu

PREQUISITES: None

RELATIONSHIP TO CURRICULUM: This course meets a core curriculum requirement for the Masters of Christian Leadership (MCL) and Graduate Certificate in Leadership Studies, congregation and public life tracks.