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## CORRECTIONAL MINISTRIES INSTITUTE



# CM101: Dimensions of Correctional Ministry

**Course Instructor: Dr. Karen Swanson**

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## Course Description

This course introduces the two dimensions of Christian correctional ministry, by examining Christian ministry and criminal justice. Topics focus on integrating Biblical truth and criminal justice along with issues and ministry with those who are justice-involved, corrections staff, victims and their families.

## Course Objectives

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

- A. Describe the dimensions and facets of Christian ministry and criminal justice.
- B. Determine a biblically based theology of mission with the incarcerated and ministry program that serve as a personal foundation for theory and praxis.
- C. Identify corrections programming principles: system's approach, criminogenic risks, needs and strengths, evidence-based practices, trauma informed care, gender-responsive strategies.
- D. Develop self-awareness through discovering your spiritual gifts and strengths, and discern your ministry calling.

## Course Texts

The following textbooks are required for this course.

*StrengthsFinder 2.0* by Tom Rath (**MUST PURCHASE A NEW BOOK**)

*The Little Book of Restorative Justice* by Howard Zehr

*Arrested* by Lennie Spitale (purchase from [www.cmcainternational.com](http://www.cmcainternational.com))

*A Pathway to Healing* (will be sent with *Arrested* for free)

## Academic Honesty

At CMI, we believe all we do is "as unto the Lord" and we thus hold to a high academic standard of honesty; we do not tolerate plagiarism and cheating. Plagiarism: If a student's work is found to be plagiarized, consequences will vary depending on the nature of the

plagiarism. If an offense is deemed unintentional, the student will have an opportunity to resubmit the work. A second offense will result in an automatic score of zero for that assignment, which may also result in failure of that course. If you have questions about plagiarism, or would like to request resources for learning how to avoid plagiarism, please contact Dr. Karen Swanson at [karen.swanson@wheaton.edu](mailto:karen.swanson@wheaton.edu)

## Course Requirements

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

**Virtual Meetings.** There will be two zoom calls, **Tuesday October 4, 6:00 pm (Central) and November 1, 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.

**Lecture/Videos.** Each lesson will include lecture/videos from the instructor or field experts. Each video has a transcript.

**Quizzes.** Each module will include a 20-question, multiple choice quiz over the readings and lectures for that module. Quizzes are open notes and open book.

**Discussion Forums.** Discussion questions are provided for each module. 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 24 posts for the course). The following rubric will be used to assign a grade.

Competency	Criteria Met	Criteria Not Met
Substantive Thoughts Expressed	Ideas and positions explained clearly. Refers back to course content when appropriate. Reply posts extends discussion.	Ideas are not clearly expressed. No reference to course content. Reply post (Yes, I agree) does not provide support for responses.
Length	Initial post is 100-150 words Reply posts are 50-60 words	Initial post less than 100 words Reply post less than 50 words
Completeness	Answers the question completely.	Some parts of the question are not addressed.

## Discussion Grading Scale

Number of posts that meet the criteria will be counted.

A	22-24	A-	21	B+	20
B	19	B-	18	C+	17
C	16	C-	15	D+	14
D	13	D-	12	F	0-11

## Assignments.

- Scavenger Hunt
- Spiritual Gifts and *Strengthsfinder* Assessment
- Philosophy of Christian Correctional Ministry. This assignment is to be typed using 12-point font, 1-inch margins and double-spaced. Use the template provided.

**Due Dates.** Each week of the course begins on Monday at 12:01 a.m. CST and ends on Sunday at 11:59 p.m. CST. It is at your professor's discretion to penalize late work. *Contact the professor prior to the deadline if there is a problem.*

## Course Grading

Grades will be issued within two weeks of the end of the course.

Your grade for the course will be determined as follows:

Virtual Meetings and Discussion Forum	30% of Course Grade
Quizzes	25% of Course Grade
Scavenger Hunt	5% of Course Grade
Spiritual Gifts and <i>Strengthsfinder</i>	10% of Course Grade
Philosophy of Christian Correctional Ministry	20% of Course Grade
Mentor Meetings	10% of Course Grade

Grading scale will be as follows:

A	92-100	A-	90-91	B+	88-89
B	82-87	B-	80-81	C+	78-79
C	72-77	C-	70-71	D+	68-69
D	62-67	D-	60-61	F	0-59

## Weekly Topics and Assignments

### MODULE 1: Foundations of Christian Correctional Ministry **DUE: October 9**

#### **VIRTUAL MEETING** Tuesday, October 4<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm Central

1.1 Welcome and Syllabus, Mentor Meeting Report, Philosophy of Christian Correctional Ministry template

#### **LISTEN**

- 1.2 Christian Correctional Ministry
- 1.3 Mass Incarceration
- 1.4 Restorative Justice: An Overview

#### **READ**

- 1.1 Syllabus
- 1.2 Christian Correctional Ministry
- 1.3 Mass Incarceration
- 1.4 Restorative Justice: An Overview (Chapter 1)

#### **DISCUSS**

*How do you think Christians respond or should respond to mass incarceration?*

#### **QUIZ**

Readings and lectures

#### **SCAVENGER HUNT**

Download the Scavenger Hunt, enter your answers, save, and email it to [karen.swanson@wheaton.edu](mailto:karen.swanson@wheaton.edu) as an attachment

### MODULE 2: Christian View

**DUE: October 16**

#### **LISTEN**

- 2.1 Biblical View
- 2.2 Pastor Views of Prison Ministry
- 2.3 Pastor John Kelly Testimony (video)
- 2.4 The Role of the Church (video Dr. Dean Trulear)

#### **READ**

- 2.1 Biblical View
- 2.2 Pastor Views of Prison Ministry
- 2.3 Pastor John Kelly Testimony Transcript
- 2.4 The Role of the Church Transcript
- 2.5 GC2 MC Call to Action

#### **DISCUSS**

*Respond or critique the Pastor Views of Prison Ministry, Kelly or Trulear's talk.*

#### **QUIZ**

Readings and lectures

## MODULE 3: Self-Awareness and Ministry Calling

DUE: October 23

### LISTEN

- 3.1 Self-awareness and Calling
- 3.2 Spiritual Gifts
- 3.3 *Strengthsfinder*, Part I
- 3.4 *Strengthsfinder*, Part II

### READ

- 3.1 Self-awareness and Calling
- 3.2 Spiritual Gifts
- 3.3 *Strengthsfinder* 2.0 (p. 1-33, your signature themes)

### DISCUSS

Share spiritual gift/strengths and how you apply or will apply them in your correctional ministry.

### QUIZ

Readings and lectures

### ASSIGNMENT

**Spiritual Gifts.** Take the spiritual gifts inventory at <http://www.buildingchurch.net/g2s.htm> OR take the 3.2a Spiritual Gifts Inventory.

***Strengthsfinder.*** Take the *Strengthsfinder* 2.0 assessment (website and ID code located at the end of the book and can only be used by one person). **Email** your top 3 spiritual gifts and 5 signature themes to [karen.swanson@wheaton.edu](mailto:karen.swanson@wheaton.edu)

## MODULE 4: Criminal Justice

DUE: October 30

### LISTEN

- 4.1 Criminal Justice System
- 4.2 Juvenile Justice System
- 4.3 Criminal Cases

### READ

- 4.1 Criminal Justice System
- 4.1a Criminal Justice System Process Graphic
- 4.2 Juvenile Justice System
- 4.3 Criminal Cases

*Arrested* by Spitale

### DISCUSS

*Reflect and/or critique the reading Arrested OR What has been your experience when journeying with someone through the criminal justice system?*

### QUIZ

Readings and lectures

## **MENTOR MEETING**

A friendly reminder to meet with your mentor if you haven't already. Mentor Meeting Report due November 28

## **MODULE 5: Restorative Justice**

**DUE: November 6**

### **VIRTUAL MEETING**

**Tuesday, November 1 at 6:00 pm Central**

#### **LISTEN**

- 5.1 Biblical Justice
- 5.2 Restorative Justice
- 5.3 Helping Victims of Crime

#### **READ**

- 5.1 Divine Justice as Restorative Justice
- 5.2 Restorative Justice  
*Restorative Justice* (Ch. 2-4)
- 5.3 Helping Victims of Crime  
*A Pathway to Healing* (Ch. 1-4)

#### **DISCUSS**

*How do you balance justice and mercy in your ministry? OR Share an experience as a crime victim or ministry with a victim – what advice would you give for ministry?*

#### **QUIZ**

Readings and lectures

## **MODULE 6: Corrections and Reentry**

**DUE: November 13**

### **LISTEN**

- 6.1 Corrections
- 6.2 Corrections Sensitive
- 6.3 Reentry

### **READ**

- 6.1 Corrections
- 6.2 Corrections Sensitive
- 6.3 Reentry

### **DISCUSS**

*What are challenges or issues you face serving in a correctional facility, working with volunteers, or in reentry?*

### **QUIZ**

Readings and lectures

## **MODULE 7: Corrections Principles**

**DUE: November 20**

### **LISTEN**

- 7.1 Criminogenic Factors
- 7.2 Thinking Errors
- 7.3 Gender-Responsive Principles
- 7.4 Trauma-Informed Care
- 7.5 Evidence-based Principles

### **READ**

- 7.1 Criminogenic Factors
- 7.2 Thinking Errors
- 7.3 Gender-Responsive Principles
- 7.4 Trauma-Informed Care
- 7.5 Evidence-based Principles

### **DISCUSS**

*Select one of the corrections principles and describe how you will apply it to your ministry?*

### **QUIZ**

Readings and lectures

## **MODULE 8: Christian Ministry**

**DUE: November 28**

### **LISTEN**

- 8.1 Christian Character
- 8.2 Witnessing and Discipleship
- 8.3 Ministry Principles

### **READ**

- 8.1 Christian Character
  - 8.2 Witnessing and Discipleship
  - 8.3 Ministry Principles and Skills
- Resources: 8a. Moral Compass, 8b. Transformed Heart, 8c. Transformed Mind

### **DISCUSS**

*Describe one or two significant learning moments you experienced in the course. For example, what topics were important to you and why? What unanswered questions remain?*

### **QUIZ**

Readings and lectures

### **PHILOSOPHY OF CHRISTIAN CORRECTIONAL MINISTRY**

Use the template provided. Do not quote full Scriptures but include references that support your statement.

### **MENTOR MEETINGS**

Submit your completed Mentor Meetings Report Form