



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)

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

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 3rd, 6:00 pm (Central) and October 31st, 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 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 8**

VIRTUAL MEETING Tuesday, October 3rd 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 attach in course or email to karen.swanson@wheaton.edu

MODULE 2: Christian View

DUE: October 15

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 22

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). **Enter your themes in the course assignments.**

MODULE 4: Criminal Justice

DUE: October 29

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 5

VIRTUAL MEETING

Tuesday, October 31st 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 12

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 19

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 27

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