



**CORRECTIONAL
MINISTRIES INSTITUTE**



CM103: Christian Formation in Correctional Ministry

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Course Description

This course examines the personal, theological, process, and praxis of Christian formation for those working in correctional ministry as they seek to fulfill the great commission, “to make disciples of Christ.” The relationship between Christian formation and rehabilitation is also explored.

Course Objectives

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

- A. Commit to an ongoing life of personal self-awareness and growth in Christ as foundational to effective ministry.
- B. Describe Christian formation theology and process, spiritual disciplines, spiritual pathways, and frameworks for witnessing and discipleship.
- C. Explain the relationship between faith, crime and rehabilitation and providing support for Christian ministry.
- D. Design strategies for witnessing and discipling those you serve in your ministry context.

Course Text

Sacred Rhythms. Arranging Our Lives for Spiritual Transformation by Ruth Haley Barton. (Be sure to order the book, not the participant’s guide)

Cape Town Commitment <https://lausanne.org/statement/ctcommitment>

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 writing assignments. The information regarding these course components and expectations is as follows:

Virtual Meetings. Tuesday April 1, 6:00 pm (Central) and April 29, 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.

Lectures/Videos. Each lesson includes lectures/videos from the instructor or field experts.

Quizzes. Each module will include a multiple-choice quiz over the readings and lectures for that module.

Discussion Forums. Discussion questions are provided in 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 rubrics will be used to assess your Discussion Forum posts and 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 20 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

Practice and Reflection. Each week, you will practice the corresponding spiritual practice (from the

reading) and reflect on your experience. Directions and questions are found in the weekly assignments.

Final Project. Complete the evangelism practice and discipleship strategy exercises and submit your report. (See Final Project sheet.) **DUE: May 26.**

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:

Discussion Forum and Virtual Meetings	30% of Course Grade
Spiritual Practice and Reflection	15% of Course Grade
Final Project	15% of Course Grade
Quizzes	30% of Course Grade
Mentor Meetings	10% of Course Grade

Grading scale will be as follows:

A	92-100	A-	90-91	B+	87-89
B	84-86	B-	80-81	C+	77-79
C	72-76	C-	70-71	D+	67-69
D	62-66	D-	60-61	F	0-59

Weekly Topics and Assignments

Module 1: Overview and Personal Reflection

DUE: April 6

VIRTUAL MEETING

Tuesday, April 1st at 6:00 pm Central

1.1 Welcome and Syllabus

LISTEN

1.2 Introduction to Christian Formation

1.3 Spiritual Formation Principles

1.4 Discipleship Approaches and Spiritual Pathways

READ

1.1 Syllabus

1.2 Introduction to Christian Formation

1.3 Spiritual Formation Principles

1.4 Discipleship Approaches and Spiritual Pathways

Barton Ch. 1-2

Correctional Ministries Institute, Wheaton College Billy Graham Center, April/May 2025

DISCUSS

Share your discipleship experience and critique/reflect on the spiritual principles reading. (1 post, 2 responses)

QUIZ

Readings and lectures

PRACTICE AND REFLECTION

Practice Longing for More, p. 28. Reflect on your practice. What do you want God to do for you?
Practice Solitude, p. 43-44. Describe your practice and questions, emotions, or awareness of God.

Module 2: The Gospel and Beliefs

DUE: April 13

LISTEN

2.1 The Gospel

2.2 The Lausanne Covenant

2.3 Confession of Faith

READ

2.1 The Gospel

2.1a Our Position in Christ

2.2 The Lausanne Covenant

2.3 The Cape Town Commitment, Part 1

Barton, Ch. 3

DISCUSS

Select one question:

- a) What does it mean to you to be “in Christ” in your own words and how does it affect your daily life?
- b) What does it look like for you to “preach the gospel” to yourself each day?

QUIZ

Readings and lectures

PRACTICE AND REFLECTION

Practice Lectio Divina, p. 59-61. What scripture did you use? What word or phrase was addressed to you? How was your life touched by this word? What was your response to God based on what you read/encountered? How will you live out the Word of God?

Module 3: Christian Formation

DUE: April 20

LISTEN

3.1 Spiritual Assessments

3.2 Christian Formation Goals and Process

3.3 Call to Action

3.4 Confronting Our Idols (Chris Wright)

READ

3.1 Spiritual Assessment

3.2 Christian Formation Goals and Process

3.3 The Cape Town Commitment, Part 2

3.4 Confronting Our Idols

Barton, Ch. 4, 5

DISCUSS

From the readings, what has God impressed on you. What questions do you have?

QUIZ

Readings and lectures

PRACTICE AND REFLECTION

Practice prayer, p. 76-77. What is your breath prayer? Reflect on using your breath prayer (How did you feel? What did you think?)

Practice honoring your body, p. 89-90. Reflect on any of the questions or your experience.

Module 4: Spiritual Formation Principles

DUE: April 27

LISTEN

4.1 Mansions of the Heart

4.2 Follow Me

4.3 Transformational Discipleship

4.4 Stages of Spiritual Growth

READ

4.1 Mansions of the Heart

4.2 Follow Me

4.3 Transformational Discipleship

4.4 Stages of Spiritual Growth

Barton, Ch. 6

DISCUSS

Share what has helped you to grow in your own spiritual journey. Did you stall? What barriers hindered your growth or experienced intensified spiritual attacks? What from the models, research and principles do you think will influence your discipleship strategy?

QUIZ

Readings and lectures

PRACTICE AND REFLECTION

Self-examination practice (p. 108-109). You do not need to share specific sins you confessed – you can generalize it – attitude, action or moment or the share about the process of self-examination.

MENTOR MEETING

Meet with your mentor (if you haven't already met)

Module 5: Effective Evangelism

DUE: May 4

VIRTUAL MEETING

Tuesday, April 29, 6:00 pm Zoom Call

LISTEN

5.1 The 5 Elements of Effective Evangelism (Becky Pippert)

5.2 Evangelism as Incarnational Reality (Becky Pippert)

5.3 3 Approaches for Bold Witness (Archbishop Kwashi)

5.4 The Alpha Course (Eileen Dudich)

READ

5.1 The 5 Elements of Effective Evangelism

5.2 Evangelism as Incarnational

5.3 3 Approaches for Bold Witness

5.4 The Alpha Course

Barton, Ch. 7

QUIZ

Reading and lectures

PRACTICE AND REFLECTION

Practice Discernment p. 127-129. What brought you consolation? What brought you desolation? What is an area where you are seeking God's discernment?

Module 6: Effective Discipleship

DUE: May 11

LISTEN

6.1 Making Disciples

6.2 Strategic Program Planning

6.3 Scripture Engagement

READ

6.1 Making Disciples

6.2 Strategic Program Planning

6.3 Scripture Engagement

6.3a Scripture Card (resource)

Barton, Ch. 8

DISCUSS

How will you apply what you have learned so far into discipling those you serve?

QUIZ

Readings and lectures

PRACTICE AND REFLECTION

Practice Sabbath p. 145. Reflect on your experience of taking a Sabbath.

Module 7: Teaching for Transformation

DUE: May 18

LISTEN

7.1 Transformational Learning

7.2 Learning Styles and Participatory Model

7.3 One on One Discipleship

READ

7.1 Transformational Learning

7.2 Learning Styles and Participatory Model

7.3 One on One Discipleship

Barton, Ch. 9 and p. 186-187

DISCUSS

What have you found helpful when you have been a learner in a small group? Who was one of your favorite teachers and why?

QUIZ

Readings and lectures

PRACTICE AND REFLECTION

Practice p. 162-166. Answer the following questions: 1. What practices will I seek to engage in on a daily basis? Weekly? Monthly? Yearly? Where will I engage in these disciplines? What time of

day/week/month/year? 2. What spiritual disciplines will I share with a spiritual friend, or a group of friends, so as to grow together? 3. What additional activities or practices are particularly important given my personality and spiritual gifts? 4. How will I need to adjust my schedule in order to consistently choose this rule of life?

Module 8: Relationship between Faith, Crime and Rehabilitation DUE: May 25

LISTEN

8.1 Religions and the Justice-involved

8.2 The Faith Factor

8.3 More God, Less Crime

READ

8.1 Religions and the Justice-involved

8.2 The Faith Factor

8.3 More God, Less Crime

DISCUSS

What has been a “take away” from this course that has changed your thinking and ministry?

QUIZ

Readings and lectures

MENTOR MEETING

Submit mentor meeting report.

FINAL PROJECT

Evangelism practice and discipleship strategy exercise. **DUE: May 26**