

TITLE OF COURSE: Ministry with the Physically Challenged

Course number:

Semester:

Year:

Day:

Time:

Professor: Dexter Thomas

Office Location:

Office hours:

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COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This seminar is designed to explore the ways the physically challenged are limited by wrong labels, negative attitudes and a worldview of normalcy. Discussion will focus on our theologies of disabilities, the disempowering effects of marginalization, and the ways in which communities of faith can partner with the physically challenged for their own empowerment.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

- 1) Students will become familiar with the struggles and joys of living with a physical challenge, and deconstructing negative mind sets towards this marginalized community.
- 2) Students will grow to appreciate the difference between empowerment and patronizing.

REQUIREMENTS:

Students will read selected volumes (approximately one every two weeks) that demonstrate the major attitudes towards the physically challenged and the efforts currently undertaken to change these. Expectations are as follows:

- 1) Write two Critical reviews (3 pages each) of approximately six volumes or selected articles.
- 2) Students will partner with a physically challenged individual and keep a weekly journal of this process.
- 3) Students will write a reflection paper on an interview with two physically challenged individuals who are actively engaged in a ministry.
- 4) Students will design an awareness campaign for a particular physical challenge along with resources and an evaluation plan.

EVALUATION:

20% -- Critical Reviews

20% -- Weekly Journal

20% -- Reflection Paper on Interviews

30% -- Design of Awareness Campaign

10% -- Attendance and Class Participation

COURSE SCHEDULE:

- Week 2 -- Normalcy; fact or fiction.
- Week 3 -- A new language and being politically correct.
- Week 4 -- Disabled or otherwise able?
- Week 5 -- Empowerment or patronizing.
- Week 6 -- The visually challenged
- Week 7 -- Hearing impaired or deaf?
- Week 8 -- Why dumb?
- Week 9 -- The Old Testament and the physically challenged
- Week 10-- The New Testament and the physically challenged.
- Week 11-- Jesus and the physically challenged.
- Week 12-- Sharing our journals.
- Week 13-- Discussion of designing an awareness campaign.

REQUIRED READING:

- 1) Moore, Matthew and Levitan, Linda, *For Hearing People Only*. Deaf Life Press, 1993. ISBN-13: 978-0963401632
- 2) Neer, Frances Lief. *Dancing in the Dark*. San Francisco: Wildstar Pub., 1994. ISBN-13: 978-0963783905
- 3) Tuttle, Dean W. and Tuttle, Naomi R. *Self-Esteem and Adjusting with Blindness: The Process of Responding to Life's Demands. Third Edition*. Charles C. Thomas Publisher, Ltd, 2004. ISBN-13: 978-0398075095
- 4) Lane, Harlan L., Robert Hoffmeister, and Benjamin J. Bahan. *A Journey into the Deaf-world*. San Diego, CA: DawnSignPress, 1996. ISBN-13: 978-0915035632
- 5) LaVenture, Susan (Ed.), *A Parent's Guide to Special Education for Children with Impairments*. ABF Press, 2007. ISBN-13: 978-0891288923
- 6) Yancey, Phillip, *Where is God when it Hurts?* Zondervan, 1990. ISBN-13: 978-0310245728

OPTIONAL READING:

- 1) Linthicum, Robert C. *Empowering the Poor: Innovation in Missions*. Monrovia: Marc, 1991. Print.
- 2) Thomas, D. Roderick, *From Rags to Ruin*. Remnant Publication, 2007.
- 3) Neisser, Arden. *The Other Side of Silence: Sign Language and the Deaf Community in America*. New York: Knopf, 1983.
- 4) Cohen, Leah Hager. *Train Go Sorry: inside a Deaf World*. Bridgewater, NJ: Replica, 1999.

