

**Leadership in the Church—Witness and Service in the World**  
**DVDM 841**  
**January 6 - 10, 2014**  
**Room BDV-S003**  
**8:30 am – 12:30 pm**  
**Mark DeVine**  
**Beeson Divinity School**

**Course Description:**

Examines Christian leadership biblically and theologically in light of cultural factors facing the church. Special attention is given to pastoral leadership, theological foundations, ecclesiology and the call to witness and serve within this world.

**Course Objectives:**

1. Help students explore biblical and theological foundations for the doctrine of the church.
2. Help students consider ministry challenges in contemporary settings.
3. Help students apply biblical doctrine and theological truth to the consideration of pastoral leadership and ministry.
4. Help students articulate comprehension of biblical, theological, and cultural factors as they develop an integrated understanding of church leadership.
5. Help students theologize about the workaday lives of lay Christians and the place of wealth and material wellbeing for followers of Jesus Christ.

**Required Texts:**

Eugene Peterson, *Eat This Book, A Conversation in the Art of Spiritual Reading* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2006).

John Stott, *The Living Church: Convictions of a Lifelong Pastor* (Downers Grove, IL: IVP Books, 2007).

Mark Dever, *Twelve Challenges Churches Face* (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Books, 2008).

Timothy Keller with Katherine Alsdorf, *Every Good Endeavor: Connecting Your Work To God's Work* (New York: Dutton, 2012).

John Schneider, *The Good of Affluence: Seeking God in a Culture of Wealth* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2002).

## **Seminar Requirements:**

1. Read all five assigned volumes and write a 600 – 800 word summary/critique of each book. (Due December 20, send by attachment to [vmerrill@samford.edu](mailto:vmerrill@samford.edu) AND [mdevine@samford.edu](mailto:mdevine@samford.edu)). Summaries should demonstrate accurate comprehension of the authors' views. Critiques should give special attention to (a) biblical and theological undergirding of authors' arguments, (b) implications of the authors' views for ministry in the church and (c) possible application of those views in church leadership.
2. Prepare a presentation (15 minutes – 20 minutes) on an assigned book for the class. Come prepared with any handouts for distribution to students and the professor on the day of the presentation. Provide to the professor in hardcopy any materials or handouts to be used in your presentation at 8:30 am in class on January 6. The presentation should (a) demonstrate accurate comprehension by the presenter of the assigned book, (b) critically interact with the material and raise a question or two for discussion which the professor may choose to pursue following the student's presentation.
3. Attend all classes and engage in discussion of daily topics. Students should be prepared to field questions regarding all assigned readings and their significance to the subject matter of the course during class sessions.

## **Presentation Assignments:**

Monday: Peterson: Bob Ayers

Tuesday: Stott: Gary Webber

Wednesday: Dever: Nash Wills

Thursday: Keller: Peter von Herrmann

Friday: Schneider: DeVine

## **Evaluation**

The student's grade will be A, B, or F. The book summary/critiques constitute 50% of the grade and the class presentation 25% of the grade and class participation 25%. All written assignments must exhibit doctoral-level standards of writing. Thus, each paper should be free of errors that can be eliminated through proofreading or the use of computer technology. No spelling or basic grammatical errors are acceptable. Papers should include a title page, page numbers and employ a 12 pt font and 1 inch margins.

## **Disability**

Samford University complies with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act and the Americans with Disabilities Act. Students with disabilities who seek accommodations must make their requests by contacting Disability Support Services located in Counseling Services on the lower level of Pittman Hall, or call #726-4078 / #726-2105. A faculty member will grant reasonable accommodations only upon written notification from Disability Support Services.