

SPD 591 Credo I - 1 Credit Hour 1.5 CEU
Tuesday 10:00 – 11:30 p.m. Fall Term 2007

Instructor Name	E. J. Niles – and Robert Fish
Office Hours	E. J. Niles – Mon-Tues-Thurs 2 – 4 p.m. Robert Fish—Tues-Thurs 1-3 p.m.
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Required Texts	Fischer, W. (1980) <i>Alternatives</i> , Unity Village, Unity Books Laughlin, P.A. <i>Remedial Christianity</i> , 2000, Santa Rosa, CA Polebridge Press
Other Required Reading	Handouts
Recommended Reading	Marion, J., 2004, <i>The death of the mythic god</i> , Charlottesville, VA Hampton Roads

Course Description

This course will assist students to identify their call to ministry, explore the feelings that arise in the transition to ministerial school and determine the student is going in ministry. Students will have an opportunity to explore their personal beliefs, compare those with normative Unity beliefs, and mitigate any differences.

Learning Objectives

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Articulate their current understanding of God, humankind and the relationship between God and humankind, in both verbal and written format, to both a Unity-based and non-Unity audience.
2. Explain the differences between traditional Christianity and Unity “normative” teachings

The above learning objectives partially fulfill the following program outcomes for the Master of Divinity:
MD3

The above learning objectives partially fulfill the following program outcomes for the Certificate in Unity Ministry:
C3

Class Schedule

Week	Date	Topic	Reading Assignment
1	10/9	Introduction to Credo	Handouts
2	10/16	Exploring the Formative Factors	Handouts
3	10/23	Exploring the Formative Factors	Handouts
4	10/30	Exploring the Nature of God	Fischer, pp 1-21 Laughlin Chapter 2 Handouts
5	11/6	Exploring the Nature of God	Laughlin Chapter 2 Handouts
6	11/13	Exploring Human Nature	Fischer, pp 75-90 Laughlin, Chapters 5
7	11/20	Exploring Human Nature	Laughlin, Chapters 5 & 6
8	11/27	Exploring the relationship between God and humanity	Fisher, pp 31-43 Laughlin, Chapter 6
9	12/4	How prayer relates to the relationship to God	
10	12/11	Bringing it together	Laughlin, Chapter 8

Assignments for the Master of Divinity:

1. Read assigned books and handouts
2. Continue the journal process begun in Call to Ministry
3. Participate in classroom discussion and exercises as appropriate.
4. Write a paper (approximately 15 pages/minimum 4000 words) which articulates The context, circumstances, and events that make up their formative factors, their present understanding of the nature of God, humankind and the relationship between the two and compares personal beliefs with “normative” Unity beliefs.
5. Articulate their Credo to a Credo committee made up of the course instructors and another faculty member of their choice

Grading

Assignment	Possible Points	
Class participation	50	
Term Paper	100	

Final Grade Determination:

135 – 150 points = A
 120 – 134 points = B
 105 - 119 points= C

Assignments for the Certificate in Unity Ministry:

1. Read assigned books and handouts
2. Continue the journal process begun in Call to Ministry
- 3 Participate in classroom discussion and exercises as appropriate.
4. Write a paper (approximately 15 pages/minimum 4000 words) which articulates the context, circumstances, and events that make up their formative factors, their present understanding of the nature of God, humankind and the relationship between the two and compares personal beliefs with “normative” Unity beliefs.
5. Articulate their Credo to a Credo committee made up of the course instructors and another faculty member of their choice

Grading

Assignment	Possible Points	
Class Participation	50	
Term Paper	100	

Final Grade Determination

- a. 135 – 150 points = A
- b. 120 – 134 points = B
- c. 105 – 119 points = C

Standards for Term Paper:

- Create a cover page which includes: Course name, instructor’s name, due date
- Indicate student’s name at the end of the paper
- Double space
- Cite all direct quotes or references
- Use APA standards for references and text citations
- Number all pages
- Indicate word count at end of paper.
- Preferred method of submission is electronically. Hard copy is acceptable.

Evaluation of the paper is based on the following factors (in order of relative importance):

- Depth of knowledge, insight
- Comprehensiveness of response
- Clarity in communicating ideas
- Use of outside resource material (when appropriate)
- Grammar, sentence structure, spelling

The following information relates to all programs:

Incomplete grades:

Faculty members have the option of assigning the grade of “I” (incomplete) in situations involving serious illness or emergency that is beyond the control of the student. To receive the grade of Incomplete, a student must petition the instructor (in writing) before the end of the class, stating the reasons for the incomplete grade. The request for an Incomplete, listing requirements for completing the course and the date that the course must be completed must be signed by both the student and the instructor. The instructor, on this form, will assign a “replacement grade” that the student will receive if the course is not completed by the deadline. Students have up to one month from the last day of the term to complete the course. Failure to do so will result in the assignment of the “replacement grade.” Students facing extraordinary situations may, on the approval of the Dean, request an extension of another month to complete

Expectations of Students

Students are expected to come to class having read the assigned material and being prepared to discuss it.

Late Assignment Policy

Term papers received after the due date may be assessed a penalty up to 10% per week.

Attendance Policy

While attendance has no direct impact on the final grade, there is a strong correlation between attendance and success in the class. Students missing a class are responsible for obtaining the lecture notes, information and/or directions from another student.

Academic Honesty

Unity Institute assumes that all students desire to pursue their academic and transformational work with honesty and scholarly integrity. Cheating, plagiarism, facilitating academic dishonesty and misrepresentation of self or other students are prohibited. Students may seek the assistance from others as long as the student submitting the assignment is actually doing the work.

If a faculty member discovers a student violating academic honesty the following penalty may be applied, depending upon the severity of the infraction:

- 1. A reduced grade for the assignment.**
- 2. A grade of zero for the assignment.**
- 3. An “F” for the course.**
- 4. Remand the decision to the full faculty.**

A report will be sent to the faculty, the Dean, and kept in the student’s permanent file.

For further information about academic honesty, students are directed to review the Unity Institute Catalog and Unity Institute Student Handbook.

Special Concerns

If students have any special concerns and/or challenges that may affect their performance in this course, they are encouraged to speak with the instructor immediately so that any accommodations, if necessary, may be made.