

COURSE SYLLABUS

Leadership and Spiritual Formation of Offenders

Course Lecturer: Karen Swanson, EdD

Director of the Institute for Prison Ministries (IPM), Billy Graham Center for Evangelism at Wheaton College

Course Description

Welcome to *Leadership and Spiritual Formation of Offenders*, an online undergraduate-level course designed for those involved in correctional ministry seeking to develop personal leadership, be effective witnesses and disciple other believers toward maturity in Christ. Spiritual formation theology, process, and spiritual disciplines will be explored.

Course Objectives

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

- Integrate Christian leadership principles to personal life and correctional ministry.
- Commit to an ongoing life of personal growth in Christ as the foundation of effective ministry.
- Explain the relationship between faith and crime.
- Increase his or her passion and confidence in sharing his or her own faith and discipling the incarcerated and formerly incarcerated.
- Design witnessing and discipleship strategies for justice-involved people.
- Create learning experiences that help others encounter the person of God and the truths of His Word.
- Differentiate and respect the diversity of spiritual growth paths.

Course Lecturer



Karen Swanson, EdD

Education:

- Northern Illinois University, EdD
- Western Michigan University, MA
- Calvin College, BS
- Cornerstone University, BA

Teaching Career:

- Professor of Correctional Ministries, Christian University GlobalNet
- Faculty member, Christian Formation and Ministry Department, Wheaton College

Other Career Highlights:

- Director of the Institute for Prison Ministries (IPM), Billy Graham Center for Evangelism at Wheaton College
- Overseer of Charles W. Colson scholarship program at IPM
- Christian Association for Prisoner Aftercare Advisory Board
- Developer, Correctional Ministries courses at Wheaton College and Christian University GlobalNet
- Executive director, LifeHouse Ministries reentry program
- Certified in Justice Ministries, Motivational Interviewing, Moral Reconciliation Therapy, Bridges Out of Poverty, Truthought, and Anger Management
- Volunteer teacher in Life Learning Program, Cook County Jail (Chicago, IL)

Course Contributors

Guest lecturer: Chaplain R. Steve Lowe



Chaplain R. Steve Lowe

Education:

- Claremont Graduate University, doctoral coursework in Criminal Justice
- California State University, San Bernardino, MA
- Pepperdine University, MA
- Talbot Theological Seminary, Biola University, MA
- BS in Criminology
- AA in Police Science

Teaching Career:

- Adjunct faculty, Wheaton College and the Billy Graham Center (School for Correctional Ministries-The American Chaplaincy Training School-Institute for Prison Ministries) and Biola University, specializing in criminology and juvenile delinquency coursework
- Professor of Correctional Ministries, Christian University GlobalNet

Other Career Highlights:

- Has provided over 45 years of professional institutional service to California's San Bernardino, Riverside, and Orange counties
- Supervisor for the Protestant Chaplaincy Ministry for the Orange County Juvenile Justice Complex's multiple institutions for 33 years
- Founder, President, and Executive Chaplain for Pacific Youth Correctional Ministries, an international chaplain-placing ministry
- Juvenile correctional chaplain
- Consultant in program development and implementation to Christian organizations and penal agencies
- Membership with the Southern California Area Council of Prison Fellowship, the Law and Justice Group of San Bernardino County, and faith-based collaborative efforts at gang violence reduction
- Co-founder, the Correctional Ministries and Chaplain's Association (CMCA)
- Developer, Correctional Ministries courses at Wheaton College and Christian University GlobalNet

- Ordained minister
- Certified hospital and correctional chaplain
- Probation juvenile facility counselor and therapist

Guest lecturer: Dr. Byron Johnson



Byron Johnson, PhD

Education:

- Florida State University, PhD
- University of Tennessee, Chattanooga, MS
- Middle Tennessee State University, MA
- Minot State University, BA

Teaching Career:

- Director, Institute for Studies of Religion and Program on Prosocial Behavior, Baylor University
- Distinguished Professor of the Social Sciences and Professor of Sociology, Baylor University

Other Career Highlights:

- Faculty Scholar in the Center for Spirituality, Theology, and Health at Duke University
- Senior Advisor in the Religious Freedom Research Project at Georgetown University
- Senior Fellow with the Witherspoon Institute (Princeton)
- Senior Fellow at the Sagamore Institute (Indianapolis)
- Senior Advisor at the Religious Freedom Institute (Washington, DC)
- Directed research centers at Vanderbilt University and the University of Pennsylvania
- Member of the Coordinating Council for Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (Presidential Appointment)
- Recognized as a leading authority on the scientific study of religion, the efficacy of faith-based organizations, and criminal justice

Publications:

- Numerous books and articles, including *The Quest for Purpose*, *The Angola Prison Seminary*, and *More God, Less Crime*

Recommended Reading

Though not required, you may choose to read the textbooks shown below to supplement your learning.

Barton, Ruth Haley. *Sacred Rhythms: Arranging Our Lives for Spiritual Transformation*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2006.

Covey, Stephen. *The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People*. New York: Free Press, 2004.

Johnson, Byron R. *More God, Less Crime: Why Faith Matters and How It Could Matter More*. West Conshohocken, PA: Templeton Press, 2011.

Willard, Dallas. *The Great Omission*. New York, NY: HarperOne, 2009.

Course Methods

Throughout this course, a number of methods will be used to engage you in understanding, processing and applying the information learned in this course to your life. These methods include the following:

- **Video-based teaching**
The primary teaching session in each lesson is provided in video format. If you do not have the bandwidth required to view the video, we provide the option of listening to the lesson or reading the lesson from a transcript.
- **Additional Resources**
Lessons may be accompanied by additional readings, images, etc. that you can use to supplement your learning.

Course Requirements

To earn a Certificate of Completion, you must complete the course requirements. Course requirements include:

1. Viewing the following for each lesson:
 - **Lesson Overview:** A brief outline of what the lecturer will cover in the lesson.
 - **Lesson Objectives:** Objectives describe the learning outcomes you should achieve by the end of the lesson.
 - **Reading:** Suggested readings that will supplement your learning.
 - **Lectures:** 25 minute lessons that can be viewed as many times as needed.
2. Responding to the discussion questions for each lesson.
3. Earning a 70% or higher score on each lesson Quiz and the Midterm and Final Exams. Quizzes and the Exams will cover the material presented in the lectures.