

COURSE SYLLABUS

Correctional Ministries Program Development and Evaluation

Course Lecturer: R. Steve Lowe, MA

President and Founder, Pacific Youth Correctional Ministries

Course Description

This course equips those ministering within correctional and community settings to research, plan, and administrate a ministry program that provides learning experiences to help offenders and returning citizens encounter the person of God, the truths of His Word, the power of His Holy Spirit, and to transform their thinking and behavior while developing basic life skills.

Course Objectives

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

- Determine both a biblically based theology of mission with the incarcerated and a vision and mission with your specific correctional ministry program that serve as personal foundations for theory and praxis.
- Create a ministry program that provides transformation, motivates key stakeholders, and limits problems and liability.
- Apply evidence-based practices to your ministry program development.
- Describe the unique characteristics and diversity issues of offenders and their implications for ministry program development and the creation of learning opportunities.
- Develop volunteer recruiting, orientation, selecting (screening), training, placing, ongoing technical support, and evaluation strategies.
- Discuss the person and the work of the Holy Spirit in the process of teaching, learning, and spiritual formation.

Course Lecturer



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

Recommended Reading

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

Collins, Jim. *Good to Great and the Social Sectors: A Monograph to Accompany Good to Great*. HarperCollins, 2005.

Textbooks can be ordered through your local bookstore, various online bookstores, or through your preferred eReader when available.

The following are provided in your online course materials.

Spitale, Lennie. *The Care and Feeding of Volunteers*. Unpublished.

Lowe, R. Steve. *Orange County Protestant Chaplaincy Ministry Policy and Procedure Manual*. Unpublished.

Lowe, R. Steve and Sheri Snyder. *Pacific Youth Correctional Ministries 2006-2010 Strategic Plan*. Unpublished.

Lowe, R. Steve. *Theology of Mission with the Incarcerated*. Unpublished.

Lowe, R. Steve. *The Village of Juvenile Hall*. Unpublished.

Religious Land Use and Institutionalized Person Act (RLUIPA). U.S. Department of Justice, Civil Right Division, Housing and Civil Enforcement Section.
<http://www.justice.gov/crt/religious-land-use-and-institutionalized-persons-act>

Lowe, R. Steve and Nick Arroyo. *Morals Clause*. Unpublished.

Lowe, R. Steve. *Increasing Religious Saliency Among the Incarcerated*. Unpublished.

Lowe, R. Steve and Jan Lowe. *Life Action Plan*. Unpublished.

Lowe, R. Steve and Rick Johnson. *Ministry Summary Sheet*. Unpublished.

Lowe, R. Steve. *Pacific Youth Contact Sheet*. Unpublished.

Johnson, Rick and Sheri Snyder. *Protestant Chaplaincy Ministry Bible Study and Gospel Evaluation Sheet*. Unpublished.

Crime and Justice Institute. *Implementing Evidence-Based Principles in Community Corrections*.

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.