

Master of Divinity Core Three: Ministry Minor Curriculum Study Guide

Curriculum Information

The academic requirements for Core Three: Ministry Minor Curriculum are achieved by completing the two Projects required for each of the eight Subjects you selected from the list on the proceeding page to create the curriculum for Core Three.

Substitutions for the Subjects in the list are not permitted. It is not necessary to notify the Academic Department of the Subjects you selected. The Core Three will develop naturally as the faculty receives the Projects for the eight Subjects which you will be submitting separately for grading.

The Core Three consists of the eight Subjects you selected. Each Subject requires two Projects. Each Subject is to be considered as a “course” and submitted with the two required Projects as a single unit. Do not begin the Projects for the next Subject before you receive a grade for the Subject Projects you previously submitted. This will ensure that the first Subject Projects you submitted were done correctly. Include the Cover Page with each of the submitted Subject Projects

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Core Three Minor Curriculum Subjects

Select eight subjects from the list below to create your Core Three curriculum.

Core Three Minor Curriculum Subjects:

Apologetics
Biblical Theology
Calvinism
A Critique of Islam
Church History
Early Church Fathers
Eschatology
Evangelism
Homiletics
Intelligent Design
Liturgical Studies
Mission Studies
Pastoral Psychology
Practical Theology
Sacred Music
Social and Theological Ethics
Sociology of Religion
The Spirit Filled Life

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Instructions

For each Subject you select you must choose not less than three books related to the Subject. It is not necessary to purchase the books. You may have them in your personal library or obtain them from another source. The books you select will become the source material to complete the two Projects required for each of the eight Subjects you have selected to become the Core Three, Ministry Minor Curriculum.

Each Subject requires Annotated Bibliographies, the Annotated Outline, and a Subject Research Paper.

There is no minimum for word requirement. Be certain to demonstrate your familiarity with the contents of the book in your Two-Level Annotated Outline.

Example:

I.

A.

B.

II.

A.

B.

Use as many Roman Numerals and alpha letters as necessary for your Outline. The outline should be complete enough to use for teaching the course.

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Project One

(Completed for each of the eight Subjects.)

Part A. Create an Annotated Bibliography of the books (three minimum) that you used to research the Subject.

Part B. Create an Annotated Outline of the Subject that you will use to write the Subject Research Paper.

Project Two

(Completed for each of the eight Subjects.)

Using the Annotated Outline from Project One as a general framework, and the information you gleaned from the books you used for the Annotated Bibliographies, write a Research Paper on the Subject. Integrate the writing techniques in Appendix I and II to write an article (paper) which could be submitted for publication in a Christian magazine. The Subject Research Paper must be single spaced and not less than seven pages in length.

Citations from the books used in the Annotated Bibliographies must be included in the Subject Research Papers.

Submit the two Projects for each of the eight Subjects as a single unit. When you receive a passing mark for the eighth Subject, you will have completed the academic requirements for Core Three, Ministry Minor Curriculum.

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APPENDIX I

How to Write a Review Essay

When writing a review essay, your main objective is to provide an overview of the most significant points that were raised by the lecturer or author. A review essay is not the same as a summary paper. This is because a summary paper simply summarizes the material that is presented and provides a brief opinion on the contents. The review essay attempts to engage in a critical discussion of the materials presented as they relate to your prior studies, beliefs, and/or doctrinal position, depending upon the subject matter of the lecture or textbook.

When you write the review essays for the Projects, it is most effective to follow the same general pattern. First, write an introduction to the review essay. In this portion of the review essay, your goal is to identify what you believe is the main thesis the lecturer or author is presenting and to preview your own critical response. After the introduction, you will then write a brief summary of the contents.

The length of your summary should be 40% to 50% of the minimum words required for this Project. If you use more than 50% of your allotted words on retelling the contents, you are moving away from a review essay and entering into the lecture or textbook summary realm.

When summarizing the lecture or textbook, you should focus only on the central claims, arguments, and general positions presented. You should only discuss the information that is most significant and will help lead you into the critical discussion; this is the next portion of the review essay.

In the critical discussion portion of the review essay, you will evaluate the contribution the speaker or author has made to the discipline area presented. In order to complete this portion, you should ask yourself how the information advanced your knowledge. This requires you to identify the problems or controversies addressed by the speaker or author; assessing whether or not the presentations made a valuable contribution to the field; and whether or not the lecturer or author adequately and accurately presented the subject.

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You will need evidence from the lectures or textbook to support your argument. Refer to the lectures or textbook throughout your review essay. Use direct quotes from the notes you made as you listened to the audio lectures or read the textbook.

Finally, your review essay will need a conclusion. In your conclusion, restate your thesis and summarize your critical analysis.

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APPENDIX II

How to Write a Response (Reaction) Essay

A response (reaction) essay is generally meant to provide the reader with a better understanding of how you personally feel about the textbook or audio lecture subject. As such, when you write the response or reaction essay, you will discuss your personal thoughts and feelings on the subject. Biblical materials allow a broad range of expression.

A response or reaction essay is written in the first person. This means you will use the word “I” while writing the essay.

Because you are writing your personal response to the materials presented by the author or lecturer, your introductory paragraph will contain a thesis statement that asserts your point of view. The following portion of the essay will be used to support your thesis.

Your thesis statement should begin “I think that...” or “In my opinion...” or use something similar to these. You will use the same types of phrases throughout your response or reaction essay. Your essay will not rely on facts, because it focuses on your personal opinions, doctrinal position, or biblical interpretation.

However, you will use facts that you know, or your own observations, to help support your opinions. As you write, you may say “In my opinion, the lecture (or textbook) was very confusing because the speaker (or author) used too many words that were unfamiliar to me and changed the point of view too often.” Although another Institute student may not have a problem with the words, or keeping track of the changes in point of view, it is a fact that you did not know many of the words and the speaker did make frequent changes in his/her point of view.

After supporting your thesis statement with the body of your response or reaction essay, you will then write a conclusion. The conclusion is used to summarize what you have said and to once again state your thesis or opinions. Be sure to state your thesis in a different way than you stated it in the introduction. Redundancy is a sign of poor writing and unacceptable at the Graduate and Post-Graduate levels.