

ASSEMBLIES OF GOD THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

www.agts.edu

**PTH 640-02 THE PRACTICE OF CHARISMATIC MINISTRY
(3 Credit Hours)**

Earl G. Creps, Ph.D., D.Min.
1-800-467-AGTS

Spring 2003
ecreps@agts.edu

COURSE SYLLABUS

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course explores the role of leadership in corporate Pentecostal experience (when we do church). It focuses on learning to cooperate with the Spirit, balance openness with accountability, and operate in power ministry.

COURSE SCHEDULE

The course meets on Thursday evenings during the Spring 2003 semester from 6:00 to 10:00 pm. Specific meeting dates are as follows:

January 9, 16, 30
February 13, 20
March 13, 20, 27
April 3, 10, 17

COURSE OBJECTIVES

The course is an arena for learning and growth of several kinds:

- *Character development:* to sense the dangers and obstacles inherent in power ministry and to cultivate the fruit of the Spirit as both the balance to the gifts, and the foundation for their use.
- *Theological reflection:* to hear the experience of power ministry as posing critical theological questions, and to exercise the reflective skills needed to begin the process of developing meaningful answers that will guide future ministry.
- *Personal reframing:* to see power ministry as an evolving, holistic, transformational, calling to mission that is the overflow of the Spirit's presence individually within the life of the leader, and corporately among the people of God.

- *Community formation*: to practice relating to other believers in a community through which power ministry can be sought, experienced, developed, and held accountable.
- *Ministry enhancement*: to grow in the wisdom, necessary to cooperating with the Spirit in power ministry situations.
- *Ongoing growth*: to develop self-sustaining field research skills that can feed experience and insight into all of the objectives above in order to enhance future growth.

COURSE READINGS

Required Readings:

Gary S. Greig and Kevin Springer, eds. *The Kingdom and the Power*. Ventura, CA: Regal Books, 1993.

White, John. *When the Spirit Comes with Power*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity, 1988. (251 pages)

Anacondia, Carlos. *Listen to Me Satan!* Lake Mary, FL: Creation House, 1998. (184 pages)

Recommended Readings:

Kraft, Charles H. *Christianity with Power. Your Worldview and Your Experience of the Supernatural*. Ann Arbor, MI : Vine Books, 1989.

Lim, David. *Spiritual Gifts: A Fresh Look*. Springfield, MO : Gospel Publishing House, 1991.

COURSE BIBLIOGRAPHY

The Practice of Charismatic Ministry: A Select Bibliography is online at:
http://agts.edu/syllabi/resident_spr2003/pth604_02creps_spr03_biblio.pdf

COURSE OUTLINE (All dates are Thursdays, 6:00 pm – 10:00 pm)

- January 9 *Power and Process: The Third Way*
1. Course Overview
 2. Does Power Ministry Matter?
 3. An Integrationist Stance

- January 16 *More: The Cultural Context*
1. Pentecostal Revival and Brownsville
 2. Charismatic Renewal and Word-Faith
 3. Third Wave (W3) and Toronto, and Post-W3
- January 30 *The Violent Take It by Force: The Kingdom Context*
1. Kingdom of God as Paradigm
 2. Encounter as Praxis: Power, Love, Truth
 3. Christocentric or. Pneumacentric?
- February 13 *Two Horses: The Operational Context*
1. Worldviews: Blockage, Blindness, Blandness
 2. Framing the Supernatural
 3. The Excluded Middle and The Empty Present January 30
[Reading Reflection Paper #1 due—The Kingdom and the Power]
- February 20 *Anointing or Annoying: The Personal Context*
1. The Anointing and Impartation
 2. Pentecostal Spirituality and the Leader: Power vs. Control
 3. Reinhard, Tommy, Rod, Benny, and Rodney-Howard
- March 13 *Let Each Prophecy in Turn: The Community Context*
1. Spirit Gifts as Community Property.
 2. Evaluation, Accountability, and Balance: Manifestations
 3. Worship and the Presence of God
[Reading Reflection Paper #2 due—When the Spirit Comes with Power]
- March 20 *Dark Angels: The Militant Context*
1. Strategic Spiritual Warfare: Strongholds and Territorial Spirits
 2. Tactical Spiritual Warfare: Deliverance and Curses
 3. Signs and Wonders
[Credit Project due]
- March 27 *Power Healing: The Therapeutic Context*
1. Models of Healing (Healing Rooms)
 2. Inner Healing
 3. The Gifts of Healings
- April 3 *Charismatic Chaos: The Critical Context*
1. Cessationists and Cynics
 2. Lifeguards and Liberals
 3. Learning from Dissenters
[Reading Reflection Paper #3 due—Listen to Me, Satan!]

April 10 *Stir up the Gift: The Organizational Context*
1. The Five-Fold Ministry
2. The Apostolic Movement
3. The Prophetic and the Office of Prophet

April 17 **[Final Exam]**
 [Reading Report distributed]

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. *Attendance* at all course sessions. The course grade will be reduced by one level for each unexcused absence.
2. *Participation* in all classroom discussions, exercises, and projects.
3. *Reading* will be evaluated using a Reading Report which will be distributed on the last day of class to indicate the percentage completed, and receive points accordingly.
4. *Writing* of a Reading Reflection paper of 3-pages on *each* Required Text. These papers should summarize each author's argument and review the major themes that are most significant or most challenging, reflecting on how they apply to your present or future ministry context. The due dates for the papers are as follows:
RR Paper #1—*The Kingdom and the Power* February 13, 2003
RR Paper #2—*When the Spirit Comes with Power* March 13, 2003
RR Paper #3—*Listen to Me, Satan!* April 3, 2003
Each student will make a brief oral presentation of *one* of these papers in class.
5. *Credit Project*: each student will complete 1 Project from the list below. The Project is due on or before March 20, 2003.
6. *Final Exam* mixing objective and essay-style questions that will focus on integrating course content and experience. The exam will be administered during the last class session.

CREDIT PROJECT OPTIONS [Choose 1 of the following options]

1. *Reading Reflection*: write a 10-page paper on one of the books listed above in the Recommended Readings (provided you have not read it previously) Outline the author's central themes and respond to them in terms of your ministry context. This is to be a high-quality reflective essay, not a library research assignment. Books may also be chosen from the Course Bibliography, available online at: http://agts.edu/syllabi/resident_spr2003/pth604_02creps_spr03_biblio.pdf

2. *Ministry Development Plan*: write a 10-page paper detailing your plan for developing your personal spirituality and your practice of power ministry. This should include background research, personal growth issues, implementation challenges, and a timeline.
3. *Debate*: individuals or small groups from the class may present a debate on a key theological or practical issue at some point during the semester. *The topic and format should be discussed with the professor well in advance of the presentation.*
4. *Sermons/Teachings*: using insights gained from the class/conference, write two sermons or teachings of significant length on texts/issues related to power ministry. *Do not recycle old messages!* You may do either a manuscript, or a very, very detailed outline. While all sermons/teachings must be turned in hard copy, they may be accompanied by audiocassette and/or media support (e.g., PowerPoint, video clips, etc.)
5. *Research Paper*: choose a major theme related to the course and write a 10-page research paper. The paper should identify and reflect upon key ideas related to the topic, report on some of the major literature in the area, and apply conclusions to your ministry context. *This is a library research piece. Supporting footnotes and a 15-item bibliography are required.*
6. *Internet Project*: research and report on the internet-based resources that are available in regard to power ministry, both positive and critical. Prepare a 10-page paper on your findings. The presentation should include web links and other key features. Draw conclusions about the role of the internet in this type of ministry, and what you may have learned that could be applied in your context. This piece should be a balance of reporting and reflecting.
7. *Multimedia Project*: using the course as a starting point, develop a multimedia (Web-based, PowerPoint, etc.) persuasive presentation on power ministry that would speak to one of three hypothetical audiences: (1) skeptical Christians; (2) spiritual pagans; (3) scientific critics. The presentation should be accompanied by a 5-page overview paper explaining its structure and application.
8. *Self-Designed Project*: every student is encouraged to develop a project idea that is the academic equivalent of the other options, but is uniquely suited to her or his passion and giftedness with regard to power ministry. Communicate with the professor as soon as possible if you wish to exercise this option. *Self-Designed projects require prior approval by the professor.*

All written assignments are to be typed, double-spaced, represent original, high-quality graduate-level work, and follow the *Turabian* style manual, 6th edition.

Assignments can be emailed to the professor (ecreps@agts.edu) with a title page that includes your name, mailing address, phone, email address, and the course number.

CREDIT PROJECT DUE DATES

The Credit Project is due on or before March 20, 2003. The grade for the project will drop by one level for every day beyond the deadline.

GRADING PROCEDURE

	<u>Points</u>
Required Texts Reading Report (3 books x 50)	150
Reading Reflection Papers (3 papers x 50)	150
Credit Project	300
Final Exam	300
Class Participation	100
 TOTAL POINTS AVAILABLE:	 <u>1000</u>

Grading will be on a percentage basis, with 90% of the total points required for an A, 80% of the points required for a B, etc. Plusses and minuses will be used for point totals within 2% of any grade level.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

The Practice of Charismatic Ministry: A Select Bibliography is available online at:
http://agts.edu/syllabi/resident_spr2003/pth604_02creps_spr03_biblio.pdf

The free Acrobat reader required to read PDF files is available at:
<http://www.adobe.com/products/acrobat/readstep.html>

SPECIFIC DATA

Course syllabus prepared by Earl Creps, December 2003.