**Thirdmill Seminary**

MIS600 Capstone Portfolio and Project

Course Syllabus

***Course Description and Outcomes***

The *Capstone Portfolio and Project* is a summative evaluation designed to demonstrate your grasp and appropriation of each of the five learning outcomes in your degree program as vital resources for your ministry.

Your *Capstone Portfolio* is formed by revisiting key assessments from earlier courses and practicums, reflecting on your learning, and solidifying your findings in the light of two research questions: 1) With the benefit of hindsight, what, if anything, would you change in each assessment? And, 2) what have you learned and how does each assessment inform your approach to and practice of ministry in Christ’s name? *The primary outcome of the portfolio is that you will produce a summary of your findings from revisiting your mastery assessments in the light of these two questions.*

Your *Capstone Project* considers these findings in relation to your ministry identity, gifts, weaknesses and vocation in order *to produce a ministry plan* that you will present as “a celebration of your learning” to faculty, fellow students, mentors and other invited guests. Thus, *the primary outcome of the Capstone Project is a ministry plan in which you articulate the mission, core values, and key objectives of your present or future ministry in relation to the findings of your portfolio*.

***The Capstone Portfolio***

In the final term of the student’s degree, he or she will revisit the mastery assessments from prior courses, which are associated with each of **five learning outcomes as follows**:

**Outcome 1:** Remember and outline the covenantal structure of Christian Scripture and explain its primary purposes to reveal the Triune God’s redemptive aims for the world, in order to equip the covenant people of God as representative agents of Christ’s Kingdom.

Mastery Assessment: BIB501 Kingdom, Covenants, and Canon of the Old Testament, Final Paper

**Outcome 2:** Demonstrate skillful biblical exegesis and communication skills by selecting appropriate texts to summarize and apply the Gospel to more than one audience, calling them to follow Jesus Christ in a variety of social and cultural contexts.

Mastery Assessment: BIB516 He Gave Us Scripture 2, Exegetical Paper

**Outcome 3:** Describe the life of Christians in relation to the Holy Spirit’s work and create a personal and ministry formation plan (which includes prayer as an integral element) that identifies areas for growth in demonstrating the Spirit’s fruit as well as areas of service in which to deploy the Spirit’s gifts for equipping the church.

Mastery Assessment: THE505 We Believe in the Holy Spirit, “Growing in the Spirit” Plan

**Outcome 4:** Demonstrate sound theological method by analyzing and evaluating how existing summaries of scriptural teaching form the worship and witness of the Church, and by creating new summaries of scriptural teaching for liturgical and field-based ministries.

Mastery Assessment: THE513 Making Biblical Decisions, Final Paper

**Outcome 5:** Demonstrate interpersonal skills and cultural intelligence by designing ministry activities that are faithful to God’s Word and fitting for their local context in God’s World in order to cultivate the Church’s mission to love and worship the Triune God and to love and serve their neighbors in ministries of word and deed.

Mastery Assessment: BIB504 The Book of Acts, Contextualization Assignment, and Final Project in MIS503 Outreach Practicum

Students will also revisit the ministry projects in their three discipleship practicums on worship, nurture, and outreach.

***Portfolio Assignment***

Use the following **research questions** to guide your reconsideration of your earlier assessments and ministry projects.

1) With the benefit of hindsight, what, if anything, would you change in each assessment?

2) What have you learned and how does each assessment inform your approach to and practice of ministry in Christ’s name?

Clearly articulate a summary of your findings. These findings from the portfolio inform your final Capstone Project.

***Project Assignment***

The Capstone Project articulates your plan for the ministry to which God has called you in your particular institutional and cultural context. The Capstone Project should articulate your ministry calling (what are the character and primary practices of your ministry?) and describe your context (where and to whom are your ministering?). Moreover, your Project must demonstrate how your present or future ministry’s mission, core values, and key objectives are supported by the findings of your Capstone Portfolio.

Your Capstone Project considers the findings of your Portfolio in relation to your ministry identity, gifts, weaknesses and vocation in order to produce a ministry plan that you will present as “a celebration of your learning” to faculty, fellow students, mentors and other invited guests, who will offer observations and ask questions.