

ML524: FOCUSED LIVES (4 units)

J. Robert Clinton, Professor of Leadership

DESCRIPTION:

This course comparatively studies a number of Christian leaders. These leaders, both men and women, were effective leaders who led focused lives. Out of these studies has emerged the concept of a focused life comprised of 4 components: (1) life purpose; (2) major role; (3) effective methodologies; (4) ultimate contribution set. Students will study a number of historical case studies and Biblical case studies, which illustrate focused lives concepts. Each student will then produce a case study of his/her own life from a focused life standpoint. As part of their personal case study, students will learn how to construct their own Personal Life Mandate – a major decision making tool for ministry and life. Students will find that they will be using these concepts in their ministries the rest of their lives.

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will have:

- Constructed a Personal Life Mandate, a 3-5 page major decision making tool, which includes paragraphs describing life purpose, major role, effective methodologies, and ultimate contributions,
- Proven familiarity with focused lives concepts including the integration of the four focal elements-- life purpose, major role, effective methodologies, and ultimate contributions—along their personal time-line,
- The ability to use Venn diagrams to display various focused lives concepts (including giftedness set; ultimate contributions).
- Have demonstrated familiarity with numerous focused lives concepts as measured by the case study and daily exercises.
- A life-line perspective on strategic formation which will prove useful in the development of self and other leaders.

COURSE FORMAT:

The class will be conducted on the Internet using a 10-week lesson program aligned with Fuller's academic calendar. Each week students and the instructor will interact with the material through special exercises, journaling, and threaded discussions.

REQUIRED READING:

- ML524 Focused Lives Reader covering a broad range of leaders from 1800 until now, available in the online course
- A Case Study Reader (available on-line) on diverse lives and ministries of people around the world (four Korean, several women leaders including one in Japan, one in a parachurch organization, and others in denominational church contexts, and a case study on Desmond Tutu, a case study on Mother Sirley)
- Clinton, J. Robert. *Focused Lives-Comparative Studies of Effective Leaders Who Finished Well*. Altadena: Barnabas Publishers, 1995.
- Clinton, J. Robert. *Strategic Concepts--That Clarify a Focused Life*. Altadena, CA: Barnabas Publishers, 1995.
- Plumb, Sue. *Irene Webster-Smith: An Irish Woman Who Impacted Japan*. Altadena, CA: Barnabas Publishers, 1996.

ASSIGNMENTS:

1. Reading of all materials listed above and doing related exercises for them which will include: Weekly Threaded Discussions, Journaling, and feedback exercises given to the instructor and teaching assistant (60%)
2. A case study on the student's own life using focused lives concepts to prompt analysis. This case study will be completed by the end of the quarter. This is a major paper (40 %).

PREREQUISITES:

There are no pre-requisites. However, students who have taken ML 530 Life Long Development and ML 521 Developing Giftedness will have a jump start on this course. Students not familiar with leadership emergence theory are advised to do optional pre-requisite readings before class.

RELATIONSHIP TO CURRICULUM: Elective.

FINAL EXAM: None.

Updated January 2008