

## CM103: Christian Formation in Correctional Ministry

**Course Instructor:** Karen Swanson, Ed.D.

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### Course Description

This course examines the personal, theological, process, and praxis of Christian formation for those working in correctional ministry as they seek to fulfill the great commission, “to make disciples of Christ.” The relationship between Christian formation and rehabilitation is also explored.

### Course Objectives

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

- A. Commit to an ongoing life of personal self-awareness and growth in Christ as foundational to effective ministry.
- B. Describe Christian formation theology and process, spiritual disciplines, spiritual pathways, and frameworks for witnessing and discipleship.
- C. Explain the relationship between faith, crime and rehabilitation and providing support for Christian ministry.
- D. Design strategies for witnessing and discipling those you serve in your ministry context.

### Course Text

*Sacred Rhythms. Arranging Our Lives for Spiritual Transformation* by Ruth Haley Barton.

*The Cape Town Commitment: A Confession of Faith and a Call to Action* by Chris Wright.

### Academic Honesty

At IPM, we believe all we do is “as unto the Lord” and we thus hold to a high academic standard of honesty; we do not tolerate plagiarism and cheating. Plagiarism: If a student’s work is found to be plagiarized, consequences will vary depending on the nature of the plagiarism. If an offense is deemed unintentional, the student will have an opportunity to resubmit the work. A second offense will result in an automatic score of zero for that assignment, which may also result in failure of that course. If you have questions about plagiarism, or would like to request resources for learning how to avoid plagiarism, please contact Dr. Karen Swanson at [karen.swanson@wheaton.edu](mailto:karen.swanson@wheaton.edu)

## Course Requirements

This course consists of a mentor relationship, readings, lecture videos, quizzes, group discussions, and writing assignment(s). The information regarding these course components and expectations is as follows:

**Mentor Meeting.** Meet with your mentor in-person or by phone two times to share what you are learning and hearing from God through the course.

**Reading.** Reading assignments covered in this course should be read in the context of the module in which they are assigned. In addition to the required textbooks, you may be asked to read supplementary materials included in the lesson.

**Lectures/Videos.** Each lesson will include lectures/videos from the instructor or field experts.

**Quizzes.** (25 points). Each module will include a 15-question, multiple choice quiz will be given at the end of each module over the readings and lectures for that module, 10 points will be short answer questions based on your reflection of practicing the spiritual discipline for that week.

**Discussion Forums.** Discussion questions related to each week's lectures are provided. The Discussion Forum for each week begins on Monday at 12:01 a.m. Eastern Standard Time (EST), and your first post is required by Wednesday each week. All posts must be submitted prior to the following Sunday at 11:59 p.m. EST. You are required **to post an initial response and respond to two other posts**. The following rubric will be used to assess your Discussion Forum posts.

Competency	Criteria Met	Criteria Not Met
Substantive Thoughts Expressed	Ideas and positions explained clearly. Refers back to course content when appropriate. Reply posts extends discussion.	Ideas are not clearly expressed. No reference to course content. Reply post (Yes, I agree) does not provide support for responses.
Length	Initial post is 100-150 words Reply posts are 50-60 words	Initial post less than 100 words Reply post less than 50 words
Completeness	Answers the question completely.	Some parts of the question are not addressed.

**Writing Assignment.** The final assignment will be a 2-page strategic plan for discipleship in your context. A template will be provided for you to complete. **ALL ASSIGNMENTS MUST BE TYPED.** Course work is due at the assigned due date unless prior arrangement has been made. **LATE PAPERS** will be penalized half a letter grade for each day late. Written work is expected to be college-level quality, spell checked, and proofread. Failure to do so will affect the grade on the paper. Use the APA style to cite references. Title pages are not required. Put your name and Assignment # at the top right of the first page. Double space your work, use 12-point type, and 1" margins. *Contact the professor prior to the deadline if there is a problem.*

**Due Dates.** Each week of the course begins on Monday at 12:01 a.m. CST and ends on Sunday at 11:59 p.m. CST. Unless noted otherwise, all assignments are due at 11:59 p.m. CST on the Sunday of

the week in which the assignment is due. For example, if an assignment is due during Week 2, you must complete and submit it by 11:59 p.m. CST on Sunday, the last day of Week 2.

### Course Grades

Grades will be issued within two weeks of the end of the course. Your grade for the course will be determined as follows:

Discussion Forum	30% of Course Grade
Writing Assignments	30% of Course Grade
Quizzes	30% of Course Grade
Mentor	10% of Course Grade

Grading scale will be as follows:

A	94-100	A-	90-93	B+	87-89
B	84-86	B-	80-83	C+	77-79
C	74-76	C-	70-73	D+	67-69
D	64-66	D-	60-63	F	0-59