

**Mennonite Brethren Biblical Seminary**  
**MENTORING –CONNECTING**

*Mentor:* Lori James  
*Meeting Times:* Wed., 4:45 – 5:45 PM

*Course Number:* IS-505 (1 unit)  
*Semester:* Fall 2007

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course is intended to help students grow personally through developing strong interpersonal relationships and by fostering reflection on issues related to personal, spiritual and academic growth. It seeks to explore within a small group setting what it means to “love the Lord your God with all your heart, your mind and your soul.”

**COURSE OBJECTIVES**

1. To assist students in making a successful entry into seminary life.
2. To create a set of relationships which can offer support and help hold one on course.
3. To create a setting where students can integrate their classroom learning with personal life issues.
4. To provide student and mentor with information about the student’s personality profile, growth needs, characteristics and ministry orientation.
5. To develop the academic skills necessary for successful completion of seminary studies.

**DESIRED OUTCOMES**

*Every student shall*

- Demonstrate commitment to live as a disciple of Jesus in Christian community
- Articulate commitment to a biblical theological Christian perspective
- Interpret diverse cultural contexts of ministry using theological perspectives integrated with social scientific approaches

**REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS**

The required texts are available at Pacific Bookshop and widely available in new and used form via the Internet.

Badke, William B. *Research Strategies*. iUniverse (Second Edition) 2004

Yaconelli, Mike. *Messy Spirituality*. Zondervan 2002

**RECOMMENDED RESOURCE MATERIAL**

All students are encouraged to acquire a basic resource library. At a minimum, this should include a dictionary and a manual of style which provides guidelines for one of the three writing formats accepted at MBBS, namely, the Chicago Manual of Style (Turabian), or the American Psychological Association (APA). Other helpful resources include a thesaurus, a Bible dictionary, a dictionary of theological terms, and writing and grammar aids.

**NATURE OF THE COURSE**

Groups of 8-10 students will meet weekly with a faculty mentor. These sessions will focus around sharing “call” stories, assigned readings and topics, as well as issues arising from classroom learning, reading, or experience. Book critiques, individual meeting with the mentor, and personal and ministry inventories will provide resources for personal and spiritual exploration and growth. Attendance at the annual all-school retreat is also expected (in the fall semester). A more detailed course schedule will be distributed at the beginning of class as the schedule varies slightly from group to group.

**Because this is a graduate institution**, there are high expectations in the areas of research and writing. In order to assist students in this area, a three-hour writing workshop will be offered this semester. Students are encouraged to attend this workshop. See your Mentoring instructor for more information.

**REQUIREMENTS**

1. **Small Group Meetings:** The group will meet weekly with the faculty mentor. Sessions will revolve around sharing call stories, discussion and prayer. Attendance is expected.
2. **Hartland Attendance:** All first year students enrolled in the Mentoring/Connecting course are required to attend the All-Seminary retreat at Hartland Christian Camp on Sept. 15-16.

3. **Book Critiques:** Students are required to write a critique of the book by Yaconelli. This review is to be at least three pages in length. Information on how to write a graduate-level book review will be covered in class. For Badke, students are to write a one-page reflection answering the question, “What are the new concepts you will take away from this text?”
4. **One-to-One with Faculty Mentor:** Students are expected to meet individually with the course instructor once during the semester. The agenda for this session will flow from the student’s personal growth plan as well as the critique of Yaconelli, and personal reflection on the impact of this book in the student’s life. This is also a time to check in on the student’s completion of the *Bible Knowledge* requirement. This meeting needs to be arranged by the student soon after the book critique and personal growth plan are due and prior to the close of the semester.
5. **Personal, Relationship, and Ministry Inventories and Consultation:** Each incoming student is asked to take the Myers-Briggs Type Indicator. The Myers-Briggs can be taken online at: <http://www.humanmetrics.com/cgi-win/JTypes1.htm> Insights from this tool, and any others that have been taken, should be incorporated into the personal growth plan.
6. **Personal Growth Plan:** each student is expected to write a short self-assessment report (3-5 pages) that explores program fit as well as personal, academic and vocational goals. A guide for the growth plan will be distributed in class. This growth plan should be submitted to the student’s faculty advisor as well as the Mentoring instructor.

### **GRADING**

Attendance/ Participation	35%
Book Critique 1	15%
Book Critique 2	10%
One-to-one meeting with mentor	20%
Personal Growth plan	20%

Assessment will be based on participation in course meetings and events (i.e., absences will affect one’s grade), quality of personal engagement in written assignments, adherence to the scheduled due dates, completion of reading assignments and personal growth plan.

### **POLICY NOTES**

MBBS academic policies (as well as other school policies) are described at <http://www.mbseminary.edu/fresno/policies/>. These policies provide guidance on academic integrity and plagiarism, accommodation for disabilities, incomplete course work, extensions, dates for changing registration, non-discriminatory and inclusive language, appeals, etc. Students are expected to be familiar with these policies and will be held responsible for adhering to them. If you have questions about how these policies relate to you or to a situation that you face in your studies, please speak to the instructor or consult the Registrar.