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## “MICRO” MANAGING

The Winter 2021 Session micro-courses have recently come to completion, so it is a good time to consider how to manage the opportunities each micro-course presents for student development and ODA (assignment) completion. Here are some opportunities to help you and your student take full advantage of these embedded milestones.

- **The Life of the Mind and the Mind of Cultures** - This 'Micro-Course' will equip us to think about ... well, thinking and how thoughts impact how we see the world and how we, as image-bearers of God, forge the world around us. How do ideas show in actions? For individuals and for cultures? What does it mean to have a 'soul' and how does that inform how we love God with our 'heart, mind, soul, and strength'? (Mk 12:30) And being mindful of others, how do we love our neighbour (Mk 12:31), who also has a soul?
- **Gospel Grounded Counselling** - This 'Micro-Course' will construct a Biblical, Gospel-Centered foundation for counselling from a distinctly Christian perspective. While this class is not intended to produce professional counsellors, it will help provide practical insights and immediately applicable skills to encourage others in the midst of everyday difficulties, pointing people toward Godly wisdom and Jesus-focused hope.
- **Persevering Faith** - This 'Micro-Course' will explore the nature of saving faith (professing, practicing, and persevering) with a special focus on the importance of perseverance as a Christian. Key Biblical passages will provide a theological foundation to wrestle with key questions: Can someone lose their salvation? How can we encourage family and friends that have abandoned the faith? How can we develop stronger faith and have assurance in our faith?

## Micro-Course Implementation and Application

Each micro-course may naturally lend itself to an assignment (or two+) that provides a perfect follow-up project to make the micro-course learning immediately applicable and relevant to the student's ministry context or personal development. Finding and adapting an appropriate ODA could be the perfect way to engage and apply the micro-course content while it is still fresh in the student's mind and can result in a well-established structure and frame for future ministry use.

There are two primary avenues for identifying and pursuing application assignments:

1. Those that have potential for a student's personal development.
2. Those that have potential for addressing the ministry needs in the student's ministry context that their assignment could develop for a practical and immediate application.

## NV 704: LIFE-LONG LEARNER (in the study)

### **Personal Development** ODA opportunities to consider:

- **Discovery:** Minister's Practice and Personal Application - MLO Emphasis D - LU:1 (p.71)
  - ▶ This is a very practical follow up assignment to the micro-course, allowing students to learn from other's experience and to begin formulating their own philosophy and practice.
- **Reading:** Language Function and Fallacies - MLO Emphasis C - LU:1 (p.70)
  - ▶ NOTE: This ODA must be completed prior to the Long Duration Project assignment below
- **Long-Duration Project:** Learning Biblical Languages - MLO Emphasis C - LU: 3 (p.71)
  - ▶ Consider viewing these assignments as an opportunity to begin the development of disciplines and practices that will serve the student well in future biblical exegesis and preparation. Also, a very good opportunity to begin familiarization with the Logos Bible Software and its potential.

### **Ministry Focused** ODA opportunities to consider:

Any of a number of **supplemental ODAs** would be appropriate as well (p.72-73).

- **Reading:** Diverse Theological Frameworks (p.72)
  - ▶ Consider a proposal regarding research on a particular religious framework that is of specific interest or application. Possible Emphasis A/B/D.
- **Reflection:** Loving and Learning (p.72)
  - ▶ This exercise would be a very practical help to someone who is looking to understand and create balance in their life practice in the study. Emphasis A/B/D.
- **Communication:** Loving God with Your Mind (p.72)

## NV 702: GOSPEL GROUNDED COUNSELOR

### **Personal Development** ODA opportunities to consider:

- **Reading:** Instruments in the Redeemer's Hands - MLO Emphasis B - LU:1 (p.40)
  - ▶ Necessary response to the course content. Complete asap!
- **Project:** Personal Improvement Project - MLO Emphasis A/B - LU: 2 (p.40)
- **Communication:** Busyness and Burnout - MLO Emphasis E - LU:1 (p.40)
  - ▶ Practical and personal response, particularly for students with spouses and those learning to create margin in life and ministry.

### **Ministry Focused** ODA opportunities to consider:

- **Research:** Philosophy of Pastoral Care - MLO Emphasis A - LU: 2 (p.40)
- **Discovery:** Understanding our Culture and God's Design - MLO Emphasis C/D - LU:1 (p.40-41)
  - ▶ Both of these assignments are practical responses to course content. Now would be the ideal time to take these on, as they are fresh in mind and provide practical development of philosophy and experience.

Any of a number of supplemental ODAs would be appropriate as well (Manual p.41-42). I would highlight two that could be immediately useful. One focuses on the personal interests of the student. The second focuses on a potential need for ministry resources within the student's ministry department.

- o **Reading:** Focused Interest on a Counselling Topic (p.41)
- o **Research:** Pastoral Care Resource Guide (p.42)

## **NV 507 - PERSEVERING FAITH**

**Personal Development** ODA opportunities to consider:

I would highlight the Relationship ODA for students to consider as a practical response to the content of this course on a personal level.

- o **Research:** Identifying Presuppositions - MLO Emphasis C - LU: 1 (p.105)
- o **Communication:** The Nature of Saving Faith - MLO Emphasis D/E - LU: 2 (p.105)
- o **Relationship:** Confronting Substantial Real Life Doubts/Difficulties/Disappointments - MLO Emphasis E - LU: 1 (p.106)

**Ministry Focused** ODA opportunities to consider:

Consider this assignment as a practical response that informs a particular ministry department focus, and/or developing a philosophy of ecclesiological structures and strategies.

- o **Discovery:** To Persevere or Not to Persevere - MLO Emphasis B/E - LU: 1 (p.105)

Any of a number of supplemental ODAs would be appropriate as well (p.106-107). I would highlight and recommend the Sustaining Faith. Possible Emphases A/C.

- o **Reading:** Impact of Eschatological Salvation on Daily Living (p.106)
- o **Reflection:** The Story of Christian Theology (p.107)
- o **Project:** Sustaining Faith (p.107)

A final note as you consider whether using these or other supplemental or adapted ODAs for your students, please ensure that the assignments you choose align with appropriate competencies (A, B, C, etc.) in the MLO Descriptions in the holistic development and display of the MLO. Please note and record your decisions and reasons as introductory to the student assignment submissions.