



LOS ANGELES DISTRICT TRAINING CENTER
Member of the Alliance for Ministry Training

**PAS-2023 HISTORY AND POLITY
OF THE CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE**
SPRING 2007 - THREE SEMESTER HOURS CREDIT
SYLLABUS - KEEP THIS DOCUMENT FOR YOUR PORTFOLIO

COURSE PROFESSORS:

Charles W. Smith: D.Min., Fuller Theological Seminary, 1998; M.Div., Nazarene Theological Seminary, 1975; B.A., Point Loma Nazarene University (Pasadena College), 1972; Pastor, Church of the Nazarene, 1976-Present; Pastor, United Church of Christ, 1973-76; Youth Pastor, Church of the Nazarene, 1970-73. Office 818-368-0700; Cell 818-489-8995; FAX 818-368-3075; (chucks717@aol.com). Pastor of Northridge New Life Church of the Nazarene.

Jerry Ferguson, Superintendent, Los Angeles District, Guest Lecturer; B.A. Point Loma Nazarene University (Pasadena College), 1973; M.A., California Graduate School of Theology, Glendale, 1986. District Superintendent, 1999-Present; Pastor, Church of the Nazarene, 1975-1999. Youth Pastor, Church of the Nazarene, 1973-1974.

CLASS LOCATION:

Los Angeles District Church of the Nazarene, 225 E. Santa Clara Street, Arcadia, CA 91106-7234

CLASS SCHEDULE:

Friday, **April 20**, 1:30 p.m. - 10:35 p.m.; Saturday, **April 21**, 8 a.m. - 6:05 p.m.
Friday, **May 4**, 1:30 p.m. - 10:35 p.m.; Saturday, **May 5**, 8 a.m. - 6:05 p.m.

REQUIRED COURSE TEXTBOOKS

1. Smith, Timothy L. *Called Unto Holiness: A Story of the Nazarenes in the Formative Years*, (Volume One). Kansas City, MO: Nazarene Publishing House, 1962. ISBN: 083410282X.
2. Purkiser, W. T. *Called Unto Holiness: The Story of the Nazarenes, the Second Twenty-Five Years, 1933-58*, Volume Two. Kansas City, MO: Nazarene Publishing House, 1983. ISBN: 0834108682.
3. Fairbanks, E. LeBron, ed. *Manual/2005-2009, Church of the Nazarene*. Kansas City, MO: Nazarene Publishing House, 2005. ISBN: 083412-2537. Also available on CD-ROM from NPH.
4. Tracy, Wes and Ingersol, Stan. *Here We Stand: Where Nazarenes Fit in the Religious Marketplace*. Kansas City: Nazarene Publishing House, 1999. ISBN: 083411-7126

RECOMMENDED RESOURCE

Core Values DVD Resource, Stock Number BK-2001; Core Values Booklet Stock Number BK-1999.

RECOMMENDED READING

- Laird, Rebecca. *Ordained Women in the Church of the Nazarene: The First Generation*. Kansas City, MO: Nazarene Publishing House, 1993. ISBN: 0834114526.
- Bangs, Carl. *Our Roots of Belief. Biblical Faith and Faithful Theology*. Beacon Hill Press, 1981.
- Brickley, Donald. *Man of the Morning*. Kansas City: Beacon Hill Press. ISBN: 083410198X.
- Girvin, E.A.I. *A Prince in Israel*. Garland Pub., 1986. ASIN: 0824064070.
- Leonard, Gay. *Articles of Faith: What Nazarenes Believe and Why*. Kansas City: Beacon Hill Press of Kansas City, ISBN: 083-412-2154
- McKenna, David L. *What a Time to Be Wesleyan: Proclaiming the Holiness Message with Passion and Purpose*. Kansas City, MO: Beacon Hill Press of Kansas City. ISBN: 083411769X.

McKenna, David L. *Wesleyan Leadership in Troubled Times Confronting the Culture, Challenging the Church*. Kansas City, MO: Beacon Hill Press of Kansas City. ISBN: 083-411-9579.

Moore, Frank. *Coffee Shop Theology: Translating Doctrinal Jargon Into Everyday Life*. Kansas City, MO: Beacon Hill Press of Kansas City. ISBN: 083-411-7320.

Moore, Frank. *More Coffee Shop Theology: Translating Doctrinal Jargon into Everyday Life*. Kansas City, MO: Beacon Hill Press of Kansas City. ISBN: 083-411-7460.

Reford, M.E. *The Rise of the Church of the Nazarene*. Kansas City: Beacon Hill Press, 1948. ISBN: 0834101416.

Sourcebook for Ministerial Development. Pastoral Ministries, Division of Evangelism and Church Growth. Kansas City, MO: Nazarene Publishing House, (U-2000).

Taylor, Richard S. *Leading Wesleyan Thinkers*. Vol. 3. Kansas City, MO: Beacon Hill Press of Kansas City. ISBN: 083-411-0695.

Additionally, a Bibliography and a Supplemental Bibliography of additional resource material on this subject is attached at the end of the syllabus for your use.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

A study of the history of the Church of the Nazarene with special attention given to its organization, heritage, and distinctive mission (official course description from the Nazarene Bible College catalog).

This course will introduce students to the formation and story of the Church of the Nazarene: its heritage and history; polity and structure, its guiding personalities; its articles of faith; its ethical standards; and its place in the overall history of the Christian Church. This course will also expand the student's understanding of our church's mission, its organization, and its operational procedures. Special attention will be given to how the students as current or future leaders can effectively move our denomination and the cause of Christ in our new millennium.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

The following competencies for Ordination Course of Study which are achieved by this course:

1. Ability to list and explain the Nazarene Articles of Faith. (CN-18)
2. Ability to identify the formative influences of the American Holiness Movement and the Church of the Nazarene. (CN-27)
3. Ability to identify and explain the significance of the major figures and events in the Church of the Nazarene. (CN-28)
4. Ability to identify the directives of the Manual of the Church of the Nazarene that pertain to the organization and ministry of the local church and to the responsibilities of the pastor at local and district levels. (CN-29)
5. Ability to place the ministry context in light of the large schemes of world and national history. (CX-8)

The following competencies are outlined in the Sourcebook for Ministerial Development to meet the educational requirements for ordination within the Church of the Nazarene. They will be achieved by completion of this course, and you will be able to:

1. Locate the Church of the Nazarene within the Wesleyan, evangelical, and holiness traditions of the larger Christian family.
2. Identify the factors leading to the rise of the Church of the Nazarene as well as those contributing to the growth, development, and perpetuation of the denomination.
3. Name and discuss key leaders who organized the new work and contributed to its story over the years.
4. Understand and articulate the distinctive doctrine of the Church of the Nazarene in biblical, evangelical, and Christian context.

5. Communicate the unique values, social principles, and ethical standards of the Church of the Nazarene: how/why they were formed, how/why they were modified, and why they are important today.
6. Grasp and apply the distinguishing features of our church polity on the local, district, and general levels.
7. More effectively communicate our denominational mission as vital to our sense of identity, character, purpose, and future as well as our dialogue with the larger Christian family, American Society, and our global village.
8. Apply new insights learned to pastoral leadership and ministry.

COURSE ASSUMPTIONS:

As a part of the course offerings of the Alliance for Ministry Training of Nazarene Bible College, this class aligns with the mission of the college. Central to that mission is the preparation of adults for ministry -- usually first-time ministry. All course work, lectures, projects, etc., will focus on entry-level praxis of ministry. Although it is recognized that some students taking this course may have pastoral experience, others will not. Therefore, we will all start together at “ground zero.” If some information seems overly simplistic for the experienced, your insights will assist others who are in the beginning stages of their learning curve.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. Class Attendance and participation in dialogue with classmates and the instructor – For the class to fulfill the requirements of the Alliance for Ministry training, it is necessary that class time not be reduced. No absences are allowed in this intensive two weekend course.

2. Reading Summaries/Insights – Read the textbooks as assigned and submit a reading summary noting completion of each book (see Assignments - Course Grading Criteria for specific requirements).

3. Church Membership Training Manual –Each student is to prepare a thorough church membership training manual that will be used in his local church ministry (see Assignments - Course Grading Criteria for specific requirements).

4. Core Competency Project - “Comparative Analysis”– Respond appropriately to questions and project assigned (see Assignments - Course Grading Criteria for specific requirements).

5. Personal Theology Paper - Designed to demonstrate your ability to state your beliefs concisely and cohesively. You will be graded on how well you have thought through your belief system, and on your capacity to defend your beliefs convincingly and scripturally (see Assignments - Course Grading Criteria for specific requirements).

6. Final Test – A take home final exam will cover our reading, lectures, and class discussion. The exam will be composed of true/false, multiple-choice, and short-answer questions (see Assignments - Course Grading Criteria for specific requirements).

GRADING PROCEDURE

The basis of evaluation for the course assignments will be as follows:

Attendance, Dialogue, and Discussion	200 points	(20%)
Reading Summaries/Insights	160 points	(16%)
Presentation of Church Membership Training Manual	260 points	(26%)
Core Competency Project - “Comparative Analysis”	140 points	(14%)
Personal Theology Paper	140 points	(14%)
Final Test	<u>100 points</u>	<u>(10%)</u>
Total Possible Points	1,000 points	(100%)

The final grade will be determined on the basis of the following point scale:

A+ - 970 - 1000	C - 735 - 769
A - 935 - 969	C- - 701 - 734
A- - 901 - 934	D+ - 670 - 700
B+ - 870 - 900	D - 635 - 669
B - 835 - 869	D- - 601 - 634
B- - 801 - 834	F - 600 or below
C+ - 770 - 800	

COURSE OUTLINE – (see Overview for discussion topics)

1. First Friday, April 20 - Topic: Introduction to Nazarene Church History and Polity
 - Syllabus
 - Presentation by Rev. Jerry Ferguson, District Superintendent
 - A Church in the Wesleyan Tradition
 - Church Membership Training Manual
 - Comparative Analysis
 - Church Organization
2. First Friday, April 20 - Topic: Core Values – A Living Faith: What Nazarenes Believe
3. First Friday, April 20 - Topic: Manual Function; Collective Conscience (Manual Topic A)
4. First Saturday, April 21 - Topic: Local and District; Pastoral Duties (Manual Topic B)
5. First Saturday, April 21 - Topic: General Level; Revisions; Cultural Adaptations (Manual Topic C)
6. Second Friday, May 4 - Topic: Our Nazarene Foundations (History Topic A)
7. Second Friday, May 4 – Student presentations of church membership training manuals and multi-media training resources.
8. Second Friday, May 4 - Topic: Our Nazarene Distinctives (History Topic B)
9. Second Saturday, May 5 - Topic: Student presentations of “Comparative Analysis”
 - Discussion of rapidly growing, non-denominational or independent churches or religious movements.
 - Comparison of similarities and differences between our early Nazarene history and these mega-church ministries.
10. Second Saturday, May 5 - Topic: Our Mission (History Topic C)
 - Women Clergy presentation by Local Woman Pastor
 - View the video, *Ablaze with Love*; Discuss the history and contributions of women in ministry in the Church of the Nazarene.
 - Turning Points in Nazarene History
 - Final Exam

ASSIGNMENTS - COURSE GRADING CRITERIA

Reading Summary/Insights: Each student is to complete reading the *Manual/2005-2009, Church of the Nazarene*; Tracy, Wes and Ingersol, *Here We Stand: Where Nazarenes Fit in the Religious Marketplace*; Smith, *Called Unto Holiness, Vol. 1*, Chapters 1-3, pp. 11-73; and Purkiser, *Called Unto Holiness, Vol. 2*, Chapters 1-3, pp.1-108. Complete four reading summaries that includes insights from the material. Reading summaries are to be at least 120-160 words in length with a statement that the student has read the entire text. There is a total of 40 possible points for each reading summary. Points will be awarded on the basis of thoughtful and reflective content, and a good summary of the historical material contained in your text. Please use the Reading Report/Insights form at the end of the syllabus. The thesis, two principles and five significant quotes should be mentioned. A student receiving 25 points will reflect the work of someone who has completed all the requirements of the assignment in a satisfactory manner. Points awarded between 25-35 points will reflect superior work and points awarded over 35 points will reflect exceptional work and extra effort. Students will have until May 15 to email the reading summaries to Dr. Smith at chucks717@aol.com or FAX 818-368-3075. Late work will be received until May 28 (but grade will be withheld until after district assembly). A student will have up to 10 points deducted for any summary that is turned in late, and up to 10 points for any summary that does not meet the minimum length. There is a total of 160 possible points for reading summaries.

Presentation of Church Membership Training Manual: Each student is to prepare a thorough church membership training manual that will be used in his local church ministry. This is to be an ongoing resource for ministry. Students are encouraged to use a word processor program to compose this assignment so future modifications can be made to the manual. Multi-media teaching resources (overhead transparencies, PowerPoint presentations) are also encouraged. **The DUE DATE for this assignment is Saturday, May 5.** If the project is received late, the student will receive no more than 50% of the credit that would have otherwise been earned. Each student will make a presentation of his/her church membership training manual to the class. Printed copies are to be distributed to all class members for discussion on that date. The church membership training manual may incorporate items from any source, with credit to origin noted. The local church with student's name should be noted on cover. It should include the following basic elements:

1. Personal testimony, churchmanship, church ministry opportunities and commitment to ministry.
2. Statement of Faith.
3. The meaning and history of the church (including denominational and local church history, district information and where we "fit in").
4. Church polity and organization.
5. General Rules & the Covenant of Christian Conduct (Special Rules)
6. Church membership application form.
7. Whatever else the student deems valuable.

There is a total of 260 possible points for the presentation of the Church Membership Training Manual.

Core Competency Project - "Comparative Analysis"

One of the trends of the last 10-15 years on the American religious landscape has been the emergence of rapidly growing, non-denominational or independent churches or religious movements. You probably have one or more in your community, possibly even down the street. Some are completely independent; others are loosely connected. **The assignment: Select such a church in your town** and by way of phone calls, personal interviews, magazine and newspaper articles, etc. gather enough information to create a profile of the particular group or church you selected. Please do not select a radical or fringe group, but one that is in many respects mainstream, even evangelical or holiness. Submit at least a 160 – 200 word response on your findings and analysis. Each student will make a presentation of this church profile to the class. **You will earn more points if you personally contact someone connected with the church you study. The DUE DATE for this assignment is Saturday, May 5.** If the project is received late, the student will receive no more than 50% of the credit that would have otherwise been earned.

The heart of the assignment is to compare and contrast your selection with the Church of the Nazarene. Discussion questions:

- What factors led to their creation?
- Who were the founding leaders and what role did they play?
- What beliefs and lifestyle values do they highlight?
- What relationship do they have to the larger Christian community and to secular culture?
- How are they proclaiming their mission or propagating their cause?
- How are they organized?
- What is their style of worship?
- Finally, in light of these findings, how do you think the MISSION of the Church of the Nazarene might need to adjust, adapt, accommodate, if at all, given the current spiritual climate in America?

There is a total of 140 possible points for the Core Competency Project - "Comparative Analysis" findings and analysis report.

Personal Theology Paper

Write a paper of 800 - 1200 words describing and defending your personal theology. Include all your primary beliefs about God, humanity, sin, salvation, sanctification, the Bible, etc., and how they impact

your worldview and your everyday life. You may use the same “I believe” format as the Articles of Faith and Apostles’ Creed, or any format you choose.

We are not as interested in WHAT you believe (short of heresy, of course), as much as in your ability to state your beliefs concisely and cohesively. You will be graded on how well you have thought through your belief system, and on your capacity to defend your beliefs convincingly and scripturally. Please do not simply list scripture references at the end of each belief (as in the Manual), but quote pertinent scriptures and explain how they support your belief(s). You may also include any other significant factors that have contributed to the formation of your personal theology, or to a particular belief.

This is not a research paper, so quotations (or references other than scripture) are not necessary unless they were instrumental in the shaping your theology. Students will have until May 15 to email the reading summaries to Dr. Smith at chucks717@aol.com or FAX 818-368-3075. Late work will be received until May 28 (but grade will be withheld until after district assembly). A student will have up to 10 points deducted for any personal theology paper that is turned in late, and up to 10 points for any summary that does not meet the minimum length. There is a total of 140 possible points for the Personal Theology paper.

Final Exam: Each student will take a final exam. The take home test will be distributed at the end of the last session. Students will have until May 15 to complete the test and FAX to Dr. Smith at 818-368-3075. It is vital that the student understand the importance of the timely return of the final exam. Exams returned after midnight of May 15 will receive no more than 50% of the credit that would have otherwise been earned. Depending on the lateness of the test the allowance may be less than 50%.

The exam will be composed of true/false, multiple-choice and essay questions. Up to 100 points may be earned on this test. The final test is with open book, class notes, etc. allowed. Any resources at the disposal of the student are allowed, other than help from any another individual.

EXTRA CREDIT OPTION #1: Prepare and submit a 160 – 240 word summary of what you felt were the most important things you learned in this course. This should show thoughtful reflection of all the material covered over the course. Students will have until May 15 to email the summary to Dr. Smith at chucks717@aol.com or FAX 818-368-3075. This will have a possible value of 25 points. Again, this is an optional extra credit assignment and may not be turned in late.

EXTRA CREDIT OPTION #2: Read the recommended reading book, *Ordained Women in the Church of the Nazarene: The First Generation*. Do a reading summary that includes insights from the material. The reading summary is to be at least 120-160 words in length with a statement that the student has read the entire text. This should show a clear grasp of the material presented in the book. Points awarded between 25-35 points will reflect superior work and points awarded over 35 points will reflect exceptional work and extra effort. Students will have until May 15 to email the reading summaries to Dr. Smith at chucks717@aol.com or FAX 818-368-3075. This will have a possible value of 40 points. Again, this is an optional extra credit assignment and may not be turned in late.

SPECIAL COURSE INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Assignments may be turned in early (that is prior to the due date). Assignments may also be turned in late for partial credit. Full credit will require correct grammar and accurate spelling. Turning assignments in “on time” is very important because the ability of other students to reflect upon your work and respond is dependent upon it.
2. Avoid the serious offense of plagiarism by simply referencing all quotes and ideas that come from any source other than you.
3. We understand that a spouse or friend may assist you with a paper by proofreading it for grammar and content. However, to allow another party to virtually “do the assignment for you” is unacceptable.
4. The student is encouraged to “scan” read when needed. This does two things for you. It gives you a passing acquaintance with the material overall, and it helps you to decide which areas you need to focus on for a more detailed study effort.

REGULAR DUE DATES

Presentation of Church Membership Training Manual is due Saturday, May 5.

Core Competency Project - "Comparative Analysis" is due Saturday, May 5.

The four Reading Summaries/Insights are due May 15, and will be received until May 28 (late).

Personal Theology Paper is due May 15.

Extra Credit assignments are due May 15.

COURSE DESIGN:

The course will be divided into two major sections: POLITY and HISTORY.

You will notice that Competency # 1, Competency #4, and Competency #5 relate to the POLITY portion of the course; and that Competency #2 and Competency #3 relate to the HISTORY portion of the course (see Course Objectives above).

OVERVIEW

Core Values - A Living Faith: What Nazarenes Believe

- We Are a Christian People
- We Are a Holiness People
- We Are a Missional People

SECTION ONE: *Manual* of the Church of the Nazarene

Since this part of the course deals with the discipline of our denomination, our strategy will be to relate the learning of the contents of the *Manual* to actual pastoral/church contexts in as many ways as possible, preferably those in which you are currently engaged.

NOTE: the *MANUAL*, 2006-2009 has a "Special Revision Index" where it lists in Index form all the changes authorized by the General Assembly. This is a very helpful feature for locating the most recent changes in denominational policy. Familiarize yourself with it; learn how to use it.

Discussion Topic: *Manual* Function; Collective Conscience – *Manual* Topic A

Core Competency #1 – Ability to list and explain the Nazarene Articles of Faith

Rationale – It is not enough to know about the *MANUAL*, we must be familiar with it's contents and analyze the proper "function" of the *MANUAL*. Also, every part of the worldwide Body of Christ embodies a "membership mind set," "a collective conscience," a way of "relating timeless biblical principles to contemporary society" (*MANUAL*, p. 44). The ability to relate this "Nazarene perspective" is critical to all denominational leaders.

Text:

MANUAL, pp.35-53 "General Rules & the Covenant of Christian Conduct (Special Rules)."

Smith, *Called Unto Holiness*, Vol. 1, Chapters 12-14, pp. 272-352.

Purkiser, *Called Unto Holiness*, Vol. 2, Chapters 7-9, pp.218-314.

Core Competency: District Superintendent presentation.

Core Competency Discussion: “The General Rules & the Covenant of Christian Conduct (Special Rules).”

Select one General Rule or Covenant of Christian Conduct (Special Rule) from the “Church Constitution” in the *MANUAL*. Relate your selection to a specific church situation or experience from a local church pastoral experience (past or current).

- a) What General Rule or Covenant of Christian Conduct (Special Rule) did you select and WHY?
- b) Explain in your own words the biblical or theological message of the General OR Special Rule you selected.
- c) Why do you think it is important for NAZARENES to believe and to follow this General OR Special Rule? Please avoid general responses like: “because its in the Manual!” or “because it goes along with being a member!” or (you get the picture and you can do better than that.) Imagine that you were teaching a Pastor’s Class or Welcome Class and a prospective member asked you about the General OR Special Rule you selected; what would you say?
- d) Relate your selection to a specific local church experience, past or current. Describe enough of the situation to illustrate how your selection speaks and gives direction to the situation. VERY IMPORTANT: what conclusions do you come to as a result of this exercise – be specific and practical?

Core Competency Discussion: “The *MANUAL*’s Function”

The purpose of this discussion will be to consider the true function of the *MANUAL*. That is, what is the *MANUAL* intended to do or be (ex. - a guide for Christian living); what is the *MANUAL* not intended to do or be (ex. - have divine status or be considered infallible)?

The small group is to construct a list of items (at least 10 – 12 with explanation, if needed) that answers each question above – “what is the *MANUAL* intended to do or be?” AND “what is the *MANUAL* not intended to do or be?” Feel free to use personal experiences, actual church situations, or statements from the *MANUAL* itself to support your points.

Discussion Topic: Local & District; Pastoral Duties – Manual Topic B

Core Competency #5 – The ability to identify the directives of the *Manual of the Church of the Nazarene* that pertain to the organization and ministry of the local church and to the responsibilities of the pastor at local and district levels.

Rationale - Our *MANUAL* provides the framework, practices, and procedures for handling most of the organization and operation of the local congregation. It also gives clear expression to our tasks and responsibilities of shepherding in the local church. Understanding these things will make us more effective leaders and lessen but certainly not remove the possibility of conflict.

TEXT:

Tracy and Ingersol, *What is a Nazarene*, pp. 1-79.

MANUAL, pp. 56-94 “Local Church”, pp. 95-127 “District Level”, pp. 164-204 “Ministry and Christian Service”, pp. 244-272 “Ritual Services”

Core Competency Questions: “Our Nazarene D.S.”

Rev. Ferguson will identify some of the most common “issues” that arise in working with local congregations. He will share what are his greatest challenges as a Nazarene D.S. and how the *MANUAL* gives specific guidance to him as a district superintendent in addressing all these issues.

Discussion Topic: General Level; Revision; Cultural Applications – Manual Topic C

Rationale - We are a “connectional” church. Our local congregations are by design and operation connected with an “international” denomination and a global church. To function effectively within this structure we must be familiar with the operations of the church on the General level as well as the variety

of cultural expressions within our larger church family. We must also be aware of the process by which the *MANUAL* can be revised and remain culturally and generational relevant.

Text:

Tracy and Ingersol, *What is a Nazarene*, pp. 82-160
MANUAL, pp. 128-157 “General Church;” pp. 158-162 “Higher Education”, pp. 274-320 “Auxiliary Constitutions”, pp. 328-336 “Church Officer,” pp. 344-353 “Current Moral and Social Issues”.

Core Competency Questions: Your reading of the *MANUAL* will undoubtedly raise questions for you about a number of subjects on church organization, leadership, and so forth.

Submit to the discussion three (3) questions resulting from your reading of the *MANUAL* especially as they relate to practical, everyday ministry. Be very specific both in terms of the *MANUAL* subject matter and the local church situations(s) it addresses. These should be questions that you don't confidently have the ability to answer or are based on material in the *MANUAL* new to you.

SECTION TWO: History

Discussion Topic: Our Nazarene Foundations – History Topic A

Core Competency #1 - The ability to identify the formative influences of the American Holiness Movement and of the Church of the Nazarene.

Rationale - by understanding the roots from which our spiritual family tree grew we better comprehend what made us who we are as a unique expression of the Body of Christ.

Reading:

MANUAL, pp. 14-24, Historical Statement.
Smith, *Called Unto Holiness*, Vol. 1, Chapters 1-3, pp. 11-73.
Smith, *Called Unto Holiness*, Vol. 1, Chapters 12-14, pp. 272-352.

Core Competency Questions: Small group discussion.

Question One: What do you hope to gain from this course that will expand your knowledge of the Church of the Nazarene and make you a more effective leader in the denomination where you serve His Kingdom?

Question Two: Based on your current experience and knowledge of the Church of the Nazarene, what are you most excited about for the future of our church? What are you most concerned about?

Discussion Topic: Our Nazarene Distinctives – History Topic B

Core Competency #2 - the ability to articulate the distinctive characteristics of the Church of the Nazarene as first formulated by our spiritual forefathers, as they have developed over the years, and as they now express themselves as we enter a new millennium.

Rationale - our culture grows increasingly diverse in religious belief and expressions of spiritual experience. A major trend of our times is syncretism; the selecting from many sources to form an individual set of beliefs. People come to our churches with a mixture of beliefs, no beliefs at all, or are biblically illiterate. Knowing our distinctives will provide a guide through a forest of ideas and systems of thought.

Reading:

MANUAL, pp. 26-34, Preamble; Articles of Faith.

Smith, *Called Unto Holiness*, Vol. 1, Chapters 4-7, pp.74-179.

Purkiser, *Called Unto Holiness*, Vol. 2, Chapters 1-3, pp.1-108.

Core Competency Questions: Small group discussion.

Select one of the five (5) Characteristics of the Early Nazarenes (Smith, Chapter 5) or one of the characteristics of Nazarene Self-Image in 1933 (Purkiser, Chapter 2).

- a) What social or theological elements contributed to the characteristic you selected?
- b) Why was it so important to the heartbeat of the early Nazarenes;
- c) In what ways has this characteristic been sustained or changed over the years, with an emphasis on current expression or lack of it.

Core Competency Debate:

Debate Theme: The doctrine and experience of entire sanctification has significantly ceased to be the distinguishing mark of the Church of the Nazarene – I agree OR I disagree.

Follow these steps:

- a) Find a partner and decide which side of the debate you will defend.
- b) Argue your point briefly, concisely, and by giving concrete examples to support your point.
- c) After each of you have presented your case, you will then respond to your counterpart. Please note that your grade will be based on your presentation of the side you have been assigned. You are to present that viewpoint, whether it is your actual feeling and viewpoint or not. Do NOT attack the other person. This is not to be taken in a personal way (if you do not personally agree with the point to which you have been assigned, you may make a statement about your true feelings and beliefs, you may do so at the end of the debate).

Discussion Topic: Our Mission – History Topic C

Core Competency #3 - The ability to identify and explain the mission purposes of the Church of the Nazarene particularly with regards to significant personalities, events, and developments from generation to generation.

Rationale - the Church of the Nazarene was born as a vital religious movement with a mission. The mission serves as a lighthouse for who we are; it provides an anchor for holding steady in turbulent times; and it is a compass for navigating through the uncertain waters of the future.

Text:

Smith, *Called Unto Holiness*, Vol. 1, Chapters 8-11, pp. 180-271.

Purkiser, *Called Unto Holiness*, Vol. 2, Chapters 4-6, pp. 109-217.

Core Competency Questions: Small group discussion.

View the video, *Ablaze with Love*, that details the history and contributions of women in ministry in the Church of the Nazarene.

- a. In what specific ways have women contributed to the “mission” of the Church of the Nazarene?
- b. What lessons or insights does this presentation have for us (our sense of mission) today and into this new millennium?

BIBLIOGRAPHY - NAZARENE BIBLE COLLEGE¹

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¹ NOTE: For additional resources consult the extensive notes in the back of the required textbooks: Smith, Timothy L., *Called Unto Holiness: A Story of the Nazarenes in the Formative Years*, Volume One, Kansas City, MO: Nazarene Publishing House, 1962. And the bibliography in the back of Purkiser, W. T. *Called Unto Holiness: The Story of the Nazarenes, the Second Twenty-Five Years, 1933-58*, Volume Two, Kansas City, MO: Nazarene Publishing House, 1983.

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READING REPORT/INSIGHTS

Students Name _____ Date _____

Book Title _____ Author _____

Percentage of Book Read _____%

Thesis: (One Paragraph)

Principle #1 Learned: (One Paragraph on how this will help you in ministry)

Principle #2 Learned: (One Paragraph on how this will help you in ministry)

Quotes: (Give 5 quotes with page number)