I. Course Objectives:

A. An expository and practical analysis of *The Epistle to the Philippians* for today

B. The development of a Christian mindset (*phronesis*) in light of the teachings of *The Epistle to the Philippians*

C. A better understanding of the Christian ministry in view of its struggles and joys

D. The development of a biblical ethic in the personal and social conduct of the ministry
II. Course Requirements:

A. Attendance and Punctuality

B. Participation in Assigned Study Group

C. Readings and Assignments (before course begins):

Required reading/texts

1. Read *The Epistle to the Philippians* no less than ten (10) times.


3. Read *The Cost of Discipleship* by Dietrich Bonhoeffer (See Bibliography for details of book).

4. Read *Beyond Cheap Grace* by Eldin Villafaña (See Bibliography for details of book)

5. Assignment due first day of class:

Prepare a brief reflection paper (3-5 pages), responding to the following:

   a. Identify and correlate the teachings of Bonhoeffer and Villafaña about the Crucified life and Paul’s teachings to the Phillipians.

   b. Why and How are these teachings of great importance for Christian leadership today?
D. Final Paper, five (5) pages, **due June 25, 2012.**

[Based on class lectures, course required readings, bibliographical resources, and your knowledge and experience]

Prepare a brief academic paper, or a sermon, or a bible study for your congregation on one of the following themes: *(Choose only one theme)*

1. The Characteristics of a Christian leader according to *Philippians*.


3. *The Epistle to the Philippians* is viewed as a "letter of friendship." What does it teach us about Christian friendship and the ministry?

4. *The Epistle to the Philippians* is viewed as a "letter of moral exhortation." What does it teach us about our moral life?

5. The Christian mindset according to *Philippians* and our contemporary ministry.
The Cross and Joy of Ministry: The Message of Philippians for Today

(Course Outline)

I. Introduction to Course:
   A. "Knowing Each Other"

   B. Course Objectives and Requirements (Syllabus)

II. The Epistle to the Philippians
   A. Introduction to the Epistle

   B. The Christian Mindset (*Phronesis*)

   C. Authentic Joy: Group and plenary exercises

   D. The Cross: Cruciformity and the Philippian Paradigm

   E. Marks of Authentic Community (*Koinonia*)

III. *The Epistle to the Philippians*: Biblical Reflections (Study Group)
BIBLIOGRAPHY (Selective)


Bruce, F.F. *Philippians* (New International Bible Commentary; Peabody, MA., 1989)


Hawthorne, Gerald F. *Philippians* (Word Biblical Commentary; Waco, TX., 1983)

Martin, Ralph P. *Philippians* (New Century Bible Commentary; Grand Rapids, MI., 1980)

Motyer,J.A. *The Message of Philippians* (Bible Speaks Today; Downers Grove, IL., 1984)


