

APPL/MARK 552: Leadership for the Church in the Secular Age (DE)

Dr. Gordon T. Smith

Winter 2023

Distance Education: Pre-Recorded Audio Lectures

2 or 3 graduate credit hours; or 2 audit hour

COURSE DESCRIPTION

What does it mean to be a Christian—and the church—in our secular age? More specifically, what does it look like to provide leadership for a church that responds with Christian integrity and missional effectiveness to our current social, cultural and political contexts? Examine a diverse range of historical sources providing unique insight into the meaning of secularization and the needs of church leaders in “such a time as this.” Delve into the insights of Augustine and the early church, the Judean exiles, the church in secularized Europe, and historic minority churches. Adopt an inter-disciplinary approach, taking into account philosophical, sociological, and historical perspectives. Leave with a better sense of the specific competencies and spiritual dispositions required to lead the church in a secular age.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Upon the successful completion of this course, students should be able:

1. To have a working understanding of secularism – what it means with implications for the life and mission of the church.
2. To know where to find wisdom to respond effectively to secularization.
3. To have a basic understanding of the ministerial competencies and capacities that are needed to provide effective leadership for the church in a secular age.
4. To recognize what spiritual dispositions are essential for a Christian and for the church to thrive in a secular society and what practices will sustain those dispositions.

SPECIAL NOTES

Students should refer to the DE handbook (available on the DE [website](#)) for more information that will help with the successful completion of this course.

ESTIMATED TIME INVESTMENT

	2 credits	3 credits
Class Time (Audio Lectures)	18 hrs	18 hrs
Reading	30 hrs	30 hrs
Annotations	10 hrs	10 hrs
Online Discussion	12 hrs	12 hrs
Reflective Essay	20 hrs	42 hrs
Total	90 hours	135 hours

Please note: the amount of time taken by students will vary. This information is intended to be used as an approximation for planning purposes.

REQUIRED TEXTS

James K.A. Smith. How (not) to be Secular: Reading Charles Taylor (Eerdmans, 2014). ISBN: 9780802867612. [Available via Regent’s Allison Library [here](#).]

Please Note: This Course Information Sheet is meant to assist in selecting courses. The official syllabus should be consulted for more detailed information. A full syllabus with drop deadlines, policies, and course assignment details is available on Moodle for registered students:

moodle.regent-college.edu/login

