Wartburg College Educational Policies Committee
REQUEST FOR NEW COURSES/COURSE CHANGES

SIGNATURE PAGE

Type of Request (Check one)

___x__ **New course** including new special topics (NOTE: attach a course syllabus and statement of rationale. If this is an essential education course, please describe how it will meet the goals of essential education. Syllabus should contain the description, objectives, and requirements of the course, including the factors used to determine the final grade.)

_____ **Change in Existing Course** including course deletions (Complete items on both the right and the left hand columns)

_____ **Program Change**

Course Identification (Prefix/Number)
Special Topics RE 195

Course Title (35 character limit)
Introduction to Digital Ministry

Recommendation

Rev. Brian Beckstrom	4/3/15		
Submitted By	Date		
Department Chair	X Yes	No	4/10/15 Date
Writing Across the Curriculum Coor.	Yes	No	Date
IS 201/DAC Coordinator	Yes	No	Date
Global Multicultural Committee	Yes	No	Date
General Education Committee	Yes	No	Date

Approval

EPC Chair	Yes	No	Date
Dean of the Faculty	Yes	No	Date

____ EPC recommends this request be reviewed by Faculty Council for Resource Implications

EPC # 2 Page _____ Gen Ed # 3 Page_____

For Existing Courses **Please complete this column with current information AND enter changes in the right hand column.**	For New Course Information or Changes to existing courses **Please complete this column**
Course Identification (Prefix/Number)	**Course Identification** (Prefix/Number) **RE 171**
Course Title	**Course Title** (35 character limit) **Introduction to Digital Ministry**
Abbreviated Title	**Abbreviated Title** (15 character limit)
Course Description	**Course Description** (35 word limit) Digital ministry (audio, video, web) represents a new frontier for Christian ministry. Discover how technology has influenced the church historically, the role it plays now, and it's potential for helping us to re-imagine church.
Course Credit	**Course Credit** **1.0**
Classroom Hours per term for lab or studio class	**Classroom Hours per term for lab or studio class**
Prerequisite/corequisite requirements	**Prerequisite/corequisite requirements** IS 101 (can be taken concurrently)
Enrollment Cap	**Enrollment Cap** 30
Terms Offered and rotation	**Terms Offered and rotation** Spring term, yearly
Grading (A-F or P-D-F)	**Grading (A-F or P-D-F)** A-F
Wartburg Plan	**Wartburg Plan** **__x__Yes _____ No** **Identify which part of the plan:** IC Humanities/Fine Arts
Cultural Immersion Course	**Cultural Immersion Course** **_____Yes ___x__ No**
Program Status (Major requirement, minor requirements, program elective, degree elective)	**Program Status** _____Major requirement_____ _____Minor requirement_____ __x__Major elective _____ __x__Minor elective_____ _____General elective _____
	Effective Dates (Term/Year) Spring 2015

1. Reason for Requested Change:

500 years ago Martin Luther translated the Bible into the common language of the people at the Wartburg Castle. This was a remarkable accomplishment, but it was Luther's embrace of a new technology, moveable type printing, that turned his achievement into a reformation.

At the beginning of the 21st Century the Church finds itself in need of reformation once again. Fresh theological ideas need to be communicated in the language of the people, digitally. Digital technology (audio, video, web) has the potential to drive the Church's innovation in the same way that the printing press did in Luther's time.

Wartburg College has the existing resources to train ministry professionals for this new future. We have strong programs in Journalism and Communication Arts as well as Religion. In order to properly train students in digital ministry we need a course like this one that directs their studies theoretically, theologically, and technically.

Based on our research and conversation with Church leaders we believe there is a pressing need for digital ministry professionals. But currently there are few options for academic study, particularly for undergraduates. Wartburg has an opportunity to establish itself as the preeminent institution for digital ministry education.

Although some students who take Digital Ministry may go on to Seminary, we are noticing an increasing trend among our Religion and DJC graduates to go directly into digital ministry in either church or faith based non profits. These alums have indicated that a course in digital ministry would have helped prepare them for their current roles. In addition we have many current students with an interest in digital ministry and believe that the opportunity to study digital ministry would be an enticement for recruiting new students.

Wartburg has a legacy of innovative ministry, launched by Luther at the Wartburg Castle, and embodied in the daring legacies of Löhe and Grossmann. This course represents an opportunity to carry this legacy into the future.

2. In an effort to keep the curriculum as lean and effective as possible, EPC requests that with each new course departments evaluate current offerings. If proposing a new course, what course(s) could be deleted?

3. Resource Implications: IF THIS IS A NEW COURSE, you must provide a list of teaching assignments in the department to demonstrate that no adjunct faculty are required to teach this course. You may also submit a request to delete a course. New courses will not be considered without a clear understanding of faculty resources necessary to offer the course.

Special Topics/Religion - Introduction to Digital Ministry
Sample Syllabus

<Instructor Information>
<Class Room and Times>

Prerequisites

None.

Course Description

The rapid change of technology creates both potential and uncertainty, advancing at a steady rate, disrupting and shaping our cultural realities. This class is designed to illuminate God's role in technological change, and our calling to claim these tools for use in ministry. During this course you will discover the function technology has played throughout church history, the role it plays now, and it's potential for helping us to re-imagine a new and future church. RE 171 is a Full Credit Class.

Learning Outcomes

- Leadership – That you understand the emerging vocational possibilities inherent in Digital Ministry, discerning your role therein.
- Service – That you grasp the potential for digital ministry to transform the world, including the ways in which it can be used to promote social justice and injustice.
- Faith – That you will be able to discern where God is at work through technology, and use that knowledge to imagine the future of the church..
- Learning – That you know the ways in which ministry has been conducted through technology throughout the history of the church and in the present digital age.

Resources

- Cottin and Bazin (2004) *Virtual Christianity: Potential and Challenge for the Churches*, World Council of Churches.
- Shiky, Clay (2009) *Here Comes Everybody: The Power of Organizing Without Organization*, Penguin Books.
- Additional readings and videos will be provided through MyWartburg.

Learning and Assessment Exercises

You'll be expected to do 2 hours of work outside of class for every 1 hour spent in class.

Reading and Viewing Homework

Every week you will have at least one reading or viewing assignment. Readings will come from the course books or will be available on MyWartburg. Videos will be readily available online, links to which can be found on MyWartburg. Comprehension of the materials will be based on a mandatory online discussion. Each week the instructor will post a question related to the reading in which students will be expected to critically respond to.

Projects

This class has 7 seven projects, 5 individual and then 2 group projects. The final 4 projects will build upon each other. Groups will be assigned by the instructor based on the interests you exhibit in the first 5 projects.

- **Digital Minister/Ministry Profile**. Write a blog post about a digital minister that appeals to you. Take advantage of the blog medium to share information in a multimedia format.
- **Technology Profile**. Pick a technology that you believe was pivotal in the history of Judeo Christianity. Describe the effect it had on both culture and the church, how it was effectively used for ministry, and who took the most advantage of it. Pen your discoveries in a blog post in a multimedia format.
- **Internet Culture Profile**. Create a Vlog, a video response to a recent popular internet phenomena. Discuss why it's important, what effect it's having on culture, its origins and anything it can teach us about the future of the church and/or ministry.
- **Digital Ministry Concept**. Come up with an idea for an innovative ministry that appeals to you. Identify its target audience, mission statement, and the values/beliefs that differentiate it from other ministries. Then create a logo, font, and color scheme for the ministry. Use whatever medium you feel most comfortable with to produce the visual elements.
- **Theology Pitch Deck**. Create a Five Slide Power Point. The first slide will contain an iteration of your visual from project 4. The next three slides will contain three different ways that people will be able to digitally relate to God through your ministry. The final slide should contain a closing argument as to why your ministry idea is important. You should have a page of notes which each slide to be certain that you've thought through your ideas. Be prepared to pitch to the class in three minutes with 2 minutes of questions.
- **Ministry Website**. Each group will have an Entrepreneur, a Designer, and a Marketer. The entrepreneurs will be those that had the most positive feedback from their Pitch Day presentation. Using the idea that the entrepreneur pitched, the group will build a website using the Aboundant platform. That site must contain examples of most of the digital ministry tools discussed in the class.
- **Ministry Kickstarter**. Sticking with your assigned group, determine something you want to advocate for IRL (in real life) that is related to your ministry idea from you site presentation. Create a fund-raising, awareness-raising, or petition related to that ministry idea. Market your campaign online and see how much support you can get.

Exams

There will be one mid-term and one final exam. These will be multiple choice, take home exams that allow use of the internet. They will not only test retention, but how good you are at finding resources online. Expect your critical thinking skills to be tested as you will be charged with choosing the "best available" option(s).

Expectations

Attendance and Participation:

You are expected to be present and participate in all meetings and activities of this class. These activities are designed to help you learn and your participation is crucial both to your own education and to that of your classmates. If you must miss class (illness, other school responsibility) you are expected to contact the instructor ***beforehand*** to arrange to make up any lessons.

Respect and Professionalism:

Act in a professional manner and show respect for yourself, your classmates, and your instructor by:

- Refraining from behavior that is disruptive, distracting, or otherwise hinders the learning of others.
- Interacting with others in a manner you would expect to see in a professional environment.
- Listening to other's opinions and responding in civil debate with constructive criticism when you disagree.
- Taking responsibility for your own learning and that of your peers.
- Being timely in your attendance, assignments, and participation.

Wartburg Honor Code: http://www.wartburg.edu/academics/honorcode.html

As a matter of personal commitment, students, faculty, and staff of Wartburg College are expected to demonstrate three simple principles:

- All work submitted be your own.
- When using the work or ideas of others, including fellow students, give full credit through accurate citations.
- Maintain academic honesty both on examinations and class assignments.
- If you are uncertain about the ground rules on a particular assignment, ask for clarification.

All are responsible for abiding by these guidelines and opposing academic dishonesty by reporting any act that goes against these guidelines.

Grading

		The standard grading scale is:			
Projects	50 %	A	93 – 100%	C	73 – 76.9%
Exams	20 %	A-	90 – 92.9%	C-	70 – 72.9%
Homework	20 %	B+	87 – 89.9%	D+	67 – 69.9%
Participation	10 %	B	83 – 86.9%	D	63 – 66.9%
		B-	80 – 82.9%	D-	60 – 62.9%
		C+	77 – 79.9%	F	< 60%

Students Needing Special Accommodations

Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, and the ADA Amendment Act of 2008 provides protection from illegal discrimination for qualified individuals with disabilities. Students requesting academic accommodations due to disabilities must arrange for such accommodations by contacting Kelly Beck, Pathways Academic Success Associate. She can be reached at the Pathways Office, (319) 352-8230 or by e-mail kelly.beck@wartburg.edu. Accommodations should be requested PRIOR to affected assignment due dates. Accommodations cannot be made retroactively.

Course Schedule

Session 1 – Introduction to Digital Ministry

Unit 1 – Vocation in Digital Ministry
Session 2 – The Digital Ministry Calling
Session 3 – Communicators and Disciplers
Session 4 – Creators, Producers, and Entrepreneurs

Unit 2 – Technology in Ministry throughout History
Session 5 – Alphabet and Parchment in the Hebrew Tradition
Session 6 – Roads and Boats in the Roman Age
Session 7 – Art and Iconography in the Medieval Period
Session 8 – Printing Press and the Reformation
Session 9 – Manifest Destiny and the Holiness Movement
Session 10 – Radio and Television and the Rise of Fundamentalism
Session 11 – Early Internet in the Post Modern Age

Unit 3 – Digital Culture that Informs Christian Ministry
Session 12 – The Anthropology of YouTube
Session 13 – Here Comes Everybody
Session 14 – The Art of the Startup
Session 15 – The Arab Spring
Session 16 - @Midnight

Unit 4 – Christian Symbology and Iconography
Session 17 – Christian Iconography
Session 18 – Religious Symbolism
Session 19 – Branding Religion
Session 20 – Modern Symbols

Unit 5 – Online Theology

Session 21 – Virtuality: Augmented Reality and the Virtual Nature of God
Session 22 – Hypertextuality: The Workings of the Spirit in an Infinitely Contextual World
Session 23 – Bricolage: Constructing the Image of God, One Profile at a Time
Session 24 – Simuality: Grace in the Context of Anonymity

Session 25 – Pitch Day

Unit 6 – Using Digital Tools For Ministry

Session 26 – Print Media
Session 27 – Audio: Soundboards and Podcasts
Session 28 – Video: Projecting, Recording and Streaming
Session 29 – Computer Hardware and Software
Session 30 – Email
Session 31 – Social Media: Facebook
Session 32 – Social Media: Twitter, Pinterest, and More
Session 33 – Website Ministry
Session 34 – Site Presentations

Unit 7 – Digital Ministry for Mission and Justice

Session 35 – Kickstarting your Ministry or Cause
Session 36 – Net Neutrality and Online Advocacy Tools
Session 37 – Internet Access as Human Right
Session 38 – ICT4D (Internet Communications Technology for the Developing World)

Session 39 – Outfly Day