

✓ Enrollment Packet

Master of Ministry

Master Builder Christian International University has been incorporated in Gainesville, Florida, in 2023.

It is a ministry created by Master Builder Ministries, Inc. for the purpose of assisting the church in its theological education enterprise.

The local church must be central to the theological enterprise. That does not mean that we have to do away with the concept of theologians or of theological centers of some type. All it means is that the establishing, shepherding, and multiplying of churches must be the central focus of the enterprise. It must be missiologically driven – keeping the Great Commission foremost. It also means that those involved in the training process must be fully engaged in the establishing, shepherding, and multiplying of local churches. Especially in the last 200 years, the theological enterprise has been institutionalized and professionalized. In reality, though, ever since a few decades after the death of the Apostles, the theological enterprise has been rooted in the academy and has not been centrally rooted in the churches. We seek to align our ministries to a more biblical model.

Defense for the Centrality of the Local Church in the Theological Enterprise:

It is Biblical. The local church is described by Paul in his letter to Timothy as “the pillar and support of the truth” (1 Timothy 3:14-16). Paul’s call to perpetually train faithful men in the deposit (sound doctrine) was rooted in the context of ministry by and for local churches (2 Timothy 2:2).

Separating the academy from the local church changes the nature of doing theology itself, creating an academic orientation, which eventually leads to some form of professionalization of the ministry. Once academics, or knowledge, becomes the barometer of spiritual leadership, arrogance sets in, and those fully trained ironically separate themselves in some way from the life of the churches, taking on the role of professionals. When theology is removed from the local churches, the issues facing the churches themselves no longer drive the theological questions; therefore, theology becomes irrelevant to the churches. The people (laity) of the churches remain uneducated, essentially babes in the faith, unable to handle meat, unable to think critically.

The local church has not been central to the theological enterprise since a few decades after the apostles, and yet it appears to be crucial that it assumes its rightful place as we enter into the global village of the postmodern era. The birth pangs of change toward church-based theology can be seen in the Theology by Extension movement, which fell very short, since in most cases it merely housed the academic model within the four walls of the churches. The institution model is not getting the job of leadership training done – churches all over the world suffer from a desperate lack of leaders.

Master Builder Christian International University is being formed to be part of the answer to this problem. For more information contact:

Master Builder Christian International University (Affiliate Office)

54 Bedard Street
Fall River, MA 02723
(508) 730-1735

Welcome!

It is my privilege to introduce to you Master Builder Christian International University, the result of more than a 27-year journey.

In 1995, we began to construct a process within our newly formed local church to facilitate the development of leaders. This began with a Pre-K through 12th grade Christian School – East Gate Christian Academy and the formation of a church ministry called Master Builder Ministries. The vision from the start was to train future leaders in Christian character, Biblical Worldview, and servant leadership.

We also developed a process to train leaders locally and in 2004 began to be involved in the training of leaders on an international level. First, in Ukraine in 2004, then expanding to many other countries including Belarus, Kenya, Ghana, Zimbabwe, and South Africa. In 2010, we planted a Brazilian church, which over time has opened the door to the training of leaders nationally and internationally. In 2017, we embarked on a joint program with Vision Christian University, J.W. College and MBILD to train international pastors and leaders in a Master of Theological Degree. With the completion of that program, interest has increased in the development of a continued training program.

After prayerful consideration, we have incorporated a new University to facilitate the vision to see well-established church-planting movements and community shapers by training in character skills and knowledge a network of leaders, from neighborhoods to nations, in the way of Christ and the apostles. Our mission is to support church-based theological education by providing academic degree programs, to train a network of leaders to further discipline others from neighborhoods to nations.

Our hope is that we are establishing the foundational groundwork for extending the Kingdom of God by giving leaders the tools needed to be able to commit to other faithful men and women what they have received.

In this exciting time in church history, our prayer is that God will use MBCIU to make a significant impact in raising present and future leaders to the glory of God and for the extension of His kingdom throughout the earth!



Ronald L. Bernier, President

Vision: Our vision is to see well-established church-planting movements and community shapers by training in character, skills, and knowledge a network of leaders, from neighborhoods to nations, in the way of Christ and His apostles.

Mission: Our mission is to support church-based theological education by providing academic degree programs, to train a network of leaders to further disciple others from neighborhoods to nations.

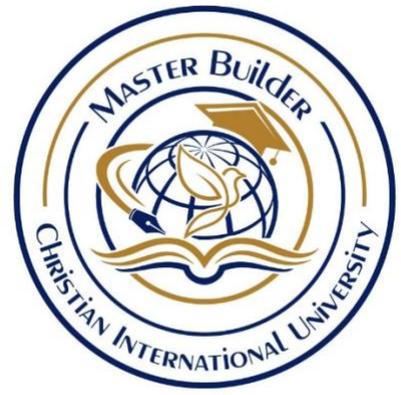
1 Corinthians 3:10–11 (NKJV) According to the grace of God which was given to me, as a wise master builder I have laid the foundation, and another builds on it. But let each one take heed how he builds on it. ¹¹ For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.

Matthew 7:24–25 (NKJV) (see also Luke 6:47–49) “Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock: ²⁵ and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock.

2 Timothy 2:2 (NKJV) And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.

Philosophy: MBCIU maintains high standards of achievement represented by academic credentials, but it is a different approach to ministry training. It is not just another nontraditional version of formal education. The central context of student development is the work of the Holy Spirit in local churches, church networks, and church-planting movements. Learning occurs in-service and in the context of genuine communities of faith with wise leaders. We affirm the following as foundational to our philosophy of education:

- The center of God’s purpose for this age resides in the Church (Ephesians 3:2-11).
- Building God’s Church and His Kingdom became Christ’s purpose and multiplication of churches as His strategy (Matthew 16:13-19).
- The Apostles delivered the truth, and the world should see evidence of this truth in all churches (2 Timothy 1:13-15; Jude 3).
- The perpetual command to take the gospel to the world continues undiminished (Matthew 28:19-20; Luke 24:44-49; Acts 1:8; 1 Timothy 3:14-15).
- Character, skills, and academics taught in apprenticeship-type training yield the deepest-lasting impact (Titus 1:5-9; 1 Timothy 1:18-19).
- Urban centers act as the key to evangelizing the world (as seen throughout the New Testament).
- The church-planting method modeled by the Apostle Paul remains valid today (Acts 13:1-14:28).



2024

Dear Prospective Student,

We are glad that you have inquired into a unique opportunity of enrolling in the Master of Ministry degree program that is being offered through MBCIU.

This Master of Ministry degree program is being offered in both English and Portuguese.

Our hope is to have classes offered on campus as well as through an extension network. The program designed to have a seminar weekend every 4 to 8 weeks to be able to complete the entire program within a 2 to 2 ½ - year period.

The financial cost of the Master of Ministry Program is as follows:

Registration Fee: \$100.00 (to be submitted with application)	
Tuition Fee: \$125/Credit Hour (36 credits)=	\$4,500.00
<u>Graduation Fee:</u>	<u>\$ 200.00</u>

TOTAL: \$4,800.00

The total tuition and Fees will be payable through a schedule of payments for 30 months.
For example: \$4,800.00 / 30 months = \$160/month

We invite you to communicate with us if you or your church leaders are interested in getting further information, or enrolling in the program.

Sincerely,

Ronald L. Bernier, President

MBCIU Master Builder Christian International University

54 Bedard Street, Fall River, MA 02723

(508)730-1735 rlbernier@mbministries.org

Master Builder Christian International University Degrees:

Degree	Description	Objective
Certificate	Certificate of Ministry	The Certificate of Ministry program is designed to provide basic training in biblical, theological, and ministerial competencies. The certificate is a fast-track option to gain foundational knowledge and skills to develop or enhance Christian ministry and service. The Certificate is designed for the student to demonstrate competencies associated with becoming a ministry leader.
Associate	Associate of Ministry	The Associate of Ministry provides the basic educational background and training in biblical studies, theology, and Christian ministry. After successfully completing this curriculum, students will be able to serve in a variety of capacities in Christian ministry.
Diploma	Diploma of Ministry	The Diploma in Ministry provides basic and practical training in biblical studies, theology, and church ministry. After successfully completing this curriculum, the student will be able to function successfully in a church ministry context.
Bachelor	Bachelor of Ministry	The Bachelor of Ministry is designed to provide the educational background needed by those preparing for pastoral or preaching ministry. A “typical” undergraduate degree serves the foundation for scholarly pursuits and other advance degrees.
Master	Master of Ministry	The Master of Ministry degree program represents a distinct configuration of courses that enables a student to align his or her academic study closely with personal ministry goals and interests to achieve specific objectives. The Master of Ministry degree is granted for advanced competencies shown through significant church-based theological education and practical ministry programs.
Doctor	Doctor of Ministry	The Doctor of Ministry degree program is designed to enhance the expertise of students who are in full-time Christian service and prepare them academically, spiritually, and professionally to serve. Special attention is given to prepare students to research, teach, and proclaim the uniqueness of the Christian faith. The degree program is to enhance understanding while making a substantial contribution in theology and ministry in today’s culture

Master of Ministry

36 Semester Credit Hours in addition to Bachelor of Ministry

The Master of Ministry (M. Min) is granted for demonstration of advanced competencies associated with doing ministry according to the Way of Christ and His Apostles, particularly through critical interaction with the contributions of scholars and substantial implementation in, reflection on, and/or preparation for actual ministry experience.

Specific program objectives of the Master of Ministry:

- Master Scriptures relevant to church and leadership development, particularly through study of the biblical theology of Acts and the Pauline Epistles.
- Reflect on contributions of leading scholars regarding church and leadership development.
- Address pertinent issues related to church and leadership development and analyze Scripture and other contributions related to those issues.
- Formulate conclusions and personal applications regarding those issues.
- Obtain advanced mastery through substantial implementation in, reflection on, and/or preparation for real ministry situations.

The Master of Ministry degree program is offered by distance education to existing and emerging leaders rooted in local churches, church networks, and other ministry organizations in order to help them be trained and recognized as part of a ministry leadership team that is one-minded in ministry, vision, and philosophy. Out of this team would come those who commit themselves long term to local church leadership or those who desire to train to be part of a missionary team involved in planting or establishing churches in other areas.

Master of Ministry

The program focuses on historical, systemic, and biblical theology. The program consists of 12 courses of 3 semester credit hours each, for a total of 36 credit hours.

Leadership Studies

CE 501 Church Administration and Leadership for the Church (3 Credit Hours)

A course designed to develop leadership potential in students and to give them a familiarity with the various elements of the administrative process, including: goal setting and achieving, organization, delegation, human relations, group dynamics, supervision, and the training of other leaders. Though the principles are universal, the focus of the course is the local church.

Examples in the lives of Moses, Nehemiah, Jesus and Paul and others will be studied in relation to leadership qualities, challenges and competencies and development. Biblical texts will also be studied in relation to standards for leadership, how spiritual gifts align with how one leads, and how Biblical leadership differs from other styles of leadership.

Church History

CH 505 Survey of Church History (3 Credit Hours)

Church History is the heart of His story, God's kingdom work on earth. This course explores the development of the Christian church from Pentecost to the present day. It covers key people and events that God used throughout history to bolster His church and also those negative influences that infected her. The goal of the course is to use lessons from church history to advance the kingdom of God in life and ministry.

CH 510 History of the Charismatic Movements (3 Credit Hours)

Charismatic theology is more than just a theology of spiritual gifts; worship, Bibliology, sanctification, and ecclesiology are also central. Learners will complete an historical and theological study of the origins and developments of Classical Pentecostalism, Charismatic Renewalism, and Restoration Movements, with emphasis given to theological backgrounds and trends. Lectures also analyze other related movements, including the "Jesus Only" Movement, the Vineyard Movement, and the Toronto Revival Movement. Throughout the course, the pros and cons of the various charismatic movements are presented so that students can make informed decisions on what a "victorious Christian life" entails.

Ministry Studies

MT 504 Evangelism and the Local Church (3 Credit Hours)

This course is unique in several ways. It is a training tool to equip Christian leaders to train other Christians for evangelistic outreach. This material also challenges and inspires leaders to personally reach their fullest potential. We will study how to bring family and friends into a relationship with Jesus in a relaxed, relational way. An emphasis is placed on learning to rely on the Holy Spirit for direction and empowerment in the evangelism process, while allowing Christians to discover their individual gifts.

This training assumes the initial setting for most evangelism takes place outside of a church environment in the typical places where non-Christians live, work, and socialize.

The object of this course is to help ministry leaders equip Christians for more effective relational evangelism by utilizing a three-dimensional approach to share the gospel:

- **WORD:** Participants will learn how to share a simple Gospel message.
- **POWER:** Participants will learn how to rely on the Holy Spirit for direction and empowerment.
- **LIFESTYLE:** Participants will learn how to live a lifestyle that draws people to Christ.

New Testament

NT 502 The Pastoral Epistles (3 Credit Hours)

The overall objective of this course is to bring leadership back to the center of the local church in a way that will empower churches to participate in the expansion of the Gospel with the same vision and effectiveness as the first church at Antioch. Specifically, this means that each person studying the course will do the following:

- Develop a basic understanding of leadership in the early Church with all of its complexities, focusing specifically on the work of ministers of the Gospel and that of elders and deacons and how their work is complementary in nature.
- Rediscover the Antioch tradition of the Early Church, which lasted over five centuries, and design a model for how to build this tradition back into our churches, as we seek to have similar impact globally for the expansion of the Gospel in the 21st century.
- Design an effective multi-level leadership development strategy for our churches, which is truly built upon the foundation of the New Testament, and which will carry the Antioch vision of turning the world upside down.

NT 504 The Gospels/Life of Christ (3 Credit Hours)

This course is designed to situate the Gospels in their historical context as well as in their canonical context – how they fit into and with the other writings of the New Testament, as delivered to the churches. This is critical because their historical and canonical context has been almost completely lost in Western theology and traditions, and their intention has been almost completely ignored by massive, modern-day, Western parachurch discipleship organizations. Specifically, the student studying this course would:

- Develop an understanding of when the Gospels were written and how they fit into both the historical and canonical context, and why that is important.
- Determine the intent of each Gospel writer in relation to how they each sought to solidify their kerygmatic communities.
- Develop a conviction for discipleship of how the Gospels should be studied by our church communities in light of how they were initially unfolded to the early church.
- Design a discipleship training model incorporating the leading ideas and new understanding developed through this course.

NT 508 New Testament Survey: The Epistles and Revelation (3 Credit Hours)

The overall objective of this course is to determine the fundamental biblical principles for growing and strengthening (establishing) a church to maturity and developing a strategy for implementing the biblical forms and functions of a church necessary for making and keeping it strong. Specifically, this means that each person studying the course would:

- Develop a biblical understanding of Paul's concept of establishing local churches, while discerning the difference between what Paul understood to be normative for all churches in every culture and generation and what he intended to be merely cultural for his time and situation.
- Develop a biblical understanding of how the church fits into the overall plan and eternal purposes of God.
- Develop a biblical understanding of the philosophy of what is to drive the ministry of the church and the guidelines (i.e. "house order") by which each local church is to abide.
- Bring all of this biblical understanding together into a contemporary model for establishing local churches in the twenty-first century, including general procedures consistent with Paul's establishing model and normative "house order instructions."

Old Testament

OT 505 The Book of Psalms (3 Credit Hours)

The overall objective of this course is to develop the ability to preach and teach with the five sermonic forms of the Early Church: evangelic, catechetical, expository, prophetic, and festal. These forms will be examined in light of the paradigm of the Early Church meeting, which was far more participatory than our single preacher-event approach that has dominated Western protestant churches ever since the Reformation. Specifically, this means that each person studying the course would:

- Develop a basic understanding of the teaching forms of the Early Church: evangelistic, catechetical, expository, prophetic, and festal, and the importance of each of the forms for the contemporary expansion and establishing of churches worldwide. Special attention will be given to the importance of the reading of Scripture and to a fresh understanding of Paul's idea of rhetoric.
- Gain a comprehensive understanding of the five preaching forms of the Early Church and a basic approach to preparing sermons around the five forms, with special attention given to the methods needed to employ the five forms in contemporary preaching and teaching.
- Introduce the student to the importance of psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs, to the integration of these forms into the life of the church in appropriate cultural forms of worship, designed to enhance the effectiveness and application of these forms to the everyday life of the believers in these churches.
- Guide the student into the intention of both the preaching forms and worship in the Lord's Supper, giving shape to the church gathering as delivered by the Apostles and as observed by almost all churches of the first 300 years of the Early Church.
- Integrate culturally appropriate forms of both preaching/teaching and worship into a contemporary meeting of the churches in a culture, with a view to create "civilization" expression of music, drama, and the arts.

OT 509 The Christian & Old Testament Theology (3 Credit Hours)

Imagine listening to the conversation that Jesus had with two of His disciples on the road to Emmaus just after the resurrection. What did He say to them? Why is it key that all Christians listen to that conversation? Jesus opened the minds of His disciples to the truth about His death and resurrection. Beginning with Moses and all the prophets, He interpreted to them the things about Himself in all the Scriptures. In another conversation with His disciples before His resurrection, Jesus said how everything He had taught them about Himself that was in the Law of Moses, the Prophets, and the Psalms needed to be fulfilled. In other words, He opened their minds to understand the Old Testament Scriptures.

In this study, we are going to walk along with Jesus. You will enter into the same conversation. You will know what Jesus told these disciples that opened their entire understanding of the

Scriptures. You will discover the key to understanding the Scriptures, as explained by Jesus Himself.

What will this do for you? You will understand the Story of the Bible – the entire plan of God for the world. Not only will you understand the plan itself and how it explains all of history and even man’s purpose, but it will lead you to an understanding of how your life fits into that plan.

How do we know the Story as told and unfolded is accurate? We follow a very simple process that follows the process of Jesus and His disciples. We start on the road to Emmaus, where Jesus set the storyline, walking His disciples through the Scriptures – the Law, the Prophets, and the Writings. We recreate the Story by how the Apostles told and defended it, beginning with Peter’s five sermons in Acts. From their use of the Scriptures, we recreate the key passages they used again and again to tell the Story.

We invite you to join us, with Jesus, on the road to Emmaus. We invite you into a process that will open your mind to understand the Scriptures, to understanding God’s plan for building His Church and His kingdom, to understanding the meaning and purpose of your life, and to laying foundations for being a true, lifelong follower of Jesus.

We will examine the following areas:

- The Storyline
- Understanding the Scriptures
- The Overall Plan
- The Nation of Israel
- The Davidic Covenant
- The Kingdom Arrives
- The Kingdom Launched
- The Church as Christ’s Grand Strategy
- The Kingdom Fully Realized

Philosophical & Systematic Theology

PT 501 Christian Ethics (3 Credit Hours)

The overall objective of this course is to understand the biblical idea of qualified leadership and to determine the fundamental biblical guidelines for character formation in leaders and in the household of God. Specifically, this means that each person studying this course would:

- Develop a conviction as to the reason for and the benefit of mature character as motivation for pursuing these character qualities personally, as a family, and as a church.
- Gain a clear understanding into the character qualities required of mature leaders and of mature men and women within the church and how these qualities relate to the roles and functions of men and women within the church.

- Perform personal evaluations and design plans for developing and/or strengthening character qualities, which would enhance overall growth and character development.
- Be able to help other leaders and/or members of the church design a plan for long-term spiritual growth and character development, as they pursue their responsibilities within the church community.

PT 504 Christian Worldview (3 Credit Hours)

The overall objective of this course is to build a contemporary *didache* – an early church manual to establish believers in the essentials of the apostles’ teaching. This contemporary *didache* must be founded solidly upon the faith delivered by the apostles; seasoned by the historical effort of the church; and be eminently relevant to our present cultural situations. Specifically, this means that each person studying the course would do the following:

- Gain an understanding of the preaching (kerygma) and the teaching (*didache*) of the apostles – the core doctrines – and their importance to the churches of every generation, summarizing the doctrines in statement form, which will be used as a foundation for all contemporary theological formulations.
- Write a modern kerygma/*didache* type doctrinal statement that can be used by churches as a guide for establishing believers in their faith, for doing theology as a community of believers, and for aiding all believers in beginning their own practical theology for everyday life.
- Gain an appreciation for the historical effort of the church as it has sought, through the centuries to provide the church of its generation with a relevant understanding and defense of the faith delivered by the apostles.
- Lay out a strategy for establishing everyone in a local church in both the Gospel (kerygma) and the essential teaching of the Apostles (the *didache*), as well as understand how a “First Principles” curriculum can grow out of the *didache*.

World Missions

WM 501 Introduction to World Missions (3 Credit Hours)

The overall objective of this course is to determine the fundamental biblical principles regarding the mission of the Church and its role in missions, developing guidelines and strategies from these principles for a local church’s involvement. Specifically, this means that each person studying the course would do the following:

- Develop a basic understanding of biblical keys to the establishment and expansion of the first-century Church and how to use these keys in the establishment and expansion of the global Church.

- Design a model to use as a guide in planting and establishing churches today from the core elements of Paul's strategy used on his missionary journeys.
 - Determine a biblical definition for missionary and missionary work.
 - Develop convictions on the role of the local church in missions today and design a model for how a local church could be central and vitally involved in missions while networking with other churches and missions agencies. 3 Credit Hours. *Prerequisite: None*
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Financial Agreement:

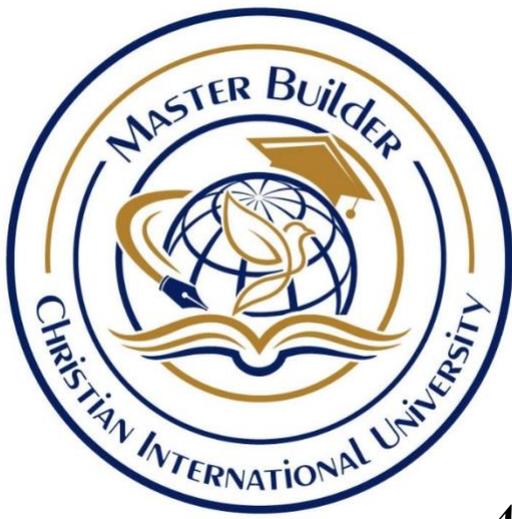
Each student will sign an agreement as to his or her method of payment.
Payment for the program will be the following:

- \$160/month for 30 months

(Graduation cannot commence until the final obligations are paid in full.)

Ready to Enroll?

- ***Submit an Application for admission along with the required \$100.00 registration fee.***
- ***Provide any applicable transcripts.***



54 Bedard Street,
Fall River, MA 02723
Phone: (508)730-1735
Fax: (508)674-6166

Email: rlbernier@mbministries.org

Application for Admission

Application Information (Please type or print clearly)

Full Name: _____
Last First Middle

Date of Birth: _____ **Sex:** Male Female **Social Security No.:** _____

Marital Status: Single Married Widowed Divorced

Address: _____
Street Address Apartment/Unit#

City State Zip Code

Phone: _____ **Email:** _____

Desired Degree Program:	<input type="checkbox"/> Certificate of Ministry	<input type="checkbox"/> Associate of Ministry
	<input type="checkbox"/> Diploma of Ministry	<input type="checkbox"/> Bachelor of Ministry
	<input type="checkbox"/> Master of Ministry	<input type="checkbox"/> Doctor of Ministry

Additional Personal Information:

Name of Church you attend: _____

Church Address: _____
Street Address

City State Zip Code

Pastor' Name: _____

Are you an active member in your church? Yes No

Do you serve in a ministry position? Yes No **Position:** _____

Military Service: Yes No **Dates of Service:** _____ to _____

Active Reserve: Yes No **Branch:** _____

Academic History

Institution & Location	Degree/Award	Major/Concentration	Graduation Date

MINISTERIAL ORDINATION/LICENSURE

Check the appropriate box if you hold any of the following: Licensed Ordained Lay/Minister

Denomination/Ministerial Network of Fellowship (include location):

References:

Please list the name and phone numbers of at least three (3) references. One must be from your local church. The other two can be from your workplace or friends.

#1 Name: _____ Phone# _____

#2 Name: _____ Phone# _____

#3 Name: _____ Phone# _____

U.S. & CANADA ONLY: \$75.00 USD APPLICATION FEE FOR ALL PROGRAMS (EXCEPT *Master of Ministry and Doctoral Programs*: \$100.00) PAYMENT INFORMATION (NON-REFUNDABLE)

Pay by Check or Money Order made payable to **MBCIU**.

I give the MBCIU permission to contact any references listed above.

I have read the ***Statement of Faith*** and the ***Student Code of Conduct*** and I agree to abide by both.

Date: _____ Signature: _____