PT 518 PASTORAL MINISTRY
SYLLABUS

Professor Name and Contact Information

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Course overview

This is an introductory course in pastoral ministry. Emphasis will be given to considering the Scriptural qualifications for the man God calls to be a pastor. We will also look at the necessity for developing a deep personal and intimate walk with the Chief Shepherd before considering the practical aspects of a pastor’s ministry.

Required Assignments

1. **Hospital Pastoral Care Work:** The student will submit a 4-page theological reflection paper on his work at Presbyterian Hospital. The paper may focus on one or more aspects of ministry encountered while on duty there, and relate lessons learned (about God or ministry or yourself or others or all of these) through the lens of Scripture. This should be written as if writing your congregation. Letting them know what you discovered in your work there. [25% of grade. Due May 1, 2012]

2. **Required Reading.** From the two books in the Required Reading list select one to write a three page review. Give attention to noting what was especially helpful as you consider the pastoral ministry. [25% of grade. Due May 1, 2012]

3. **Biographical Reading.** From the list of Biographies choose one to write a four to five page review, noting the pastor’s strengths, weaknesses and successes. Include a personal reflection of those aspects of the pastor’s life and ministry you hope to implement in your own ministry. [25% of grade. Due May 1, 2012]

4. Select one of the topics below and write a **tract** intended for distribution to your church family. [25% of grade. Due May 1, 2012]
   - Dying Well
   - Facing Tragedy
• Dealing with Cancer
• Preparing for Marriage
• Praying for your pastor/shepherd
• Worshiping in Spirit and in Truth

Required Reading

1. Armstrong, John H. Reforming Pastoral Ministry (Wheaton, IL, Crossway, 2001)


Biographies


2. Bonar, Andrew, Memoirs of McCheyne (Chicago, IL, Moody Press, 1947)


4. ______________, Spurgeon: A New Biography (Carlisle, PA, Banner of Truth Trust, 1982)


Recommended Reading

4. Bruce, Martin, *Concerning the True Care of Souls* (Edinburgh, Banner of Truth Trust, 2009)
Outline of the Course

I. Cultivating the Pastor’s Personal Life
   A. Establish Priorities
   B. Watch your Life

II. Cultivating the Pastor’s Spiritual Life
   A. Feed Upon Scripture
   B. Practice the Word
   C. Pray Always
   D. Develop Humility
   E. Be courageous
   F. Guard Doctrine
   G. Confirming the Call

III. Cultivating the Pastor’s Professional Life
   A. Learning from Others
   B. Learning from the Puritans
   C. Preach the Word
   D. Leading Worship
   E. Love your Flock
   F. Train Men
   G. Become Involved
      a. In Community
      b. In your Denomination
      c. In Evangelism
      d. In Missions
   H. Be Prepared to Suffer

IV. Cultivating the Shepherd’s Ministry Responsibilities
    A. Preparing Individuals for Church Members
    B. Officer Training
    C. Baptism
    D. The Lord’s Supper
    E. Marriage
    F. Touch your Congregation with cards, and calls on Special Occasions
       a. Birthdays
       b. Anniversaries
       c. Birth of Baby
       d. Death
    G. Congregational Visitation
       a. Sick/Hospital Calls
b. Calls to the Dying

H. Funerals
# PT 518 Pastoral Ministry

## Course Objectives Related to MDiv* Student Learning Outcomes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MDiv* Student Learning Outcomes</th>
<th>Rubric</th>
<th>Mini-Justification</th>
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<tr>
<td>In order to measure the success of the MDiv curriculum, RTS has defined the following as the</td>
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<td>intended outcomes of the student learning process. Each course contributes to these overall</td>
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<td>outcomes. This rubric shows the contribution of this course to the MDiv outcomes.</td>
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<td>*As the MDiv is the core degree at RTS, the MDiv rubric will be used in this syllabus.</td>
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<td>Articulation (oral &amp; written)</td>
<td>Minimal</td>
<td>Reads classical literature on pastoral theology, including sermons; write theological reflections papers</td>
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<td>Broadly understands and articulates knowledge, both oral and written, of essential biblical,</td>
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<td>theological, historical, and cultural/global information, including details, concepts, and</td>
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<td>frameworks.</td>
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<td>Scripture</td>
<td>Strong</td>
<td>Expository teaching series will cover pastoral ministry from The Pastoral Epistles, as well as portions of the Old Testament</td>
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<td>Significant knowledge of the original meaning of Scripture. Also, the concepts for and skill</td>
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<td>to research further into the original meaning of Scripture and to apply Scripture to a variety</td>
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<td>of modern circumstances. (Includes appropriate use of original languages and hermeneutics; and</td>
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<td>integrates theological, historical, and cultural/global perspectives.)</td>
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<td>Reformed Theology</td>
<td>Minimal</td>
<td>Will read Baxter’s The Reformed Pastor and also study the theological issues related to pastoral ministry from a (Westminster) Reformed</td>
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<tr>
<td>Significant knowledge of Reformed theology and practice, with emphasis on the Westminster</td>
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<td>perspective</td>
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<td>Standards.</td>
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<td>Sanctification</td>
<td>Minimal</td>
<td>Will be exposed to teaching on the heart of the pastor, the purity of the pastor’s inner life, the vocation as sanctification</td>
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<td>Demonstrates a love for the Triune God that aids the student’s sanctification.</td>
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<td>Desire for Worldview</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>Will study vocation from a Biblical and Reformed worldview</td>
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<td>Burning desire to conform all of life to the Word of God.</td>
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<td>Winsomely Reformed</td>
<td>Embraces a winsomely Reformed ethos. (Includes an appropriate ecumenical spirit with other Christians, especially Evangelicals; a concern to present the Gospel in a God-honoring manner to non-Christians; and a truth-in-love attitude in disagreements.)</td>
<td>Minimal</td>
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<td>Preach</td>
<td>Ability to preach and teach the meaning of Scripture to both heart and mind with clarity and enthusiasm.</td>
<td>Minimal</td>
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<td>Worship</td>
<td>Knowledgeable of historic and modern Christian-worship forms; and ability to construct and skill to lead a worship service.</td>
<td>None</td>
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<td>Shepherd</td>
<td>Ability to shepherd the local congregation: aiding in spiritual maturity; promoting use of gifts and callings; and encouraging a concern for non-Christians, both in America and worldwide.</td>
<td>None</td>
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<td>Church/World</td>
<td>Ability to interact within a denominational context, within the broader worldwide church, and with significant public issues.</td>
<td>None</td>
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