

**04PT518 PASTORAL MINISTRY
SYLLABUS**

***REFORMED THEOLOGICAL
SEMINARY
ATLANTA***

Spring, 2016

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Syllabus for 04PT518 Pastoral Ministry
REFORMED THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY - ATLANTA
SPRING, 2016
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COURSE SCHEDULE: Thursdays (8 weeks) – 1-4pm – Feb 4th-
March 24th, 2016

COURSE DESCRIPTION: A study of general pastoral care principles based upon the Pastoral Epistles (I & II Timothy, Titus) and will include topics such as personal authenticity, biblical and professional standards of ministerial conduct, etiquette, leadership development, interpersonal relationships, typical problem areas, conducting special services, and potential pitfalls for pastors.

COURSE PURPOSE: To put the finishing touches on students theological preparation to shepherd the flock of God according to His will to the very best of their God-given calling and ability. I Peter 5:2

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

1. The student will learn to draw wisdom, insight, principles, and practices related to pastoral ministry from biblical resources. Class content will flow out of scriptural content.
2. The student will be exposed to the foundations, skills, and functions inherent in pastoral ministry.
3. The course will seek to round out the ministry preparation process for theological students.
4. The course will present an opportunity for students to explore questions and issues not previously covered in their seminary training.
5. The course will challenge students to define pastoral ministry in a way that is biblically based but culturally relevant – framing pastoral ministry that is anchored in the scriptures, but geared to the times.

TOPICS TO BE COVERED:

Foundations:

The Call to Ordained Pastoral Ministry
Cultivating Spiritual Vibrancy - Diet and Exercise – I Tim 4:6, 7
The Devotional Life of Jesus – A model of closeness to God
Character – 5 Core Elements – I Tim 4:12
Pastoral Purity in the Midst of a Sexual Tsunami

Methodology

Philosophy of Ministry & Group Matrix for Ministry
Large Group Ministry – Worship Services
Sticky Church – How to velcro members into a spiritual growth process
Mid-size Group Ministry – Core Ideology
Small Group Ministry – Guiding Principles
One to One Ministry – Core Values of Mentoring and its Strategic Relevance to Overall Church Ministry

Functions

Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals
Hospital Visitation
Death, Dying, and the Grief Experience
Mop-up Matters – Time Management, Salary, and Attire

* (If time)The Impact of the internet on Everyday Church Ministry

Course Requirements:

Class Attendance and Interaction – 20% of the grade. You will be expected to demonstrate interest in the course lectures, participate in the class discussions, raise interactive questions during the lectures, and share relevant personal experiences with the class in line with the topics.
Multiple unexcused absences may result in a lower class grade.

Reading of Assigned Texts – 20% of the grade (see the list below) – Each assigned reading requires a one page single spaced report highlighting the

main theses as well as key principles, insights, and practices gathered from the reading. See the Reading Report Guidelines at the end of the Syllabus.

Requires Papers – 40% - Three brief papers are required to complete the course

Practical Ministry Assignment #1: Personal Assessment of Your Call to Ministry

Practical Ministry Assignment #2: Self Care Paper

Practical Ministry Assignment #3: Pastoral Issue Paper

Final Exam – 20% of the final grade. A final exam that evaluates each student's understanding of the content of the course lectures.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS: Approx 550 pgs

1. Spurgeon, Charles, *Lectures to My Students*. Zondervan Publishing House, New Edition, 1974. **Read any 15 of the first 22 chapters and report on the chapters you read. (approx 230 pgs) – Report due on Thursday, 2/18.**
2. Adams, Jay, *Shepherding God's Flock*. Zondervan, 1974, **Volumes I & III, approx 300 hundred pages. Read approximately 150 pages of the topics that are of interest to you. Report due on Friday, 3/10.**
3. Kesler, Jay, *Being Holy, Being Human*. Christianity Today 1984, **182 pp. – Report due on Friday 3/31.**

Recommended Reading:

1. Bridges, Charles, *The Christian Ministry*. Banner of Truth, 1830, 383 pp.
2. Brown, John (compiler), *The Christian Pastor's Manual*. Soli Deo Gloria Publications, 1826/2003, 421 pp.
3. Coleman, William L. *It's Your Funeral*, Tyndale, 1979, 150pp.
4. Hansen, David, *The Art of Pastoring*. InterVarsity Press, 1994, 178 pp.
5. Harvey, Hezekiah, *The Pastor*. Backus Book Publishers, 1879/1982, 176 pp.
6. Killinger, John, *The Tender Shepherd*. Abingdon Press, 1985, 208 pp.
7. Malphurs, Aubrey, *Ministry Nuts and Bolts*. Kregel Publications, 1997, 190 pp.
8. Mancini, Will, *Church Unique*, Leadership Network Publication, 2008, 271pp.
9. Murphy, Thomas, *Pastoral Theology*. Old Paths Publications, 1887/1996, 500 pp.
10. Peterson, Eugene H., *Working the Angles*, Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1987, 137 pp.
11. Pentecost, Dorothy Harrison, *The Pastor's Wife and the Church*. Moody, 1964, 315 pp.

12. Sittema, John, *With a Shepherd's Heart*. Reformed Fellowship, 1996, 242 pp.
13. Still, William, *The Work of the Pastor*. Rutherford House, 1984, 125 pp.
14. Tidball, Derek J., *Skillful Shepherds*. Zondervan, 1986, 338 pp.
15. Trent, John. 2004. *Leading From Your Strengths*. Broadman and Holman, 103 pp.
16. Wagner, C. Peter. 1979. *Your Spiritual Gifts Can Help Your Church Grow*. Regal, 263 pp.
17. Wells, John D., *The Pastor in the Sick Room*. Solid Ground Christian Books, 1893, 128 pp.
18. Westberg, Granger E., *Good Grief*, Fortress Press, 1997, 64 pp.
19. Wilson, James H., *Let's Talk About Money Before You Tie the Knot*. Wipf and Stock Publishers, 2007, 72 pp.
20. Zimmerman, T. F. (editor), *And He Gave Pastors*. Gospel Publishing House (AOG), 1979, 606 pp.
- 21.

REQUIRED PAPERS – PRACTICAL MINISTRY ASSIGNMENTS: (40% of course grade)

Four papers are required for the course. Papers must be double-spaced, 12 point/Times Roman typeset with standard margins. **Please number your pages.**

1. Practical Ministry Assignment #1: Personal Assessment Your Call to Ministry

Using the following grid provided in class for evaluating one's call to ministry, write a 2 page paper double-spaced diagnosing where you are in the process of determining whether God has called you to ordained pastoral ministry. **This report is due on Thursday, 2/18.**

Piety – Genuine experience with God

Zeal – Predominates all other heart aspirations

Equipment for divine service

Gifts – aptness to teach, shepherd tendencies

Graces – character and reputation

Confirmation

Fruitful Experience

Corporate Affirmation – both officers and members of your local church

Circumstances & opportunities

Length: Two page, double spaced.

Due: Thursday, February 18, 2016

2. Practical Ministry Assignment #2: Self-Care Paper

Choose *one* of the topics below and write a four-page summary paper on how you would handle one of the following personal pastoral challenges. Use at least four (4) resources

and *list them* at the end of the paper; footnotes are not necessary. One of the four resources can be a pastoral interview, but the paper should reflect your views, ideas and conclusions primarily. **This report is due on Thursday, 3/24.**

- A. Clergy Compensation
- B. Pastoral Self-care, Burnout, and Sabbaticals
- C. Sexual Unfaithfulness Among Pastors
- D. Pastoral Transparency in the Pulpit
- E. Other Topics of Interest: Permitted with prior written permission of the professor.

Length: 4 pages.

Due: March 24, 2016.

3. Practical Ministry Assignment #3: Pastoral Issue Paper

Using a step-by-step method of explanation, walk through the procedure you would follow for *one* of the following possibilities. **This report is due on Thursday, 4/28.**

- A. Special Services – Baptisms, Marriages, and Funerals
- B. Church Discipline for an Adulterous Church Member
- C. Handling an Abuse Charge Against a Nursery Volunteer
- D. Pre-marital Counseling Plan
- E. Visitation Plan for All Members of the Church
- F. Pastoral Ministry Approach to Various Needs in People's Lives and Various Personality Types
- G. Hypothetical Plan for your Personal Weekly Schedule with a Rationale for the Plan
- H. Other Topics of Interest: Permitted with prior written permission of the professor.

Length: 4 pages.

Due: April 28, 2016.

VI. Final Exam (20% of course grade)

The final exam will be a comprehensive, written exam that will cover content from all of the lectures and possibly include reflections on all of the reading (general concepts). If the students wish to take the final soon after the classes are over while the lecture materials are fresh in their minds, the professor is open to that.

Date: tbd, 2016. I recommend soon after the class time is over.

READING REPORT GUIDELINES

Your Name
Course Title & Number
Professor
Date

Please limit your report to one typed, single-spaced page, and one paragraph per topic
(*Overview, Critique, Application*)

TITLE OF BOOK Complete Bibliographic Reference

Overview – Give a brief overview of the book, including its theme, perspective and approach.

Critique – Offer a brief critique of the book, including elements of strength and weakness.

Application – Offer some specific application to your own ministry – demonstrating the value and relevance of the material in this book.

Best Quote – Be sure to include the page number where the quote can be found.

Did you read the entire book though fully (not merely skimmed)? Yes___ No___ % Read (0-100)

Course Objectives Related to MDiv* Student Learning Outcomes

Course:

Professor:

Campus:

Date:

<u>MDiv* Student Learning Outcomes</u>		<u>Rubric</u>	<u>Mini-Justification</u>
<p><i>In order to measure the success of the MDiv curriculum, RTS has defined the following as the intended outcomes of the student learning process. Each course contributes to these overall outcomes. This rubric shows the contribution of this course to the MDiv outcomes.</i></p> <p><i>*As the MDiv is the core degree at RTS, the MDiv rubric will be used in this syllabus.</i></p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Strong ➤ Moderate ➤ Minimal ➤ None 	
Articulation (oral & written)	Broadly understands and articulates knowledge, both oral and written, of essential biblical, theological, historical, and cultural/global information, including details, concepts, and frameworks.	Moderate	The course does require a variety of papers intended to help train the student to articulate in a written format pastoral concepts and ideas.
Scripture	Significant knowledge of the original meaning of Scripture. Also, the concepts for and skill to research further into the original meaning of Scripture and to apply Scripture to a variety of modern circumstances. (Includes appropriate use of original languages and hermeneutics; and integrates theological, historical, and cultural/global perspectives.)	Minimal	In depth study of the scripture will take place on selected bible passages related to pastoral ministry.
Reformed Theology	Significant knowledge of Reformed theology and practice, with emphasis on the Westminster Standards.	Minimal	The WCF will referenced as it relates to Pastoral ministry.
Sanctification	Demonstrates a love for the Triune God that aids the student's sanctification.	Strong	Personal sanctification will be emphasized in the first third of the course as the foundation for effective pastoral leadership.
Desire for Worldview	Burning desire to conform all of life to the Word of God.	Strong	The pastoral ability to relate life to God's perspective, especially hardships, is essential.
Winsomely Reformed	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;	Minimal	The focus of this course is mostly internal to the local congregation.

	and a truth-in-love attitude in disagreements.)		
Preach	Ability to preach and teach the meaning of Scripture to both heart and mind with clarity and enthusiasm.	Moderate	The course will address the pastoral side of preaching.
Worship	Knowledgeable of historic and modern Christian-worship forms; and ability to construct and skill to lead a worship service.	Strong	Special services like weddings and funerals will be discussed in detail.
Shepherd	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.	Strong	Effective shepherding is the heart and soul of this course.
Church/World	Ability to interact within a denominational context, within the broader worldwide church, and with significant public issues.	Minimal	Not an emphasis in this course.

Teacher/Professor: Dr. James Saxon

This course will be led by James Saxon, an ordained PCA minister since 1979, who has actively served in the pastorate for the last 35 years. He was converted to Christ at the age of twenty while a student at the University of Alabama. His conversion was so dramatic that he decided against going into the business world with his Marketing Degree and instead began pursuit of his call to pastoral ministry by enrolling in RTS Jackson in the summer of 1975. After serving as a youth director for two summers, and taking a year-long internship at the well-known Spanish River Presbyterian Church in Boca Raton, Florida, he discerned God’s calling to go into church planting. He was founder and pastor of the Tampa Bay Presbyterian Church, in Tampa, Florida for 20 years and had oversight of the founding of one daughter church, Redeemer Presbyterian Church in Brandon, Florida. He joined the staff of the fast-growing, outreach-minded Church of The Apostles in Atlanta in the fall of 2000. Since coming to Apostles, He has served in a variety of staff roles and currently serves in the role of Director of ApostlesLife.

In addition to being a successful church-planter, James spearheaded the founding of the Southwest Florida Presbytery in the early 1990’s, and then led the effort to host the 2000 General Assembly in Tampa by that presbytery. He graduated from the RTS Doctorate of Ministry program in the spring of 2005, completing his dissertation entitled, “Empowering the Local Church through Mentoring” which featured a practicum that field-tested mentoring seminary students as a part of their theological education.

He is currently the director of “The Christianity Examined Process” at Apostles, through which many lost people have been converted. This outreach initiative is a cutting-edge evangelism/discipleship strategy that inculcates many current ideas and approaches that are successfully being utilized in soul-winning around the country. This strategy and much more will be covered in this course, which will be conducted in a hands-on, interactive atmosphere.

Since 2005, he has served as guest lecturer at RTS Atlanta and teaches three courses - Leadership, Evangelism and Pastoral Care. Though he is currently involved in outreach

ministry, he is a pastor at heart and his life ministry verse is Colossians 1:28, “And we proclaim Him, admonishing every man and teaching every man with all wisdom, that we may present every man complete in Christ.” He has been married to his wife Cindy for 33 years and has two single daughters, Natalie and Adrienne, who are in their late twenties.