Syllabus

1PT502: Intro to Pastoral & Theological Studies

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Course description:
This course introduces the student to exegetical, theological, historical, and practical aspects of ministry. Students are equipped to use the practice of ministry as the integrating concept for all their theological studies.

Goals:
1. Introduce students to the main theme of their ministerial studies: they are preparing to be pastoral leaders.
2. Offer a basic biblical-theological framework for thinking about the work of pastoral leadership.
3. Orient students to a way of seeing the work of pastoral leadership, merging together a classic Reformed paradigm of the ministry of the Word with a more recent systems approach.
4. Prepare students for thinking about processing conflict and hurt within a larger Reformed biblical-theological paradigm.
5. Assist students in thinking through their own call to pastoral leadership and prepare them to articulate that before presbytery committees.

Required texts:
David Mathis and Jonathan Parnell, How to Stay Christian in Seminary (Crossway, 2014); ISBN: 978-1433540301
Recommended reading:
Bob Burns, Tasha Chapman, and Donald C. Guthrie, Resilient Ministry: What Pastors Told Us About Surviving and Thriving (IVP, 2013)
Margaret Craven, I Heard the Owl Call My Name (Dell, 1973).
Paul David Tripp, Dangerous Calling: Confronting the Unique Challenges of Pastoral Ministry (Crossway, 2012).

Requirements and Grading:
1. Regular attendance and class participation (15%). Since we have only 13 meeting times, you will only be allowed to miss one class without it adversely affecting your grade.
2. Reading (50%). You will be required to read 100% of the required texts. On the last day of class, you will be asked how much of the assigned readings you have read.
3. Reflection papers (35%). You will write five reflection papers, one on each of the books. In addition, you will submit a two-four page paper at the end of class on Christian experience and call to ministry.
4. Grading scale (standard RTS scale):

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<th>Score</th>
<th>Grade</th>
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<tr>
<td>97-100</td>
<td>A</td>
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<tr>
<td>94-96</td>
<td>A-</td>
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<td>91-93</td>
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<td>88-90</td>
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<td>70-71</td>
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<td>Below 70</td>
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As part of our purpose to train servants of the triune God to walk with God in all of life, we expect godly integrity in the academic work done at RTS. God’s covenant with His people calls for honesty and a commitment to truth (as in the 9th commandment). As we live in that covenant and in community with one another, upholding truth is an essential duty. Specifically applied to academic labors, this means that we accurately represent our work to others. In other words, neither cheating nor plagiarism is tolerated.

Instructions on particular assignments:
1. Reflection papers (1 page each)
   a. For each reflection paper, you will respond to the book assigned by answering the following question: *in what ways does/should this book shape my approach to preparation for and engagement in ministry?*
   b. Do not write more than one page.
c. The reflection paper will be written with one inch margins, double-spaced, 12 point Times Roman font.
d. The reaction paper will be due by the beginning of class time; **no late papers will be accepted.** If you will not be at the particular class time, you will need to submit your paper in advance.
e. Please do not email your paper; it is your responsibility to get a hard-copy of the paper to the instructor.
f. The grade is pass/fail; if you follow instructions completely (including form requirements stated in line b), you will receive the full amount of points (signified by a check mark). If you fail to follow instructions, then the instructor will determine how many points are appropriate.

2. **Christian experience/call to ministry papers (2-4 pages)**
   a. This is a two-part paper:
      1) Part one: give a brief description of your Christian experience, highlighting how you came to Christ, your experience of following him, and your present devotional practices (1-2 pages).
      2) Part two: give a brief description of your sense of calling to Christian ministry and why you want to do ministry in your particular denominational context (1-2 pages).
   b. This paper will be written with one inch margins, double-spaced, 12 point Times Roman font.
   c. The paper will be due by **Friday, December 4, 2015, at 4pm; no late papers will be accepted.**
   d. Please do not email your paper; it is your responsibility to get a hard-copy of the paper to the instructor.
   e. The grade is pass/fail; if you follow instructions completely (including form requirements stated in line b), you will receive the full amount of points (signified by a check mark). If you fail to follow instructions, then the instructor will determine how many points are appropriate.

**SCHEDULE OF ASSIGNMENTS AND PROBABLE LECTURE SCHEDULE**

**August 24, 2015: Called to be a Pastoral Leader**
- Syllabus
- Read Robertson, *Am I Called?* before class if possible

**August 31, 2015: The Biblical Story and Pastoral Leadership**
*Reflection Paper due: How to Stay Christian in Seminary*

**September 7, 2015: NO CLASS (LABOR DAY)**

**September 14, 2015: Who am I?: Identity and Pastoral Leadership, part one**

**September 21, 2015: Who am I?: Identity and Pastoral Leadership, part two**
*Reflection Paper due: Christian Worldview*

**September 28, 2015: What has God called me to do?: Mission and Pastoral Leadership**

**October 5, 2015: NO CLASS (READING WEEK)**
October 12, 2015: With whom has God called me to serve?: Christ’s body and Pastoral Leadership
Reflection Paper due: Leader’s Journey

October 19, 2015: How do I go about God’s mission?: The Work of Pastoral Leadership, part one

October 26, 2015: How do I go about God’s mission?: The Work of Pastoral Leadership, part two
Reflection Paper due: Work of the Pastor

November 2, 2015: How do I process conflict and hurt?: Risk and Pastoral Leadership

November 9, 2015: TBA

November 16, 2015: How do I maintain my sense of identity?: Keeping One’s Heart as a Pastoral Leader
Reflection Paper due: Little Book for New Theologians

November 23, 2015: Why should I bother leading at all?: The Hope of Pastoral Leadership

November 30, 2015: How does theological education prepare me for this?: Theological Studies for a Lifetime of Ministry

All work due December 4, 2015
• Christian experience/call to ministry paper
• Reading Summary