

PT 7210 – PASTORAL PRACTICES
TRINITY EVANGELICAL DIVINITY SCHOOL– HUDSON, OHIO
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CATALOG DESCRIPTION

This course is a survey of the biblical foundations, qualifications, practices and pitfalls of pastoral ministry in the context of the local church. Students will consider the importance of God's call to pastoral ministry and how to maintain health and balance in the pastorate. The instructor will seek to foster wisdom that will assist students in various pastoral roles and settings. *Three hours.*

COURSE OBJECTIVES

It is prayerfully expected that through this class:

1. Students will develop and be able to articulate a biblical theology of pastoral ministry.
2. Students will understand and increasingly aspire to meet the biblical qualifications for pastoral ministry.
3. Students will commit themselves to on-going growth as healthy pastors who can experience long-term fruitfulness in ministry.
4. Students will gain sufficient familiarity with a broad variety of pastoral practices so that they will be able to undertake them with the level of competence and confidence expected of beginning pastors.
5. Students will be increasingly alert to key pitfalls of pastoral ministry and seek to avoid them by committing to high ethical standards.
6. Other assignments may be given for the sake of the student's awareness of the variety of the practices of the pastoral office.

REQUIRED COURSE TEXTS

1. Burns, Bob, Tasha D. Chapman, and Donald C. Guthrie. *Resilient Ministry: What Pastors Told us about Surviving and Thriving*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2013. ISBN: 978-0-8308-4103-5
2. Bridges, Charles. *The Christian Ministry*. 6th ed. Series 2009. London: The Banner of Truth Trust, 1967. ISBN: 978 0 85151 087 3
3. Keller, Timothy. *Ministries of mercy: the call of the Jericho road*. 2nd ed. Phillipsburg, NJ: P & R Publishing, 1997. ISBN: 978-0875522173
4. Laniak, Timothy S. *Shepherds after my own heart: pastoral imagery and leadership in the Bible*. Charlotte, NC: Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary, 2005. ISBN 978-0-8308-2621-6
5. Trull, Joe E., James E. Carter, *Ministerial Ethics: Moral Formation for Church Leaders*. Baker Academic; 2 edition Paperback – March 1, 2004. ISBN: 978-0801027550

RECOMMENDED TEXTS

1. Cloud, Henry, and John Townsend. *How to Have That Difficult Conversation: Gaining the Skills for Honest and Meaningful Communication*. Brilliance Publishing, 2015.
ISBN: 978-0310267140
2. Frazee, Randy. *The connecting church beyond small groups to authentic community*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Pub. House, 2001.
ISBN: 0-310-23308-9
3. Geisler, Norman L. *Christian Ethics: Contemporary Issues and Options 2nd Edition*. Baker Academic, 2010.
ISBN: 978-0801038792
4. Guthrie, George H. *Read the Bible for life: your guide to understanding & living Gods word*. Nashville, TN: B & H Pub., 2011.
ISBN: 978-0805464542
5. Keller, Timothy. *Center church: doing balanced, Gospel-centered ministry in your city*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2012.
ISBN: 978-0-310-49418-8
6. Peterson, Eugene H. *The Pastor: a Memoir*. New York: HarperOne, 2012.
ISBN: 978-0061988219
7. Tripp, Paul David. *Dangerous calling: confronting the unique challenges of pastoral ministry*. Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2015.
ISBN: 978-1-4335-4137-7

ATTENDANCE

Students are required to attend each and every session throughout the entire course period. Due to the nature of Extension classes, attendance at all sessions is especially important with weekend courses. Missing even an hour of a weekend class means a significant portion of the required contact with the instructor and learning community has been lost. For this reason, students missing any portion (hours) of an Extension course can result in a grade reduction; missing more than one weekend class session will result in a grade reduction and possibly failing the course. In the case of extreme emergency or unforeseen circumstances (family emergencies, death, etc.) the student should contact the instructor and secure the necessary permission to miss time in a class and make up the missed class time and assignments. Vacations, ministry responsibilities and travel plans are not considered emergencies and such requests will be denied. As the schedule for the Extension courses is set ahead of time, students should plan ahead to be sure they will be able to make it to all class sessions before they register. If the emergency necessitates a longer absence the student should contact the Dean of Students to request an extension of time, or in rare instances a withdrawal from the class without penalty.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. Read carefully the required class texts according to the schedule indicated in this syllabus. Utilize the attached reading report to record your reading and turn it in with your final exam.

2. Write a paper describing your own theology of pastoral ministry. In your paper, discuss the nature of the church as the context for pastoral ministry and the biblical metaphor of the shepherd as a guide to thinking about the nature and functioning of pastoral ministry. Your paper should be 6-8 pages long. This paper will be due on **Thursday, January 30**. (Laniak and Bridges will be helpful)

3. Write two "Pastor's Ministry Guides." One must be written on either baptism or the Lord's Supper and the other must be written on either weddings or funerals. Each ministry guide should be 8-10 pages, single spaced (12-point font). Each paper should have the following sections:

- A Statement of Purpose. This should indicate in three sentences or less what you intend to accomplish in this paper.
- A list of relevant biblical passages. These passages should be listed in concordance fashion, though they should be grouped thematically.
- A List of Resources. This list should include books, articles and persons you consulted in preparing this ministry guide, as well as those resources you intend to consult in your further research and reflection. (Please indicate with a * those resources you actually read/spoke with.) One of the resources you consult must be a fellow student in the class
- A discussion of important theological factors that surround this issue. This should include broad theological questions (e.g. the nature and purpose of marriage, the relationship of death and sin, the spiritual significance of baptism and the Lord's Supper), historically important questions (e.g. the proper subjects of baptism, how Christ is present in the Lord's Supper), and issue specific questions (e.g. who should officiate at these events and why?)
- A discussion of relevant ethical issues (e.g. questions surrounding the economic cost of funerals, etc.).
- An Action Plan. Each of these events involves both pastoral opportunities and administrative challenges. In this section, you should show the decisions that need to be made and the actions that need to be taken, answering in both cases, by whom and when. Your action plan should show the flow of your activities from the first notification/planning through final follow up.

Since these ministry guides are intended to be resources for quick reference, the format of each paper should reflect that. Your paper on Baptism or the Lord's Supper will be due on **Thursday, March 5** and your paper on funerals or weddings will be due on **Thursday, March 19**.

5. Write a critical paper on the five key themes of *Resilient Ministry*. This paper should include a summary of the five key themes, your own reflection on them, and a personal development plan for your own on-going growth in each of these five areas (i.e. what will you commit to do to seek on-going growth in these five areas). Your paper should be 8-10 pages in length and will be due on **Thursday, April 2**.

COURSE EVALUATION

Class Participation	5%
Reading	10%
Theology of Pastoral Ministry Paper	25%
Ministry Guide #1	15%
Ministry Guide #2	15%
<i>Resilient Ministry</i> Paper	30%

GRADING SCALE

100% - 93%	A	79% - 77%	C+
92% - 90%	A-	76% - 73%	C
89% - 87%	B+	72% - 70%	C-
86% - 83%	B	69% - 65%	D+
82% - 80%	B-	64% - 62%	D
		61% - 59%	D-
		58% and below	F

TOPICS ADDRESSED

I. Biblical Foundations for Pastoral Ministry

- A. The Church – the Context for Pastoral Ministry
 - 1. The Nature of the Church
 - A. Ephesians
 - B. Biblical Metaphors
 - 2. The Purpose of the Church
- B. The Pastoral Office
 - 1. Elder/Overseer/Shepherd
 - 2. Preacher and Teacher
 - 3. Success in Ministry

II. Biblical Qualifications for Pastoral Ministry

- A. God's Call
- B. Biblical Qualifications
- C. Is the Pastorate a Profession?
- D. Mark 10:35-45 and issues of power and servanthood
- E. The Healthy Pastor
 - 1. Pursuing Physical Health
 - 2. Pursuing Relational Health (especially the Pastor and his/her family)
 - 3. Pursuing Emotional Health
 - 4. Pursuing Spiritual Health
- F. The Holy Pastor
- G. Impartiality and Inclusiveness

H. Openness and Confidentiality

III. Specific Pastoral Practices

- A. Ministries of the Word
- B. Oral and Written Communication
- C. Worship and Planning/Leading Worship
- D. Prayer and Facilitating Prayer
- E. The Pastor and the Sacraments/Ordinances
 - 1. The Role of Symbolism
 - 2. Baptism and Infant Dedications
 - 3. The Lord's Supper
- F. Pastoral Care: On-going
- G. Pastoral Care: Emergency
 - 1. A Theology of Suffering
 - 2. Ministry to the Sick
 - 3. Caring for the Dying and the Grieving
 - 4. Funerals
 - 5. Care for Widows
- H. Weddings
- I. Assimilating Newcomers
- J. Church Membership
- K. Social Media