

PM5301 INTRODUCTION TO PASTORAL THEOLOGY

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

An introductory study of pastoral theology and leadership with special attention given to the church's engagement with the broader cultural environment and contemporary issues faced by Christian leaders today. This course is not focused exclusively on issues related to the pastoral office in the local church but on broader cultural issues requiring a pastoral response from Christian leaders in a wide variety of ministry roles and venues.

II. COURSE OBJECTIVES

As a result of taking this course the student will be able to:

A. Cognitive

Describe the discipline and methods of pastoral theology as an integrative discipline.

Describe one's general pastoral identity and its implications for ministry.

Understand contemporary cultural factors that inform, shape, or challenge faithful Christian living and ministry leadership.

B. Behavioral

Apply the discipline and methods of pastoral theology to selected cultural issues.

C. Affective

Adopt the discipline and methods of pastoral theology as an integrative discipline.

III. COURSE TEXTBOOKS

A. Required

Atkinson, David J., David F. Field, and Arthur F. Holmes, and Oliver O'Donovan. *New Dictionary of Christian Ethics and Pastoral Theology*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1995. 941 pp.

Gregory the Great. *The Book of the Pastoral Rule*. Popular Patristics Series, Book 34. Translated by George E. Demacopoulos. Crestwood, NJ: St. Vladimir's Seminary Press, 2007. 212pp

Harrison, Glynn. *A Better Story: God, Sex, and Human Flourishing*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2017. 192 pp.

Salter McNeil, Brenda. *Roadmap to Reconciliation 2.0: Moving Communities into Unity, Wholeness, and Justice*. Downers Grove, IL. InterVarsity Press, 2020. 152 pp.

Wheeler, Sondra. *The Minister as Moral Theologian: Ethical Dimensions of Pastoral Leadership*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic. 2017. 144 pp.

B. Suggested

Feinberg, John S., and Paul D. Feinberg, *Ethics for a Brave New World*. 2nd Edition. Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2010. 848 pp.

Gushee, David P. and Glenn Stassen. *Kingdom Ethics: Following Jesus in Contemporary Context*. 2nd Edition. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2017. 526 pp.

Vanhoozer, Kevin J., Charles A. Anderson and Michael J. Sleasman, eds. *Everyday Theology: How to Read Cultural Texts and Interpret Trends*. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 2007.

C. Supplementary Bibliography

Additional bibliography to be distributed in class.

IV. COURSE REQUIREMENTS

A. Case Studies (3 @ 15% each)

Each student will write three response papers on various subjects to be assigned during the semester. Each paper will conform to the specific guidelines and due dates provided for each at the time they are assigned. Each of the assigned papers is designed to show that the student understands the specific issue studied and can apply the material within the contexts of life and ministry. **DUE:10/15, 12/1, 12/10**

B. Harrison Response Paper (15%)

The student will prepare a **3-5 page** paper responding to his/her reading of Glynn Harrison's book *A Better Story*. The paper should include three sections: (1) a summary of the argument of the book, (2) a critical evaluation of the book's strengths and weaknesses, and (3) a concluding discussion of the personal implications of the book for the student's own life and ministry. **DUE: 10/27**

C. Salter McNeil Response Paper (15%)

The student will prepare a **3-5 page** paper responding to his/her reading of Brenda Salter McNeil’s book *Roadmap to Reconciliation*. The paper should include three sections: (1) a summary of the argument of the book, (2) a critical evaluation of the book’s strengths and weaknesses, and (3) a concluding discussion of the personal implications of the book for the student’s own life and ministry. **DUE: 11/5**

D. Course Integration Paper (25%)

The intention of this assignment is to allow the student to identify the key themes and/or insights gained from the course in its entirety and to reflect upon how those themes/insights might inform the student’s own life and ministry. The paper should be **10–15 pages** in length and should identify and discuss **3 to 5 key themes or insights** from the course readings, lectures and discussions. The paper should conclude with a discussion of the implications of these themes/insights for the student’s own spiritual life and philosophy of ministry. **DUE: 12/18**

V. COURSE POLICIES

A. Letter/Numerical Grade Scale

A+ 99-100	B+ 91-93	C+ 83-85	D+ 75-77	F 0-69
A 96-98	B 88-90	C 80-82	D 72-74	
A- 94-95	B- 86-87	C- 78-79	D- 70-71	

A = Work of *distinctive* quality.

A-, B+, B = Work of *superior* quality.

B-, C+, C = Work of *acceptable* quality.

C-, D = Work of *inadequate but passing* quality.

F = Failure to do minimal work required for a passing grade.

B. Late Assignments

Late assignments will be subject to a penalty of 4% for each business day beyond their due date. In cases of extreme personal emergency the student should contact the professor as soon as possible to make arrangements to fulfill the requirements of the assignment in a timely manner.

C. Cheating and Plagiarism

All work submitted for this course should be your own. Cheating and/or plagiarism will result in an automatic zero on the assignment in question (in accordance with the Student Handbook). Cheating involves presenting another person’s work as though it was your own. Plagiarism means using words, ideas, or information from a source without giving appropriate credit to that source (either in the text, a parenthetical note, or in a footnote). It is

important to underscore the fact that this does not merely refer to using specific words but to ideas more generally. Even if you are paraphrasing someone else's thoughts, you must cite your source. *When in doubt, use a footnote!*

D. Language and Style

All written submissions should be carefully proof-read and should consistently follow Turabian style where appropriate.

All written submissions should strive to use gender-inclusive language. While this has become standard academic practice, this request is not merely an attempt at "political correctness." As a gospel-shaped, gospel-centered community of learning, we have compelling reasons to think, write, and speak in such a way as to ensure that none are either intentionally or inadvertently excluded by our use of language. Consider using "humans," "persons," "humanity," or "humankind" rather than "man" or "men" when referring to human beings in general. Consider alternating between the use of "he" and "she" as generic pronouns or substituting the use of the plural ("they," "them," "their") when appropriate.

VI. COURSE SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

DTS Non-discrimination Policy

DTS does not discriminate on the basis of disability in the operation of any of its programs and activities. To avoid discrimination the student is responsible for informing the Coordinator of Services for Students with Disabilities and the course instructor of any disabling condition that will require modifications.

VII. COURSE LECTURES AND ASSIGNMENT SCHEDULE

Class Session	Topic	Assignment Due
8/25	Course Intro: What Do We Mean by Pastoral Theology?	
8/26	Pastoral Identity: A Controlling Metaphor (The Shepherd of the Flock)	<i>NDCEPT</i> , "Practical and Pastoral Theology"
9/1	Pastoral Identity: A Historical Metaphor (The Physician of the Soul)	
9/3	Pastoral Identity: Biblical Archetypes (Prophet, Priest, King, Sage)	
9/8	Pastoral Formation: Temperament and Christian Leadership	
9/10	Pastoral Formation: Spiritual Autobiography and Christian Leadership	Gregory the Great (complete text)
9/15	Pastoral Formation: The Flesh, the Spirit, and the Disciplines in Christian Leadership	

9/17	Pastoral Hermeneutics: Sources of Knowledge in Pastoral Theology	
9/22	Pastoral Hermeneutics: Approaches to Biblical Interpretation	<i>NDCEPT</i> , "Old Testament Ethics," "New Testament Ethics"
9/24	Pastoral Hermeneutics: Pastoral Theology as "Faithful Improvisation"	Wheeler (complete text)
9/29	Pastoral Ethics: Church and Culture, Part 1	
10/1	Pastoral Ethics: Church and Culture, Part 2	
10/6	Pastoral Ethics: Church and Culture, Part 3	
10/8	Pastoral Ethics: The Sacredness of Human Life, Part 1	<i>NDCEPT</i> , "Humanity," "Image of God"
10/13	Pastoral Ethics: The Sacredness of Human Life, Part 2	<i>NDCEPT</i> , "Life, Health, and Death"
10/15	Pastoral Ethics: The Sacredness of Human Life, Part 3	<i>NDCEPT</i> , "Ethics of Medical Care," "Death and Dying" DUE: Case Study 1
10/20	Pastoral Ethics: Gender and Sexuality, Part 1	<i>NDCEPT</i> , "Sexuality"
10/22	Pastoral Ethics: Gender and Sexuality, Part 2	<i>NDCEPT</i> , "Singleness," "Marriage," "Divorce"
10/27	Pastoral Ethics: Gender and Sexuality, Part 3	DUE: Harrison Response Paper
10/29	Pastoral Ethics: Race and Ethnicity, Part 1	<i>NDCEPT</i> , "Race"
11/3	Pastoral Ethics: Race and Ethnicity, Part 2	
11/5	Pastoral Ethics: Race and Ethnicity, Part 3	DUE: Salter McNeil Response Paper
11/10	Pastoral Ethics: Politics and Economics, Part 1	<i>NDCEPT</i> , "Justice and Peace"
11/12	Pastoral Ethics: Politics and Economics, Part 2	<i>NDCEPT</i> , "Economic Ethics"
12/1	Pastoral Ethics: Politics and Economics, Part 3	DUE: Case Study 2
12/3	Pastoral Ethics: Technology, Part 1	
12/8	Pastoral Ethics: Technology, Part 2	
12/10	Summary and Review	DUE: Case Study 3
12/14-12/18	NO CLASS: FINALS WEEK	DUE: Course Integration Paper