

PASTORAL THEOLOGY AND CHURCH LEADERSHIP SYLLABUS

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

A study of pastoral theology as applied to local church leadership. Students survey the multiple responsibilities and key rites of the pastorate, focusing on theological and practical integration of those duties in practice. (3 Credit Hours)

II. COURSE OBJECTIVES

- A. **Cognitive Objectives.** As a result of taking this course, the student will be able to:
1. Define one's pastoral identity as an office within the leadership of the local church.
 2. Understand the role and responsibilities of a local church leader in light of a biblical-theological framework of worship.
- B. **Affective Objective.** As a result of taking this course, the student will be able to:
Adopt a healthy personal/spiritual walk to function as a leader of a Christian community.
- C. **Behavioral Objectives.** As a result of taking this course, the student will be able to:
1. Practice a healthy personal/spiritual walk to function as a leader of a Christian community.
 2. Integrate conscious theological reflection into the development, leadership, and assessment of the public rites and actions of a Christian community
 3. Provide knowledgeable pastoral leadership for the functions of Christians in a local church.

III. COURSE TEXTBOOKS

A. **Required**

Allen P. Ross, *Recalling the Hope of Glory: Biblical Worship from the Garden to the New Creation*. Grand Rapids, MI: Kregel, 2006. 591 pp.

B. **Recommended**

The student will select readings from the following list:

Goggin, Jamin and Kyle Stroble, *The Way of the Dragon or the Way of the Lamb: Searching for Jesus' Path of Power in a Church that Has Abandoned It*, Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson Publishers, 2017, 256pp.

Jha, Sandhya Rani, *Transforming Communities: How People Like You Are Healing Their Neighborhoods*, Saint Louis, MO: Chalice Press, 2017, 144pp.

Laniak, Timothy S, *Shepherds After My Own Heart: Pastoral Traditions and Leadership in the Bible*, New Studies in Biblical Theology, Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2006, 313pp.

Lartey, Emmanuel, *Pastoral Theology in an Intercultural World*, Eugene, OR: Wipf and Stock, 2013, 172pp.

Osmer, Richard, *Practical Theology: An Introduction*, Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2008, 256pp.

Peterson, Eugene, *Working The Angles: The Shape of Pastoral Integrity*, Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1989, 137pp.

Peterson, Eugene, *The Contemplative Pastor: Returning to the Art of Spiritual Direction*, Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1993, 192pp.

- Rempel, John, *Recapturing an Enchanted World: Ritual and Sacrament in the Free Church Tradition*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP Academic, 2020, 240pp.
- Ryrie, Charles, *The Christian and Social Responsibility*, Ft. Worth, TX: Tyndale Seminary Press, 2012, 44pp.
- Senkbeil, Harold L., *The Care of Souls: Cultivating a Pastor's Heart*, Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press, 2019, 312pp.
- Stookey, Laurence, *Calendar: Christ's Time for the Church*, Nashville, TN: Abingdon, 1996, 190pp.
- Tidball, Derek, *Skillful Shepherds: An Introduction to Pastoral Theology*, Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan. 1986, 368pp.
- White, James F., *Protestant Worship: Traditions in Transition*, Louisville, KY: Westminster/John Knox Press, 1989, 256pp.
- Whitmer, Timothy Z., *The Shepherd Leader: Achieving Effective Shepherding in Your Church*, Phillipsburg, N.J: P & R Publishing, 2010, 288pp.

IV. COURSE REQUIREMENTS

A. Reading Assignments (20%)

The student must read the required text for the course *and* an additional 350 pages from the recommended books listed earlier. The student can propose alternative additional reading options but approval lies with the course professor.

B. Required Assignments (60%)

1. Integration Paper (30%): The student is required to produce a written paper (15 pages, double space, 12 point font) that shows an understanding of the *integrative model* presented in this course of the multiple responsibilities and key rites of the pastorate. The paper will articulate in the students own words the theological and practical integration of the duties of the pastorate as an expression of a philosophy of worship. DUE as assigned.
2. Group Worship Workshop (30%): Every student will be assigned to a group to participate in the planning and leading of a corporate worship experience for the class (15 minutes in length). The assignment integrates pastoral theology with pastoral skill in leading the class in a key rite of the pastorate (the Lord's Supper, a funeral, a wedding, a baptism). Every team member must participate in the design and execution of the assignment and significant class participation is expected where appropriate. The group will lead the class in this hypothetical situation with a discussion that follows with the class and professor. DUE as assigned.

C. Optional Assignments (20%)

To allow individual tailoring of the course to the student's own church background, interests, and prior experience in pastoral ministry a student may choose **TWO** assignments from the following options. Each assignment is worth a maximum of 10% of the course grade.

1. Short Research Paper: The student will research and write a short paper (5 pages, double space, 12 point font) on one key ministry area from the following options: baptisms, weddings, funerals, the Lord's Supper. This research paper will follow both a biblical-theological-historical-cultural reflection on the issue as well as practical application. The assignment engages the student in the hermeneutic modelled in this course and its application. **Note:** This is a research paper. The student is expected to use and cite scholarly works not simply regurgitate class discussion.
2. Short Research Paper: The student will research and write a short paper (5 pages, double space, 12 font) on the office of the Pastor. It will include what the New Testament teaches as well as the helpful biblical metaphor (Shepherd) and aspects of the biblical archetypes (Prophet-Priest-King-Sage) discussed in class. **Note:** This is a research paper. The student is expected to use and cite scholarly works not simply regurgitate class discussion.

3. Short Research Paper: The student will research and write a short paper (5 pages, double space, 12 font) on a Pastor's personal life and health. The student will present a proposal for a pastor's ongoing development and health as it relates to areas that include but are not limited to ongoing personal growth, skill development and training, continued education, accountability, and coping with personal struggles, rest, and burnout. **Note:** This is a research paper. The student is expected to use and cite scholarly works not simply regurgitate class discussion.
4. Short Reflection Paper: Throughout the semester, the student will listen to all twelve episodes (excluding bonus episodes) of Christianity Today's podcast *The Rise and Fall of Mars Hill* (found here: <https://www.christianitytoday.com/ct/podcasts/rise-and-fall-of-mars-hill/>). Upon completion, the student will write a short paper (5 pages, double space, 12 font) that answers the following three questions: (1) What are 2-4 impressions the podcast leaves you with regarding leadership in the local church? (2) What flesh patterns do you have that, if unchecked, could ruin your ministry? (3) What structure(s) do you have (or will you have) in place to keep you a Christ-dependent Christian leader? Make sure answers are both (a) specific and (b) rooted in Scripture. **Note:** The podcast must be listened to during the current semester (even if you have heard it before). Budget ~15 hours of your time for listening (if you listen at normal speed).
5. A Short White Paper (5 pages, double space, 12 font), from one of the following options, that focuses on the Pastor's role as a representative of the church as a public voice in the broader community.
 - a) Present an expert testimony as a local church pastor to a Congressional Committee on Federal Funding for Abortion.
 - b) Speak to a national press conference as a local pastor in the aftermath of a mass shooting at the only public high school in your community. Anticipating and responding to potential questions "fielded" from the reporters after your statement.
 - c) Prepare and deliver a statement to your local County Commissioners Public Hearing on granting licensure to Marijuana businesses in close proximity to your neighborhood elementary school and local church. Prepare to answer questions from the Committee at the conclusion of your testimony.
 - d) Select a Supreme Court Decisions with significant local church implications. Choose a recent decision (within the last 10 years). Assess the strength and/or weakness of a pastoral theology testimony contribution.
6. Pastoral Rites. The student will attend five pastoral rites during the semester (i.e., wedding, funeral, baptism, pastoral visitation, ordination, dedication, etc.) of which there can be no more than two of the same rite. For each event the student will provide a one-page (double space, 12 font) detailed analysis of how the event was conducted (strengths/weaknesses) and observations of the experience (how a person present at the event would engage, feel, understand, leave).
7. Historical-Denominational Interaction: The student will attend the primary worship service from one of the three distinct historical worship traditions drawn from the following list: Oriental/Eastern Orthodox, Roman Catholic, Episcopal/Anglican, Reformed (e.g. Presbyterian, Congregational), Anabaptist (e.g. Mennonite, Huguenot, Hutterite), Methodist, Revivalist (e.g. Baptist, Bible Church, Salvation Army), Pentecostal/Charismatic (e.g. Vineyard), or Messianic (e.g. Messianic synagogue). The student will submit a report (5 pages, double space, 12 font) of the experience, commenting on the environment, service order/focus, congregational participation, sermon/homily, etc. The student is to pay particular attention to the "theological foundations" (if any) of what it witnessed. The choice worship service must be one outside the student's background/experience.

D. Quizzes and/or Exams

There will be no quizzes or exams in the course.

V. COURSE POLICIES

A. Weight Given to Course Requirements for Grading

1. Reading	20%
2. Required Assignments	
a. Integration Paper	30%
b. Group Worship Workshop	30%
3. Two Optional Assignments	20%

B. Class Participation

Every student is expected to participate in class in-person under the direction of the professor according to his or her ability as appropriate.

C. Late Assignments

In general, the due dates as given in the syllabus will be followed and the grade penalties for late work applied according to the standards as set forward in the current issue of the student handbook. Where an assignment requires involvement in an extracurricular situation, some latitude will be permitted.

D. Absences

Regular attendance is a means of personal growth in the individual exercises and a personal expression of your vision of God, as well as a requirement of the course. The absence policy is as set forward in the current issue of the student handbook

E. 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		

VI. COURSE SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

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

Week	Date	Topic	Assignments	Readings
1	1/10	A Vision for Pastoral Ministry 1. A Pastor's Identity: Disciple of Jesus Christ 2. Parish Life: The Minister as Overseer of a Christian Community		Syllabus
--	1/17	No Class: MLK Holiday		
2	1/24	The Pastor's Identity 1. The Pastor as Shepherd 2. The Pastor as Servant 3. Four Pastoral Archetypes: Prophet-Priest-King-Sage		Ezekiel 34:1-24; John 10:1-18; 13:1-38
3	1/31	The Pastor's Personal Life 1. The Spiritual Life of the Pastor		John 15:1-11; Col 4:2-18

		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> The Relational Life of the Pastor: The Church and the World The Physical Life of the Pastor 		
4	2/7	The Pastor's Parish Life <ol style="list-style-type: none"> A Biblical Philosophy of Leading a Church as Worship Preaching, Service Planning, and the Calendar 		Ross Completed; Ralston Worship (Art.)
5	2/14	The Pastor's Sacramental Life <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Leading in Baptism (Entry into the Family) Leading in the Lord's Supper 		Matt 28:18-20; 1 Cor 11:17-34
6	2/21	Pastoral Habits Pt. 1 <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Knowing the Flock Feeding the Flock 		2 Tim 4:1-5; 1 Peter 5:1-5
7	2/28	Pastoral Habits Pt. 2: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Leading the Flock Protecting the Flock 	Optional Assignment 1	Acts 20:17-28
--	3/7	No Class: Reading Week		
--	3/14	No Class: Spring Break		
8	3/21	Pastoral Leadership Pt. 1 <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Polity and Governance Membership and Discipline 		Acts 15
9	3/28	Pastoral Leadership Pt. 2: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Leading Organizationally (Trust, Change, and Conflict) Civic Presence and Legal Matters (Guest?) 	Watch: Trust vs. Suspicion ¹	
10	4/4	Pastoral Rites and Responsibilities Pt. 1 <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Premarital Counseling and Weddings Ministering During Death 	Optional Assignment 2	
11	4/4	Pastoral Rites and Responsibilities Pt. 2 <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Visitation and Congregational Care Pastoral Counseling and Family Care 		
12	4/11	The Pastor's Dark Side <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Understanding Flesh Patterns Leading in Light of the Flesh Managing Congregational Expectations (i.e., you aren't Superman) 		
13	4/11	Worship Workshop(s)	Worship Workshop In-Class	
14	4/18	The Church Year <ol style="list-style-type: none"> What is the Church Year? Why use the Church Year? 		
15	4/25	Those Things We Don't Speak Of: Case studies in ministry life. (Topics may change) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The Unloved Congregant The Misaligned Staffer The Unruly Congregational Meeting The More-Zealous-Than-You Worshipper 		
16	5/2	No Class: Finals Week	Integration Project Due	

¹ Found at <https://store.northpoint.org/pages/trust-vs-suspicion>. Watch both videos (~25 minutes total).