

PATH5331 Pastoral Ministry (Hybrid)

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary

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MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary is to equip leaders to fulfill the Great Commission and the Great Commandments through the local church and its ministries.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course will aid students to develop competency in pastoral ministry through a study of being called to a church, beginning a pastoral ministry, building relationships, leading a church, and leaving a church field. Practical ministry matters, as well as theological and philosophical considerations, will include training in planning preaching, administering the ordinances, performing weddings, conducting funerals and ordinations, visiting, counseling, and sustaining spiritual growth.

COMPETENCIES ADDRESSED:

The purpose of this course is to provide quality theological education for students in the discipline of pastoral ministries. The course will address the competencies of interpersonal skills, servant leadership, spiritual and character formation, and disciple making.

STUDENT LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

Pastoral ministry is a specific and important type of Christian shepherding. While all Christians shepherd others in various roles and relationships (such as pastors, parents, friends, counselors, teachers, mentors, helpers, and supervisors), not all are involved in a pastoral ministry vocation or calling. However, while students who take this course may have a variety of ministry callings and may pursue different academic degree programs, this course is particularly designed for students with a pastoral ministry calling (such as pastors, staff members, chaplains, missionaries, and church planters).

By the end of the course, the student will:

1. Be able to apply pastoral ministry principles, concepts, methodologies, and resources to their situation of beginning and carrying out ministry in a church or in selected shepherding situations.
2. Value pastor-type shepherding as a vital part of their ministry calling and work.
3. Demonstrate acceptable proficiency in pastoral ministry functions (such as able to articulate a clear Theology and philosophy of pastoral ministry, carry out a personal prayer ministry and pastoral visitation, administer the ordinances, perform weddings and premarital counseling, conduct funerals and ordinations, do pastoral (non-licensed) counseling, manage some types of interpersonal conflict, enact people-sensitive and task-focused leadership, do basic organizational problem-solving and planning, and manage time) with the aid of course resources

CORE VALUE FOCUS:

The core value for the 2013 Fall/Spring semester is "Servant Leadership" - We follow the model of Jesus to exert leadership through nurturing and encouraging those around us.

COURSE METHODS:

1. Lecture presentations and other methods will be utilized to teach the course concepts and methodologies, as well as to present various resources available for pastoral ministry and Christian shepherding.
2. Writing assignments will be required to facilitate experiential learning regarding the role, responsibilities, and ministries of pastor-type shepherds. Resource persons may be used to share experiences, as time permits.
3. Resource comparisons will be used to enhance and promote personal insights in ministry. Student interaction with peers, pastoral ministry resource persons, and the course instructor are encouraged during the duration of this class to facilitate such insights.
4. Conferences with the instructor are invited and may be accomplished via telephone, e-mail, or personal visits. Even informal conferences can stimulate learning and application of course principles and concepts.

TEXTBOOKS:

In addition to required textbooks, students are encouraged to explore a variety of resources useful for contemporary pastoral ministry. The texts listed below and in the Selected Bibliography will be helpful.

The following textbooks are **required** (will be cited in various class lectures and/or used in assignments):

- Bisagno, John. *Pastor's Handbook*. Nashville: Broadman and Holman, 2011.
- Cothen, Joe H. *Equipped for Good Work*. 3d ed. Edited by Jerry N. Barlow. Gretna: Pelican, 2012.
- Witmer, Timothy Z. *The Shepherd Leader*. Philipsburg, NJ: P & R Publishing, 2010.

The following textbooks are **optional** (will be helpful and may be used in class assignments):

- Bryant, James W., and Mac Brunson. *The New Guidebook for Pastors*. Nashville: Broadman and Holman, 2007.
- Carbonell, Mels. *Combining 23 Spiritual Gifts & 4 Personality Types*. GA: Mel Carbonell, 1997.
- Horner, David. *A Practical Guide for Life and Ministry*. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 2008.
- Leas, Speed B. *Discover Your Conflict Management Style*. Herndon, VA: Alban Institute Publication, 1997.
- Segler, Franklin M. *The Broadman Minister's Manual*. Nashville: Broadman Press, 1968.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

Students are required to accomplish reading assignments, theology and philosophy ministry assignments, and a major ministry assignment, as follows:

1. **Reading Assignments** (you must do **both** of these two reading assignments).
 - A. Submit **one** typed, five pages or less (single-spaced) **annotated analysis** of the **three** required textbooks (i.e., Bisagno, Cothen/Barlow, and Witmer) and **one** book from the syllabus bibliography of the student's choice on pastoral ministry or on Christian shepherding. **Format:** this **one single-spaced** analysis should give a correct bibliographic listing of **each** of the four books with their associated annotations, which answer the following questions:
 - 1) What is a two-paragraph (or less) summary of the book?
 - 2) What is one (or more) helpful feature(s) of the book for pastoral ministry or Christian shepherding?
 - 3) What is one difficulty, deficiency, or limitation in using the book for pastoral ministry or shepherding?A cover page is to be **used**, but do not include an intervening blank page (or binder, if submitted in class).
 - B. **Textbooks/Presentations Reading Assignments**. Read the required course textbooks and view the PATH5331 presentations on Blackboard as listed on p. 5-6 of this syllabus and submit reading reports as noted on p.5.
2. **Theology and Philosophy Ministry Assignments** (you must complete **both** ministry assignments).
 - A. Prepare a typed (single-spaced), **four-page** (or less) **theology of pastoral ministry (or shepherding)**, which gives **biblical** references (i.e., two to five references per topic) **and** discusses these topics: the calling to pastoral ministry (or to Christian ministry), the church, the office of pastor, the office of deacon,

preaching, ordination, the ordinances, pastoral visitation and evangelism (or personal ministry visitation and evangelism), the pastor's (or Christian's) family and ministry priorities, servant leadership, and the pastor's (or Christian's) spiritual life and example. **Format:** each topic is to be taken **in the order** given herein and is to be listed as a heading followed by its respective **biblical references** and **discussion**. A cover page is to be **used**, but do not include an intervening blank page (or binder, if submitted in class).

- B. Prepare a typed (single-spaced), **four-page** (or less) **philosophy of doing pastoral ministry** with regard to: church worship (or personal worship), outreach/witnessing, discipleship, missions, ministries, stewardship, conflict management, time management, funerals, weddings, and church staff relationships (or ministry staff relationships). **Note:** if you are married, then your philosophy paper must conclude with a discussion of getting your family adjusted at a new church field (or in a new ministry area or church). **Format:** same as the theology paper, **except** that **biblical** references are **not** to be cited and discussed. A cover page is to be **used**, but do not include an intervening blank page (or binder).

3. **Major Ministry Assignment:** Pastoral ministry handbook (Please follow the guidelines listed below)

- A. Complete a pastoral leadership assessment. The purpose of this assessment is to discover who you are as a leader and how God can use the skills He has equipped you with to lead His people. This assessment will include the following components: (1) Discover your conflict management style using the book by the same title by Speed B. Leas, (2) Discover your personality type and spiritual giftedness using "Uniquely You" assessment guide, (3) Discover your leadership style (the way God created you) using *Strengthfinders 2.0I*
- B. Complete Pastoral Ministry Assignment. Pastoral ministry includes a variety of responsibilities. This assignment will be divided into four segments: (1) Basic Ministry Functions – Baptism, Lord's Supper, Hospital Visits, how to conduct a funeral (2 funeral services), a sample quarterly church calendar, a plan of preaching for four Sundays and/or Wednesdays, and eight orders of worship. (2) Crisis Counseling/ Grief Ministry. (3) Shepherding. (4) Four Essential Leadership Skills – Attitude skills, Leadership Skills, Equipping Skills, and Relationship Skills.

COURSE EXAM

Students must take a final exam in accordance with the seminary and course exam schedule. The final exam will be a take-home, open-book exam, and questions will come from the class presentations, required textbooks, and assignments. The exam will also include an individual assessment of the personal accomplishment of two student-selected syllabus learning objectives.

EVALUATION

All course objectives will be evaluated through the grading of the course assignments and final exam. Student participation and behavior in class will also be considered in the evaluation of the course objectives and grading.

The student's final grade will be determined as follows:

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|--|-----|
| 1. Annotated Analysis Reading Assignment | 15% |
| 2. Textbooks/Presentations Reading Assign. | 20% |
| 3. Theology Paper | 15% |
| 4. Philosophy Paper | 15% |
| 5. Major Ministry Assignment | 20% |
| 6. Final exam | 15% |

The following will be the grading system used for this course: A – 93-100; B – 85-92; C – 77-84; D – 70-76; F – Below 70 (See NOBTS Grading Scale for more information).

LATE ASSIGNMENTS

Assignments turned in **past the date due** will incur a late penalty of **ten** points, which will be deducted from the assignment grade. Assignments will **not be accepted more than one week past the date due** without permission from the course professor. However, students are reminded that some points for assignments submitted late are better than no points for assignments not submitted.

COURSE AND ASSIGNMENTS SCHEDULE

Course topics will be derived from the following possibilities:

Introduction

Course Syllabus

Course Core Assumptions and Organization

Student Background Survey

A Theology of Pastoral Ministry and Christian Shepherding

Biblical Concepts

Historical Concepts

The Calling to Pastoral Ministry and Shepherding

God's Will and Pastor Search/Personnel Committees

The Matter of Ordination

A Philosophy of Pastoral Ministry

Macro-Shepherding and Micro-Shepherding

Essentials of an Effective Shepherding Ministry

Competencies for Pastoral Ministry

Beginning and Carrying Out Pastoral Ministry in a Church

Praying in Services and at Other Places and Times

Preaching and Worship Services: Preparing and Planning

Performing the Ordinances

Performing Funerals, Weddings, and Ordinations

Visiting and Counseling

Witnessing and Equipping

Servant Leadership and Church Administration

Interpersonal Relationships and Skills (Deacon, Staff, Community, and Family)

Problem Solving, Planning, Decision Making, and Conflict Management

Managing Change and Reviving a Church

Scheduling and Time Management

Spiritual Life, Example, Finances/Stewardship, and Personal Growth

Ministry, Technology, and Social Networking

Managing Facilities, Austere Times, and Ministry Transitions

Ending Pastoral Ministry with a Church

The Call to a New Work

Conflicted Church Situations and Relationships (Present and Future)

Turnover Files and Transition

Ending Responsibilities and Making New Commitments

Continuing Relationships and Returning

Concluding Matters in Pastoral Ministry and Christian Shepherding

Assignments are to be submitted via email. The email account is nobts@hotmail.com (or may be submitted in class when the course meets on an assignment due date) and are due no later than **12:00 noon** on these **Mondays**:

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|---|----------------------|
| 1. Annotated Analysis Reading Assignment | November 26 |
| 2. Textbooks/Presentations Reading Assignment | (As indicated below) |
| 3. Theology paper | September 24 |
| 4. Philosophy paper | October 22 |
| 5. Major pastoral ministry assignment | December 3 |

Reading reports pertaining to the Textbooks/Presentations Reading Assignment are due by **12:00 noon**, as follows:

1. Reading Report 1—all reading assigned for topics one and two (syllabus, p.6)—due Sept. 10
2. Reading Report 2—all reading assigned for topics three through six (syllabus, p. 6)—due Oct. 8
3. Reading Report 3—all reading assigned for topics seven through ten (syllabus, p. 6)—due Nov. 5
4. Reading Report 4—all reading assigned for topics eleven through fourteen (syllabus, p. 6)—due Nov. 26

The final exam will be **available** by 9:30 A.M. on **Monday, November 26**, and will be **due** by e-mail to nobts@hotmail.com **no later than 3:00 P.M. on Monday, December 3.**

COURSE TIMELINE

Classes will meet from 9:00 – 10:50 a.m. on the following dates: 8/27, 9/10, 9/24, 10/8, 10/22, 11/5, 11/26, 12/3

COURSE MODIFICATION

The professor reserves the right to modify any portion of this syllabus as he deems necessary to maintain the integrity of the learning experience as a result of events and circumstances that occur during the course.

Textbooks/Presentations Reading Assignment and Report Form

Students are to **view** the PATH5331 presentations on Blackboard, **read** the related sections in the three required course texts (i.e., Bisagno, Cothen and Barlow, and Witmer), complete a **reading report** on this form for **each** of the four reading due dates (see syllabus, p.5), and submit each report by **12:00 noon** on the date due.

Reading Topics

Topic one: View “Pastoral Ministry: Shepherding” and read Cothen/Barlow Chapters 1 and 16 (pp. 264-265); Bisagno Chapters 1-3, 32, 77; Witmer pp. 1-26, 247-249.

Topic two: View “Shepherding Competencies” and read Cothen/Barlow Chapter 4 (pp. 56-61); Bisagno Chapters 4, 13-16; Witmer pp. 29-73.

Topic three: View “Call to a Church” and read Cothen/Barlow Chapters 2 and 4 (pp. 61-66); Bisagno Chapters 12, 20-21, 23-24, 27, 45-46.

Topic four: View “Church Entry Dynamics” and read Cothen/Barlow Chapters 3 and 4 (pp. 66-76); Bisagno Chapters 17-19, 50, 53-54, 56-57; Witmer pp. 75-105.

Topic five: View “Leading God’s People” and read Cothen/Barlow Chapters 15 and 16 (pp. 265-270); Bisagno Chapters 35-38, 49, 55, 58-64; Witmer pp. 155-168.

Topic six: View “Lead, Organize, Train” and read Cothen/Barlow Chapter 13; Bisagno Chapters 5-10, 22, 25-26, 51-52, 111-117; Witmer pp. 107-153.

Topic seven: View “Programs and Facilities Oversight” and read Cothen/Barlow Chapters 11-12; Bisagno Chapters 91-102, 105-110, 118-133, 135-137.

Topic eight: View “Becoming Ordained to the Gospel Ministry” and read Cothen/Barlow Appendix G and Chapter 14; Bisagno Chapter 134.

Topic nine: View “Shepherding Through Supplication” and “Pastoral Response to Crisis” and read Cothen/Barlow Ch. 9 (pp. 152-155); Bisagno Chapters 11, 33, 40; Witmer pp. 169-189.

Topic ten: View “Visiting, Counseling, Witnessing” and read Cothen/Barlow Chapters 6 and 7, and Appendix H (also A and D); Bisagno Chapters 39, 43, 65-73, 78-90, 103-104, 138-141.

Topic eleven: View “Ordinances” and read Cothen/Barlow Chapter 10; Bisagno Chapters 74-75.

Topic twelve: View “Funerals” and read Cothen/Barlow Chapter 9; Bisagno Chapters 41-42.

Topic thirteen: View “Weddings” and read Cothen/Barlow Chap 8 and Appendix F; Bisagno Chapt 44.

Topic fourteen: View “Ministry Transitions” & “Concluding Considerations” and read Cothen/Barlow Chapters 4 (pp. 76-78), 16 (pp. 269-270); Bisagno Chapters 29-31, 47-48, 76, 142 ; Witmer pp. 191-245.

Reading Report: students are to report their completion of the assigned reading by answering on this form the following questions:

1. What topics and content in Cothen and Barlow were of most interest and benefit to you **and** why or how (grade value: 10 points)?
2. What topics and content in Bisagno **and** in Witmer were of most interest and benefit to you **and** why or how (grade value: 10 points)?
3. What topics and content in the PATH5331 presentations were of most interest and benefit to you **and** why or how (grade value: 10 points)?
4. How much of the reading for the topics assigned did you read? Please check **one** of the following answers:
 - a. I have read **all** the reading requirements for the topics assigned for this report (70 points).
 - b. I have read **all but one book** of the reading requirements for the topics assigned (60 points).
 - c. I have read **all but two of the books** of the reading for the topics assigned (50 points).
 - d. I have read **only one book** of the reading for the topics assigned (40 points).

Student's signature: _____ Date: _____

Student's name (typed or printed): _____ Report Due: _____

SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

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