



BEXP9412/PMCL9403
Studies in Classical & Contemporary Pastoral Theology
New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary
Church Ministry Division
Spring 2021

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Mission Statement

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary and Leavell College prepare servants to walk with Christ, proclaim His truth, and fulfill His mission.

Course Description

This seminar studies the work of significant pastors, past and present, in regard to their times, ministry, person, and contributions to the field of pastoral theology. The study also will include an investigation of important issues and problems faced by these pastors, in order to identify evident trends, practical principles, and helpful resources which can shape effective pastoral ministry.

Student Learning Outcomes

By the end of this seminar, the student should be able to:

1. Be acquainted with theological concepts, practical methodologies, and helpful resources regarding pastoral ministry, as well as the historic epochs and functions;
2. Have gained an understanding of key cultural, theological, historical, religious, and congregational factors faced by classical and contemporary pastors;
3. Have identified characteristics and qualities of significant pastors and their contributions to the field of pastoral work;
4. Have examined a variety of leadership styles in comparison to principles, models, and methods of effective pastoral leadership;
5. Have identified transferable concepts and principles for contemporary and future pastoral work.

Textbooks

The following texts and resources are required reading for class discussions and assignment completion. They must be read in their entirety unless otherwise specified.

Akin, Daniel L. and R. Scott Pace. *Pastoral Theology: Theological Foundations for Who a Pastor Is and What He Does*. Nashville: B & H Publishers, 2017.

Heistand, Gerald and Todd A. Wilson, *The Pastor Theologian: Resurrecting an Ancient Vision*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2015.

Hiltner, Seward. *Preface to Pastoral Theology*. Nashville: Abingdon, 1958. **(Note: Out of print. The NOBTS Library will place 3 copies on 30-day reserve, beginning November 30th, for those who cannot locate a copy to purchase.)**

Laniak, Timothy S. *Shepherds After My Own Heart: Pastoral Traditions and Leadership in the Bible*. Downers Grove, IL: Intervarsity Press, 2006.

Oden, Thomas C. *Pastoral Theology: Essentials of Ministry*. San Francisco: Harper, 1983.

Purves, Andrew. *Pastoral Theology in the Classical Tradition*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2001.

Thompson, James W. *Pastoral Ministry According to Paul: A Biblical Vision*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2006.

Vanhoozer, Kevin J. and Owen Strachan. *The Pastor as Public Theologian: Reclaiming a Lost Vision*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2015.

Course Teaching Methodology

1. The primary course method will involve student research and the reporting of that research in papers and seminar presentations.
2. Lectures and small-group dialogue will be utilized to enhance and promote personal assimilation and integration of course concepts and content.
3. Student interaction with peers, pastoral ministry resource persons, seminary faculty members, and the seminar professor are encouraged during the duration of this seminar to facilitate insights and develop competencies. Conferences with the professor are invited and may be accomplished via telephone, email, or office visits.

Course Requirements

1. Pastoral Theology Best Practices/Common Competencies: Presentation

Students will read the all required textbooks and resources and extrapolate eight (8) best practices or common competencies of pastoral theology. Students are expected create a multimedia presentation of the best practices and provide a listening guide for classmates. The presentation should reflect the scope of the required readings. All students will make their presentations during the first meeting of the seminar. Due 2 days prior to the 1st seminar meeting. (Submit through Blackboard) This assignment will address Student Learning Outcome (SLO) #1 & #2.

2. Pastoral Theology Case Studies.

Students will develop a **Case Study** on three (3) significant pastors:

- a. One pre-twentieth century pastor;
- b. One twentieth century pastor;
- c. One contemporary pastor (2000 – present, either currently serving as pastor or retired within the last ten years).

Each Case Study must be formal Turabian Style, 18-20 pages in length (not including the title page and selected bibliography), double-spaced, utilizing the required textbooks plus resources pertinent to the case study personality. Each paper should consist of the following components:

- a. A biographical summary of the pastor's life, with emphasis on significant influences such as family, early training, salvation experience, call to pastoral ministry, formal education, and any life-changing experiences.
- b. A synthesis of all pastorates, involving historical context and community impact;
- c. A discussion of their philosophy of pastoral ministry;
- d. An analysis of their significant contributions to pastoral theology.

Note: Choices of the three pastors are to be submitted to Dr. Ogea for approval, first-come, first-served basis, no later than the first seminar meeting.

The Case Studies will be presented as oral reports, 20-25 minutes in length, with Q & A to follow.

3. Final Exam Reflection Paper.

Students will submit a typed (single-spaced, a space between each single-spaced paragraph, with no paragraph indentions) **Reflection Paper** as a Final Exam, to consist of the following components:

- a. A two-page statement of the student's personal pastoral theology and philosophy, which reflects an assimilation and integration of seminar concepts, principles, and research regarding the life and work of the pastor;
- b. A two-page synopsis of the key insights (at least three) learned by the student during the seminar.
- c. A two-page discussion of the critical issues (at least three) facing 21st century pastors.

The Reflection Paper Final Exam is due one week following the last seminar meeting.

Course Schedule

Four Seminar sessions will convene:

Thursday, February 4, 2021 8am – 5pm CST

Pastoral Theology Best Practices/Common Competencies: Presentation

Thursday, March 4, 2021 8am – 5pm CST

Case Study: Pre-twentieth century pastor

Thursday, April 8, 2021 8am – 5pm CST

Case Study: Twentieth century pastor

Thursday, May 6, 2021 8am – 5pm CST

Case Study: Contemporary pastor

Evaluation of Grade

The student's grade will be computed as follows:

| | |
|------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Best Practices/Common Competencies | 30% |
| Case Studies | 60% (20 % each) |
| Reflection Paper | 10% |

Technical Assistance

For assistance regarding technology, consult ITC (504-816-8180) or the following websites:

1. Selfserve@nobts.edu - Email for technical questions/support requests with the Selfserve.nobts.edu site (Access to online registration, financial account, online transcript, etc.)
2. BlackboardHelpDesk@nobts.edu - Email for technical questions/support requests with the NOBTS Blackboard Learning Management System NOBTS.Blackboard.com.
3. ITCSupport@nobts.edu - Email for general technical questions/support requests.
4. www.NOBTS.edu/itc/ - General NOBTS technical help information is provided on this website.

[Other items may be included, such as: expectations for reading assignments, policy on late assignments, academic honesty, classroom demeanor, extra credit]

Help for Writing Papers at “The Write Stuff”

NOBTS maintains a Writing Center designed to improve English writing at the graduate level. Students can receive writing guides, tips, and valuable information to help in becoming a better writer.

Plagiarism on Written Assignments

NOBTS has a no tolerance policy for plagiarism. Plagiarism in certain cases may result in expulsion from the seminary. See the NOBTS Student Handbook for definition, penalties, and policies associated with plagiarism.

Selected Bibliography

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Anderson, Leith. *Leadership That Works: Hope and Direction for Church and Parachurch Leaders in Today's Complex World*. Minneapolis: Bethany House Publishers, 1999.

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