COURSE DESCRIPTION: A study of general pastoral care, biblical and professional standards of ministerial conduct, etiquette, interpersonal relationships, typical problem areas, and possible pitfalls for pastors. Part of this course will include a hospital chaplain experience.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

1. The student will become conversant with the Pastoral Epistles (PE’s) as an inspired working manual for Pastoral Ministry.

2. The student will examine his own calling, character, giftedness, and competencies with reference to Pastoral Ministry.

3. The student will be exposed to various aspects of the pastor’s life that will necessitate preparation and planning in order to maintain spiritual balance in Pastoral Ministry.

4. The student will learn how to perform a wedding ceremony and establish a wise policy for church weddings.

5. The student will learn how to perform a funeral and establish a wise policy for church funerals.

6. The student will learn how to develop and implement a preaching plan, a new member’s class, and an officer training program.

7. The student will be introduced to several issues in Pastoral Ministry which each pastor must biblically address.
## MDiv* Student Learning Outcomes

In order to measure the success of the MDiv curriculum, RTS has defined the following as the intended outcomes of the student learning process. Each course contributes to these overall outcomes. This rubric shows the contribution of this course to the MDiv outcomes.

*As the MDiv is the core degree at RTS, the MDiv rubric will be used in this syllabus.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Articulation (oral &amp; written)</th>
<th>Rubric</th>
<th>Mini-Justification</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Broadly understands and articulates knowledge, both oral and written, of essential biblical, theological, historical, and cultural/global information, including details, concepts, and frameworks.</td>
<td>Strong</td>
<td>Understanding of the Pastoral Ministry as a shaper of Gospel Religion.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Scripture</th>
<th>Rubric</th>
<th>Mini-Justification</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Significant knowledge of the original meaning of Scripture. Also, the concepts for and skill to research further into the original meaning of Scripture and to apply Scripture to a variety of modern circumstances. (Includes appropriate use of original languages and hermeneutics; and integrates theological, historical, and cultural/global perspectives.)</td>
<td>Strong</td>
<td>Understanding of the PE’s as a paradigm for ministry.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reformed Theology</th>
<th>Rubric</th>
<th>Mini-Justification</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Significant knowledge of Reformed theology and practice, with emphasis on the Westminster Standards.</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
<td>Review of Packer’s exposition of the Three Formulae in setting forth Reformed Ecclesiology, world view, ethics and piety.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sanctification</th>
<th>Rubric</th>
<th>Mini-Justification</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Demonstrates a love for the Triune God that aids the student’s sanctification.</td>
<td>Minimal</td>
<td>Will be exposed to key issues of holiness in Pastoral Ministry.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Desire for Worldview</th>
<th>Rubric</th>
<th>Mini-Justification</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Burning desire to conform all of life to the Word of God.</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
<td>Will interact with readings to determine the state of Evangelical Christianity in America.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Winsomely Reformed</th>
<th>Rubric</th>
<th>Mini-Justification</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Embraces a winsomely Reformed ethos. (Includes an appropriate ecumenical spirit with other Christians, especially Evangelicals; a concern to present the Gospel in a God-honoring manner to non-Christians; and a truth-in-love attitude in disagreements.)</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>Will be enabled to build a church around a planned program of Word and Sacraments.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Preach</th>
<th>Rubric</th>
<th>Mini-Justification</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ability to preach and teach the meaning of Scripture to both heart and mind with clarity and enthusiasm.</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Worship</td>
<td>Knowledgeable of historic and modern Christian-worship forms; and ability to construct and skill to lead a worship service.</td>
<td>Minimal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shepherd</td>
<td>Ability to shepherd the local congregation: aiding in spiritual maturity; promoting use of gifts and callings; and encouraging a concern for non-Christians, both in America and worldwide.</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Church/World</td>
<td>Ability to interact within a denominational context, within the broader worldwide church, and with significant public issues.</td>
<td>Minimal</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**REQUIRED READING:** (Text Books)

   
   Each student will read the 64 devotionals on the Three Formulae, reading one devotion per day, until all are read. The purpose of this reading is to re-introduce the biblical beauty and balance of the historical Christian faith, in its rich tradition: Doctrine, Ethics, Piety and the Church.

   
   Many pastors today see themselves primarily as counselors, leaders and motivators. Yet this often comes at the expense of the fundamental reality of the pastorate as a theological office. The most important role is to be a theologian mediating God to the people. The church needs pastors who can contextualize the Word of God to help their congregations think theologically about all aspects of their lives, such as work, end-of-life decisions, political involvement, and entertainment choices.
   
   Drawing on the depiction of pastors in the Bible, key figures from church history, and Christian theology, this brief and accessible book offers a clarion call for pastors to serve as public theologians in their congregations and communities. The church needs pastors to read the world in light of Scripture and to direct their congregations in ways of wisdom, shalom, and human flourishing. The Pastor as Public Theologian calls for a paradigm shift in the very idea of what a pastor is and does, setting forth a positive alternative picture. It also includes pastoral reflections on the theological task from twelve working pastors.

   
   Brooks challenges “the culture of the Big Me” by showing how the struggles we face in life and the values that drive our pursuits are the shapers of what we become. Brooks writes from the perspective of common grace and focuses on how inner disciplines and community involvement shape our moral framework.

*Dr. Mohler approaches the subject of leadership from the triangle of conviction, purpose and principles. In twenty-five short essays on various aspects of leadership in ministry, Dr. Mohler covers the life-long process of leadership development from calling to the legacy a leader leaves behind him when he dies. “Leaders are trusted when their lives are in alignment with their convictions,” Mohler boldly states. Leadership is all about the character to lead by convictions.*

5. Pohl, Christine D. *Living Into Community: Cultivating the Practices that Sustain Us.* (Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans, 2012; 176 pages)

*The Pastor is both the shaper of good religion and the developer of gracious community. Christianity was intended by God and Christ to be learned and lived in the community of the local church. Problem! Americans do not know how to “do community.” Though they profess a dire need for “authentic community,” most folks in our culture – especially the young – do not have the life skills or honed practices that both build and sustain genuine community. Pohl suggests that four things are needed: gratitude, promise keeping, truthful living, and hospitality. These are the duties of church planters and pastors toward people hungry for community.*

**GRADING FOR THE COURSE**

The Reading Plan and Grading Structure for this course will be as follows:

1. *Growing in Christ* will be read alongside (concurrent with) our study of the Pastoral Epistles, in this manner:
   (1) First Timothy (February 4 - March 10): *The Apostles Creed and The Ten Commandments*
   (2) Second Timothy (March 24 – April 14): *The Lord’s Prayer*
   (3) Titus (April 21 – May 5): *Baptism and Conversion*

   Students will discuss the readings in class and will turn in a statement at the end of the course reporting how much of these readings they accomplished.

   **10% of Grade**
   Due May 13th

2. *The Road to Character*, *The Pastor as Public Theologian*, *The Conviction to Lead* and *Living Into Community* will be read in their entirety and a 3-4 page critical précis on each of the books (between 800-1000 words each) will be prepared.

   **60 % of Grade**
   (1) *The Road to Character* - **Due February 25th**
   (2) *The Pastor as Public Theologian* – **Due March 24th**
   (3) *The Conviction to Lead* – **Due April 14th**
   (4) *Living Into Community* – **Due May 12th**
3. Class Attendance and Discussion: The course has 13 class sessions over 14 weeks. One unexcused absence will be granted. A second excuse may be obtained in advance by permission of the instructor. A minimum of 10 classes are necessary to pass this course. Class involvement and interaction (discussion) will be considered in grading the student.

10% of Grade

4. Final Exam: The final exam will be drawn from the materials and discussions of the class notes.

10% of Grade

5. Hospital Chaplaincy Experience: You will sign up for shifts of actual hospital chaplaincy ministry. You will receive the opportunity to choose hours convenient to your schedule and this will be discussed further during class. Failure to show up for your chosen and required number of hospital chaplaincy hours will possibly result in failure of the course. The Hospital Chaplaincy does not count for a grade but is mandatory.

Note: There are extra readings noted in the syllabus for which a student may receive up to 10% in extra credit.

RECOMMENDED READING


30. Wells, David F. A set of four books setting forth Christianity and Christian Ministry in a postmodern culture.


   *Above All Earthly Pow’rs: Christ in a Postmodern World*. Wm. B. Eerdmans: Grand Rapids; 2005.

Note: Well’s four volumes are abridged in *The Courage to be Protestant: Truth – Lovers, Marketers, and Emergents in the Postmodern World*. Wm. B. Eerdmans: Grand Rapids; 2008.
February 4  
**A Biblical and Gospel Ministry** (First Timothy 1)  
- The Pillar and Buttress of Truth (1:1-2; 3:14-16)  
- The Calling of a Teaching Elder (1:3-11)  
- Trophies of Grace (1:12-17)  
- The Good Fight (1:18-20)  

*Five Trustworthy Statements*  
*The Three Voices of Ministry* (Revelation 1)

February 11  
**Men and Women in Ministry** (First Timothy 2)  
- A Peaceful and Quiet Life (2:1-7)  
- Holy Hands and Modest Bodies (2:8-10)  
- Women in Ministry (2:11-15)  

*God’s Grand Scheme* (*Life with God*)  
*The Pastor’s Dress and Demeanor*

February 18  
**Working with Church Officers** (First Timothy 3)  
- The Noble Task (Elders) (3:1-7)  
- Women Deacons? (3:11)  
- The Good Standing (Deacons) (3:8-13)  

*Officer Training*  
*Gender Issues in the Church*

February 25  
**The Minister’s Ministry to Himself** (First Timothy 4)  
- A Grateful Heart and an Angry Spirit (4:1-5)  
- Training in Godliness (4:6-10)  
- Ministerial Priorities 94:11-16)  

*Three Threats to Gospel Religion* (*Jude*)  
C. H. Spurgeon:  “*The Minister’s Fainting Fits*” (*Lectures to My Students*)

March 3  
**Pastoral Relations** (First Timothy 5:1-6:2)  
- The Spiritual Family (5:1-2)  
- Widows (5:3-8)  
- Women in the Church (5:9-16)  
- What We Owe the Elders (5:17-25)  
- Social Structures (6:1-2)  

*Shepherdess Ministry*
March 10  **Freedom From Entanglements** (First Timothy 6:3-21)
- The Love of Money (6:3-10)
- The Marks of a Man of God (6:11-16)
- No Responder of Persons (6:17-19)
- The Sacred Trust (6:20-21)

*Discuss the Apostles’ Creed and Ten Commandments*

*Pastoral Pitfalls*
*Priority of Your Marriage*

March 14-18  **Spring Break**

March 24  **Calling to and Suffering in Ministry** (Second Timothy 1)
- A Clear Conscience (1:1-7)
- Not Ashamed to Suffer (1:8-14)
- Moral Courage (1:15-18)

_The Call to Ministry_
Edmund P. Clowney: ‘*Called to the Ministry*’ (Booklet)
*Becoming a Churchman*

March 31  **Priorities, Purity, Personality** (Second Timothy 2)
- Strength in Grace (2:1-13)
- A Focused Ministry: Edifying Truth (2:14-18, 23)
- A Focused Ministry: Firm Foundation (2:19)
- A Focused Ministry: Personal Holiness (2:20-23)
- A Focused Ministry: The Essentials (2:24-26)

_The New Member’s Class*

April 7  **Ministry in the Context of Culture** (Second Timothy 3)
- Difficult Times (3:1-5)
- Depraved Men (3:6-9)
- The Godly Minister (3:10-17)

_The Lord’s Supper*
*Preparation For Baptism*

April 14  **The Ministry of the Word** (Second Timothy 4)
- Preach the Word (4:1-5)
- Fulfill Your Ministry (4:6-8)
- Men in Ministry (4:9-22)

*Discuss The Lord’s Prayer*

_Developing a Preaching Plan*
_The Clear Trumpet (Ezekiel 33)***
April 21   Leading the Church (Titus 1)
- A Common Faith
- A Churchly Piety
- A Counter Culture

Bringing Order to the Church (WCF & BCO)  
Ministry Structure for the Church

April 28   Developing Genuine Christian Community (Titus 2)
- A Multigenerational Church (2:1-10)
- A Covenant Community (2:11-14)
- A Courageous Shepherd (2:15)

The Triangle of Grace (Titus 2:11-15)  
The Wedding: Policies and Procedures

May 5    Creating a Gospel-Centered Ministry (Titus 3)
- Understanding Conversion (3:1-7)
- Focusing on Key Issues (3:8-11)
- Preparing a People for Good Works (3:12-15)

*Discuss Baptism and Conversion  
The Funeral: Policies and Procedures

May 12-17  Final Exams

INSTRUCTOR’S CONTACT INFORMATION

Mike Ross  
6009 Corkstone Drive  
Charlotte, NC  28227

Phone: 704-989-4740  
Email: mross@christcovenant.org

Church: Christ Covenant Church  
800 Fullwood Lane  
Matthews, NC  28105  
704-708-6118

Executive Assistant: Kim Westbrook  
704-708-6107
POLICY ON CHEATING AND PLAGIARISM: Cheating is the use of another person’s work on behalf of your own work, with the assumption being that it is your work. The MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers says, “To plagiarize is to give the impression that you have written or thought something that you have in fact borrowed from someone else.” Plagiarism is the use of ideas, information and content from a particular source without giving credit to that source by footnoting the source or accounting for it in a bibliography. Cheating will result in an automatic zero (0) grade for the assignment, paper or exam involved. Plagiarism, whether intentional or unintentional, is considered academic theft. The RTS academic consequences of plagiarism are as follows: 1) First offense: The student must rewrite the paper and receive no better than a passing “D” grade for it. 2) Second offense: The student fails the entire course.

POLICY ON LATE WORK: Any work turned in late and without either a written excuse or previous permission granted by the professor will be docked one point/day for that assignment. Excuses for late work will be accepted for dire medical needs or reasons or other extreme emergencies.

POLICY ON GRAMMAR AND SPELL CHECK: Any work turned in which appears to lack “proofing” or displays poor grammar will receive a small penalty affecting the grade.

POLICY ON INTERNET USAGE (from the RTS/Charlotte Student Handbook): Students are expected to conduct themselves at all times as mature believers. Godly behavior, expected of all Christians, is especially required of those who are preparing themselves to become ministers of the Word. Classroom manners should reflect this maturity. Students should be respectful of professors, attend all class periods, and hand in assignments on time. Classroom etiquette also includes leaving cell phones turned off, refraining from surfing the Internet and laptop computer games and talking to your neighbor during lectures. Laptop computers will not be used in this course.
Final Reading Report for PT518 Pastoral Ministry
REFORMED THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY - CHARLOTTE
SPRING 2016
DR. MICHAEL F. ROSS
ADJUNCT PROFESSOR

Student’s Name: ________________________________

I ________________________________ certify that I read the following:

1. *Growing In Christ*…………………………… _________%

2. *The Road to Character*……………………… _________%

3. *The Pastor as Public Theologian*…………… _________%

4. *The Conviction to Lead*……………………… _________%

5. *Living Into Community*……………………… _________%

6. *The Minister’s Feinting Fits* (Spurgeon)….. Yes / No

7. *Called to the Ministry* (Clowney)…………… Yes / No

I completed my Hospital Chaplaincy requirements.. Yes / No