Reformed Theological Seminary - Houston
Spring 2015

PT529 Theology of Ministry 2 Hours
Tuesdays, 6:30 PM – 9:30 PM

Rev. Fred Greco
Visiting Lecturer
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Course Description
This course introduces the student to general pastoral care, biblical and professional standards of ministerial conduct, self-image, etiquette, interpersonal relationships, and typical problem areas and possible pitfalls for pastors.

Theology of Ministry is a “Practical Theology” class, and as such there will be a heavy emphasis on the implications of Biblical and Reformed principles on day-to-day ministry and the life of the Church. We will spend less time working in the original languages (although the instructor has significant experience there!) than in thinking through and discussing matters such as shepherding, discipleship, leadership, strategic planning, family/life balance, community building, and working well with others. The readings have intentionally been weighted toward such practical matters. The instructor’s goal is to have the course serve both as a resource for future ministry and as a forum to think through pastoral issues in order to prepare for ministry.

Course Objectives
1. The student will understand and apply the inspired instructions for ministry in the Pastoral Epistles (1 Timothy, 2 Timothy, and Titus) to the pastoral ministry.
2. The student will examine his 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 develop and implement a preaching plan, a new members’ class, and an officer training program.
5. The student will be exposed to issues and challenges of the ministry with respect to personal and family life.
6. The student will be introduced to several issues in pastoral ministry which each pastor must biblically address.
Required Texts (total 921 pages)
(These texts may be in an electronic format (e.g. Kindle), or audio format if available)
1. The Holy Bible, 1 & 2 Timothy, and Titus, preferably in a recent translation (the instructor will use the ESV).

Recommended Texts
(These texts are not required reading for the examination)

**Assignments & Requirements**

1. **Completion of the Assigned Reading.** The student will complete all of the Required Reading above, approximately 921 pages. The student must indicate to the instructor in writing at the time the Final Exam is turned in how much of the reading has been completed (partial credit will be given). **20% of Final Grade**

2. A **Final Exam** will be given as a take-home exam, handed out at the end of class on April 28. It is *not* an open-book exam. The student will be required to sign a statement that the student has received no assistance (whether from written materials or persons) during the course of taking the exam. The final exam will be based on both the lectures and the Required Reading, and will consist of multiple choice questions and several short answer (1-2 paragraphs) questions. The final exam is due not later than 4:00 PM on Tuesday, May 19, 2015. Please arrange your schedule accordingly. **Late Exams will be penalized. 30% of Final Grade**

3. **Reflection Paper.** The student will submit a 5-6 page paper (typed, double-spaced using 12 pt. font) reflecting on a topic or book covered in the course. The paper is not a compilation of research, but is rather an articulation by the student of the main theme of the book chosen, or a summary of the salient point of the topic/issue chosen. Topics for this paper include:
   - Temptations faced by the minister that can shipwreck his ministry
   - How to strategically think about ministry, and lead others in that vision
   - The importance of shepherding the flock in pastoral ministry
   - The difference between pastoral ministry, entrepreneurialism, and business management
   - The relationship of the ministry of the Word to ministry to people

   The paper is due at the start of class on **Tuesday, April 28, 2015. Late Papers will be penalized. 30% of Final Grade**

4. **Outline Agenda for Leaders’ Meeting.** The student will draft a one page outline agenda for a meeting of a church leadership group (e.g. Elders’, Deacons’ meeting). **10% of Final Grade**

5. **Outline Agenda for Officer Training.** The student will draft a one or two page outline for training officers in the church. **10% of Final Grade**
Attendance
Because of the condensed nature of this course, class attendance is required for PT 529. If a student anticipates an unavoidable absence, he should notify the instructor in advance. Each hour of unexcused absence subjects the student reduction of his final grade by one-half of a letter grade.

Grading Scale
The grading scale for this course is the seminary’s grading scale. You may find it listed in the RTS Catalog.

Plagiarism
Please review the seminary’s policy on plagiarism. Plagiarized work will subject the student to failure in the course and possible disciplinary action.

In-Class Computer Use
Students are expected to conduct themselves as mature believers in Christ. Classroom manners should reflect this maturity. Please silence all cell phones and other electronic devices, and plan to return calls during breaks. Please refrain from surfing the internet, playing games, or chatting during class time.

Approximate Class Schedule
Please note that this schedule is approximate and subject to change at any time. The instructor’s announced changes in class will be the final word on the nature and date of assignments. They are the student’s sole responsibility to note and to implement.

Class will meet from 6:30 PM until 9:30 PM on the following Tuesday evenings:

- **February 3**
  - Reading Due: Warfield, *The Religious Life of Theological Students*
  - In-Class Topic: Ministry Foundations
    - *A study of the Biblical passages and warrant for the pastoral ministry. Also covered will be the subject of a personal call to ministry.*

- **February 10**
  - Reading Due: Clowney, *Called to Ministry*
  - In-Class Topic: Ministry and the Word
    - *The role of the minister as a preacher of God’s Word, teacher of God’s people, and leader in worship.*

- **February 17**
  - In-Class Topic: Ministry as a Pastor
    - *A study of the ministry of general pastoral care for the flock, shepherding, and pastoral counseling.*

- **February 24**
  - In-Class Topic: Ministry with Co-Laborers
    - *Ministry involves working together with others, including officers of the Church (elders and deacons), other ministers within one’s tradition, and other ministers and ministries in the community.*
March 3  
**In-Class Topic:** Ministry in the Congregation  
*How does a minister involve people in the congregation in ministry? What does leadership look like in the context of the Church, as distinct from the business community?*

March 24  
**Reading Due:** Piper, *Brothers, We Are Not Professionals*  
**In-Class Topic:** Ministry and Community  
*Discussion of the minister’s role in developing the community of faith in the local congregation, including building relationships among congregants, and developing discipleship patterns.*

March 31  
**In-Class Topic:** Ministry and Culture  
*Discussion of the minister’s role in leading a congregation to be salt and light in the culture in which we live, including the issues of contextualization, witness, and declaration of God’s Word*

April 14  
**Reading Due:** Rainer & Geiger, *Simple Church*  
**In-Class Topic:** Ministry and Priorities  
*Ministers (like all other people!) are finite beings, with limited resources, time, and energy. How should the minister prioritize his labor? What principles are involved? Included will be a study of church administration and ministerial etiquette.*

April 28  
**Reading Due:** Tripp, *Dangerous Calling*  
**In-Class Topic:** Ministry and Temptations  
*A minister faces temptations, some common to all Christians, some unique to his calling. Among them are money, focus on success, tendencies toward people-pleasing, and the consequences of suffering. Also included in this study will be the challenges faced by the family of the minister, and how the minister can best minister to his own family.*

May 19  
**Final Examination Due**

**Instructor’s Background**  
Rev. Greco is a teaching elder (pastor) in the Presbyterian Church in America. He has served as the Senior Pastor of Christ Church in Katy, TX ([www.cckpca.org](http://www.cckpca.org)) for the past eight years. He currently serves as the Chairman of the PCA’s Standing Judicial Commission, which serves as the highest court in the PCA. Prior to entering the pastorate, Rev. Greco was a ruling elder and Clerk of Session at Grace PCA in Hudson, Ohio. He was an attorney specializing in corporate governance, commercial finance, and real estate. He earned his law degree (J.D.) from the University of Michigan (1996), his graduate degree (M.A. in Classical Languages and Literature) from the University of Chicago (1993), and his undergraduate degree (B.A.) from the State University of New York at Buffalo (1991). He is a graduate of Reformed Theological Seminary, Jackson (2003).
## Course Objectives Related to MDiv* Student Learning Outcomes

**Course:** Theology of Ministry (PT529)  
**Professor:** Fred Greco  
**Campus:** Houston  
**Date:** Spring 2015

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<tr>
<th>MDiv* Student Learning Outcomes</th>
<th>Rubric</th>
<th>Mini-Justification</th>
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<tr>
<td>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.</td>
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<td>Articulation (oral &amp; written)</td>
<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>
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<td>Scripture</td>
<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>Moderate</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reformed Theology</td>
<td>Significant knowledge of Reformed theology and practice, with emphasis on the Westminster Standards.</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
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<td>Sanctification</td>
<td>Demonstrates a love for the Triune God that aids the student’s sanctification.</td>
<td>Strong</td>
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<td>Desire for Worldview</td>
<td>Burning desire to conform all of life to the Word of God.</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
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<td>Winsomely Reformed</td>
<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>Moderate</td>
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<td>Preach</td>
<td>Ability to preach and teach the meaning of Scripture to both heart and mind with clarity and enthusiasm.</td>
<td>Minimal</td>
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<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>
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<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>Strong</td>
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<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>Strong</td>
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