Course Description
This course is a study of Pastoral Counseling from historical, exegetical, and theological perspectives. Pastoral counseling is Christian care which “seeks to help others towards constructive change in any or all aspects of life within a caring relationship that has agree boundaries” [New Dictionary of Christian Ethics & Pastoral Theology (IVP, 1995), 81].

The course will survey the field of pastoral counseling from the broad sweep of Christian history and practice, including the Early Church, Medieval Period, Reformation, Post-Reformation, and Modern Era. Concepts and practices will be measured in the balance of Scripture, considered both exegetically and theologically, as well as a biblical counseling paradigm in the Reformed tradition. Emphasis will be placed on practical challenges facing contemporary Christian believers and their spiritual care givers.

Course Objectives
To assist the student in mastering the subject, the course will include required readings, lectures, workshops, and seminars. The course will also aim to equip the student with a working knowledge of pastoral counseling, as well as some of the more important objections to different approaches to pastoral counseling from a Reformed perspective.

Course Requirements
Required Texts:

Historic Documents:
St. Gregory the Great, The Book of Pastoral Rule (ca. 590, in modern translation by St. Vladimir’s Seminary Press, 2007), all of Part III (sections 1-40) [ISBN 978-0-88141-907-8] medieval classic in paperback or Kindle: older texts are harder to read
Marriage Workshop Workbooks:

Child Protection Training Material:

Class Attendance
  Given the interactive material we have to cover, attendance will be at a premium and, of course, to the benefit of the student. If you need to miss a class or to leave early or to arrive late, you should seek permission. Failure to attend class, or to engage while in the class, will be noted. No unexplained absences.

Academic Integrity
  All work submitted must be the student’s own. Group-produced work is not permitted. Plagiarism and copying of old assignments are all considered cheating. Mutual respect and Christian courtesy are expected in the marriage workshop, child protection training, and resource seminars listed below.

Course Evaluation
  1. **Reading and Course Portfolio** (30%) Each student will build a course portfolio to reflect his studies in the course as well as provide the basis for future study or teaching opportunities. Please see the directions below for completing this assignment.

  2. **Marriage Workshop** (20%) Each student will complete the required workbooks by Mack, submitting these for review. Students will also actively participate in the Marriage Workshop in both the role of a counselor and counselee.

  3. **Child Protection Training** (20%) Each student must actively participate in a child protection training seminar, which will prepare them to help prevent the scourge of child sexual abuse, as well as properly respond to accusations.

  4. **Resource Seminars** (30%) Each student must present a class seminar on a contemporary pastoral counseling challenge agreed in advance with the professor. Presentations must include an overview of the problem, a practical and theological analysis from a Reformed perspective, and a list of suitable resources to aid in its pastoral care. Suitable topics are included on the Seminar List below.
Late Work
Students should make every effort to turn in work on time or early. In the rare case of medical or other providential emergency, extensions and/or alternative arrangements may be granted.

Instructions for Course Portfolio
The portfolio assignment is designed to reward students for their labors in engaging in the classroom and in assigned reading, and to provide them with a study guide for the future pastoral counseling.

1. Classnotes Assignment:
Inclusion of the student’s classnotes in the course notebook will enable the instructor to gauge the quality of classroom listening and comprehension, and notetaking (and make adjustments in delivery or content beneficial for students).

2. Reading Notes Assignment:
Please include your notes taken (typed or neatly scripted) on reading in Johnson, Tripp, Gregory, Bucer, Baxter, and Langberg.

4. Resource Seminar
Each student will produce a paper and/or PowerPoint for the agreed Resource Seminar topic. Include all seminar materials in the course portfolio, as well as major background research material for the seminar presented.

5. Portfolio Format
The Course Portfolio is to be submitted as a pdf file, complete with bookmarks for easy location of each set of the above materials.

Resource Seminar Topics
The following are broad areas of pastoral counseling for Resource Seminars, in which particular topics can be agreed with the professor. The list is not comprehensive.

Managing conflict
Family conflict
Parenting
Extreme patriarchy
Sexlessness in marriage
Unnatural affections in marriage
Chronic illness
Cross cultural challenges
Death of a child
Death of a spouse
Pornography
Finances
Depression
Geriatric challenges
Divorce
Listening skills
Mental illness challenges
Civil authority
Addiction
Domestic abuse
Child abuse
Caregiving to disabled children
Gossip
Legalism
Excessive corporal punishment
In Law problems
Homosexuality
Genetic counseling
Boundary issues
Clergy killers
Unschooling
Parental authority

Course Schedule Outline
Class will be held on the following evenings from 6pm to 9pm:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January 27, 2014</td>
<td>Introduction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 17, 2014</td>
<td>Historical Overview: Early Church &amp; Medieval Period</td>
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<td></td>
<td>- Come having read Gregory</td>
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<td>Marriage Workshop—Session 1</td>
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<td>- Come having done Mack’s <em>Preparing</em></td>
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<td>March 24, 2014</td>
<td>Historical Overview: Reformation &amp; Post-Reformation</td>
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<td>- Come having read Bucer &amp; Baxter</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Marriage Workshop—Session 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 31, 2014</td>
<td>Survey of Modern Pastoral Counseling Models</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Come having read Johnson</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Marriage Workshop—Session 3</td>
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<td>- Come having done Mack’s <em>Strengthening</em></td>
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<td>April 7, 2014</td>
<td>Depth Examination of Biblical Counseling Paradigm</td>
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<td>- Come having read Tripp</td>
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<td>Marriage Workshop—Session 4</td>
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<td>April 14, 2014</td>
<td>Child Protection Training</td>
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<td></td>
<td>- Come having read Langberg</td>
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<td>Date</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 21, 2014</td>
<td>Child Protection Training</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 28, 2014</td>
<td>Resource Seminars</td>
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<td>May 5, 2014</td>
<td>Resource Seminars</td>
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