Reformed Theological Seminary
Nicole Institute for Baptist Studies
(Orlando Campus)

Syllabus for
Baptist Theology and Ministry (Course # 2PT713)
January 6-10, 2014

Instructor:
Dr. Thomas K Ascol
editor@founders.org
(239) 772–1400 (Grace Baptist Church)

RTS/NIBS Course Description:
This course will familiarize students with different paradigms of Baptist ministry while promoting a Reformed Baptist understanding of the primacy of the church, the priority of preaching, and the right use of the Lord’s Supper and Baptism.

Course Objectives:
1. To survey the qualifications for pastoral ministry.
2. To survey the nature of pastoral ministry and the call and role of the pastor.
3. To interact with classic literature in the field of Baptist ministry and theology

Course Textbooks:
Lectures to My Students, Charles H. Spurgeon
Dear Timothy, Thomas Ascol, ed.
Living by Revealed Truth: The Life and Pastoral Theology of Charles Haddon Spurgeon, Tom Nettles
Baptism of Disciples Alone: A Covenantal Argument for Credobaptism Versus Paedobaptism, Fred Malone
Confessing the Faith: The 1689 Baptist Confession for the 21st Century

Recommended Reading
The Christian Ministry, Charles Bridges
And Earnest Ministry, John Angell James
The Reformed Pastor, Richard Baxter
Brothers, We Are Not Professionals: A Plea to Pastors for Radical Ministry, John Piper
The Cross and Christian Ministry, Leadership Lessons from 1 Corinthians, D. A. Carson
A Portrait of Paul: Identifying a True Minister of Christ, Rob Ventura and Jeremy Walker

Course Requirements:
• **Class Attendance and Participation** (20% of course grade)
The student is expected to come to each class having read the assigned readings and prepared to enter into relevant discussion. Textbooks and Bible should be brought to class. Due to the fact that this course is being taught over the “J-term,” much of the reading must be done prior to the beginning of the course.

• **Two Book Reviews** (30% of course grade)
Students are required to write two book reviews. The first is on Tom Nettles’ *Living by Revealed Truth*. The other is Fred Malone’s *Baptism of Disciples Alone*. The reviews should be analytical and not merely descriptive. They should include a summary of at least 3 pages and personal application (“how I will put what I learned from this book into practice”) of at least 2 pages. Each book review should be typed, double-spaced and stapled, with a cover sheet. Each is worth 15% of the final grade.

• **One Reflection Paper** (10% of course grade)
Students are required to write a reflection paper, at least 5 pages in length, during the course of the week and to be turned in January 10, on one of the following topics: Qualifications for Pastoral Ministry, The Pastor as a Theologian, The Pastor as a Shepherd, The Pastor as Defender of the Faith, The Pastor and Preaching, The Pastor’s Inner Life, The Pastor and Counseling, The Pastor and Discipleship, Baptism and the Lord’s Supper, The Pastor’s Role in Gathered Worship. Each paper should be typed, double-spaced and stapled, with a cover sheet. This is worth 20% of the final grade. This paper is to be your own evaluation of the role of a pastor in one of the above descriptions, based on class lectures and/or the reading assignments. It need not be footnoted, but may be at your discretion.

• **4 Quizzes** (40% of course grade; the highest 3 will be averaged)
Come to each class prepared to be quizzed over previous class lectures and assignments.

• **Extra Credit Book Review**
With the prior approval of the professor students may read and review a third book (or more than one book with a combined minimum of 200 total pages) from the Recommended Reading list or bibliography. The 1000 word extra credit review must be turned in via email or regular mail by midnight, January 13, 2013. **Up to 5 additional points can be added to the final grade from this review.**

**Grading Scale:** This course follows the RTS 2013-2015 Catalog grading scale (see p. 47)
Course Outline:

January 6  READING:  CTF: chs 1-5; LTMS: ch 2 (1st series); DT: chs 1-3
   1. Introduction and Prolegomena
      2. What is a Baptist Pastor? (terms and portraits)
      3. Where do Baptist Pastors come from?
         a. They are called
         b. They are qualified

January 7  READING:  CTF: chs. 6-13; LTMS: ch. 5 (1st series); DT: chs. 11-12, 15
   4. A Baptist Pastor’s self-perception
      a. Theologian of the People
      b. Preacher of the Word
      c. Shepherd of the flock
      d. Defender of the Faith

January 8  READING:  CTF: chs. 14-23; LTMS: chs. 3, 11 (1st series)
   5. A Pastor’s inner life
      a. His devotion
      b. His mindset
         1) Reformation
         2) Accommodation
      c. His emotional life

January 9  READING:  CTF: chs. 24-32; DT: chs. 13-14
   6. A Pastor’s center—Jesus Christ
      a. Christ determines our message
      b. Christ determines our ministry

January 10  READING:  LTMS: chs. 9-10 (2nd series); DT: chs. 4, 16-17
   7. A Pastor’s ministry priorities
      a. Ministry of the Word
      b. Baptism and Lord’s Supper
      c. Congregational Membership & Elder Leadership

For consultations, questions not answered on this syllabus, emergencies, and appointments, Dr. Ascol may be reached at editor@founders.org.
Bibliography for Pastoral Ministry Class


## Course Objectives Related to MDiv* Student Learning Outcomes

**Course:** Baptist Theology of Ministry  
**Professor:** Thomas Ascol  
**Campus:** Orlando  
**Date:** January 6-10, 2014

### 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>Objective</th>
<th>Rubric</th>
<th>Mini-Justification</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **Articulation** (oral & written) | Strong | 1. Student will read and review relevant books.  
2. Student will participate in discussion over case studies. |
| **Scripture** | Strong | 1. Class will rely heavily on Pastoral Letters  
2. Biblical theology of church and ministry will be emphasized |
| **Reformed Theology** | Moderate | 1. The 1689 Baptist Confession and tradition flowing from it will be consulted |
| **Sanctification** | Minimal | 1. Class prayer  
2. Examining the importance of piety in the pastor’s life |
| **Desire for Worldview** | Moderate | Class will show how biblical and systematic theology undergird pastoral ministry |
| **Winsomely Reformed** | Strong | The resurgence of Reformed theology and its impact on ministry will be studied |
| **Preach** | Moderate | 1. The sufficiency of Scripture governs ministry  
2. Scripture will be used to develop pastoral theology |
| **Worship** | Moderate | Class will give some attention to corporate worship in a Baptist church |
| **Shepherd** | Strong | Class will show focus on serving a local church as a pastor. |
| **Church/World** | Moderate | Baptist ecclesiology will be addressed within the context of autonomy and cooperation |