

Munster Bible College
Pastoral Theology
June, 2015
Instructor: Kirk M. Wellum
Course Syllabus

I. Course Description

This course is designed to make students familiar with the unique qualifications and demands of the pastoral office in the church of Jesus Christ. Biblically qualified pastors who have been called to serve by the Lord of the church are a great blessing and gift to the church. Unfortunately, however, they are often in short supply. While many aspire to the pastoral office and others think that because they can speak, or administer a business, or are well-liked by others that they are qualified to be pastors, the Bible places the emphasis on the gifting and calling of God. In Pastoral Theology we will begin by looking at what the Bible teaches about the church in order to gain a proper perspective and then we will look at the pastor himself and the exercise of the pastoral office itself.

II. Course Objectives

As a result of taking this course the student should:

- Appreciate the importance of the church of Jesus Christ in the salvific plan of God.
- Understand what the Bible teaches about the office of pastor.
- Become familiar with the particular joys and sorrows of pastoral ministry.
- Be equipped to assess God's possible call on their own lives.
- Have the tools to avoid needless ministerial pitfalls by the grace of God.
- Be prepared to serve and love the people of God within the context of the local church.
- Even where students are never called to serve as pastors they should be able appreciate the challenges of the office so they can better support those who are called to serve in this way.

III. Course Content

1. The doctrine of the church – methodological issues, the nature of the church, and the church as God's new covenant community.
2. The qualifications for the pastoral office.
3. The pastor's public and private prayer life.
4. The pastor as a preacher of the Word.
5. The pastor's inner life and relationship with God.
6. The pastor's marriage and family life.
7. Mentoring relationships, community involvement, and avoiding pastoral quirkiness.
8. The "regulative principle," gospel preaching and evangelism, the pastor's dress and demeanour.
9. The ins and outs of board and church meetings, budgets, and finances.

10. Pre-marital counselling and how to conduct a wedding.
11. The administration of baptism.
12. The administration of the Lord's Supper.
13. Pastoral visitation and counselling.
14. Planning and conducting funerals.
15. Encouraging community within the local church.
16. Developing leadership, setting goals and working with other churches.
17. Improving the quality of our ministries, assessing "calls", when to come and when to go.

IV. Course Texts

a. Required Reading

Alexander, Paul and Dever, Mark. *The Deliberate Church*. Wheaton: Crossway Books, 2005.

ISBN – 10: 1581347383 ISBN – 13: 9781581347388

Clowney, Edmund P. *The Church – Contours of Christian Theology*. Downers Grove: Intervarsity Press, 2006. ISBN – 10: 0830815341 ISBN – 13: 9780830815340

Easley, Kendell H and Morgan, Christopher W. *The Community of Jesus: A Theology of the Church*. Nashville: Broadman and Holman Publishing Group, 2013.

b. Recommended Reading

Baxter, Richard. *The Reformed Pastor*. Carlisle: The Banner of Truth Trust, 2005.

ISBN - 10: 1573832014 ISBN - 13: 9781573832014

Bridges, Charles. *The Christian Ministry*. Edinburgh: The Banner of Truth Trust, 1976.

ISBN - 10: 0851510876 ISBN - 13: 9780851510873

Croft, Brian and Newton, Phil A. *Conduct Gospel-Centered Funerals – Applying the Gospel at the Unique Challenges of Death*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishing, 2014

Croft, Brian. *Prepare Them To Shepherd*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishing, 2014.

_____. *Visit The Sick*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishing, 2014.

Frame, John. *Worship in Spirit and Truth*. Phillipsburg: Presbyterian and Reformed Publishing, 1996.

ISBN - 10: 0875522424 ISBN - 13: 9780875522425

Spurgeon, C. H. *An All-Round Ministry*. Charleston: Bibliobazaar, 2008.

ISBN - 10:1437506305 ISBN - 13:9781437506303

Spurgeon, C. H. *Lectures To My Students*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishing House, 1979.

ISBN – 10: 0310329116 ISBN – 13: 9780310329114

V. Course Requirements

The grade involves three parts: 3 book reviews, a paper, and a final exam.

- I. Book reports = 15% each report
 - a. Report One – *The Deliberate Church* by Alexander and Dever
 - b. Report Two – *The Church* By Clowney
 - c. Report Three – *The Community of Jesus* by Edited Easley and Christopher
 - d. Note: Other books may be substituted by permission of the instructor.

- II. Paper = 25% of final mark

- III. Final exam = 30% of final mark

The paper should be 20 pages in length, *plus* a proper bibliography. Paper should be double spaced using one inch margins and a size 12 Times New Roman font or equivalent (like *Calibri* in Microsoft Word). Papers must have proper footnotes and a bibliography that documents all resources used in its preparation.

Students can write about anything related to the church and the pastoral office. They can expound a section of scripture that bears on pastoral ministry or tackle a ministerial problem and describe how they would solve it in light of God's word. Whatever topic is chosen by the student must be approved by the instructor prior to writing of the paper.

A book report must be written on all three of the textbooks. The reports should be 10 pages each. They should explain the overall purpose of the book and describe how the author set out to accomplish his purpose with some brief reflections on the practical value of the book when it comes to Christian ministry.

When the course is complete the instructor will give study questions that will cover the course material. Some, or all, of the questions will appear on the exam. Students should prepare an answer to each question and come to the exam prepared to answer whatever questions appear on the exam.

If there are any questions about the course please do not hesitate to speak to the instructor at the breaks, after class, or by email at kwellum@gmail.com.