



PATH8301 EXPLORING ISSUES IN EFFECTIVE PASTORAL MINISTRY

A Professional Doctoral Seminar
New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary
Church Ministry Division
Summer 2025
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Mission Statement

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary and Leavell College prepare servants to walk with Christ, proclaim His truth, and fulfill His mission.

Course Description

The purpose of this seminar is to examine current issues in pastoral ministry and leadership in order to determine effective means of ministry practice. The course will include challenging students to examine their pastoral theology in light of biblical principles and to engage various contrasting views of pastoral ministry. Seminar participants will examine the unique position of the senior pastor of a local church in his role as leader, proclaimer, and pastoral caregiver. Students will explore the implications of emphasizing the various components of pastoral ministry. Through a heuristic approach, students will confront the challenge of finding the most effective balance among the various components by assessing their own strengths and weaknesses, as well as the church as a whole in the context of its setting.

Student Learning Outcomes

When students have completed the seminar, they will have:

1. Clearly articulated their personal theology of pastoral ministry in the light of biblical principles.
2. Understood key classic and current models of pastoral ministry.
3. Identified and explored major issues of pastoral ministry that relate to their ministry setting.
4. Understood their ministry context as it affects leadership and pastoral ministry.
5. Assessed the strengths and weaknesses of their pastoral ministry.
6. Considered specific heuristic aspects in pastoral ministry in order to improve their personal effectiveness.

Required Textbooks

Tripp, Paul D. *Lead: 12 Gospel Principles for Leadership in the Church*. Wheaton: Crossway, 2020.

White, James Emery. *Meet Generation Z: Understanding and Reaching the New Post-Christian World*. Ada: Baker Books Publishing, 2017.

Akin, Daniel L., and R. Scott Pace. *Pastoral Theology: Theological Foundations for Who a Pastor Is and What He Does*. Nashville: B & H Academic, 2017.

Course Teaching Methodology

The teaching methodology of this seminar will consist of student research and written assignments as well as the sharing and presentation of papers. Brief lectures by the professor and guided discussion will be included.

Course Requirements and Schedule

Before the Seminar:

1. Read the White textbook and compose a one-half-page **Reaction** to each of the chapters. The half-page Reactions are to be single-spaced, with the chapter title listed for each, and may be formatted to include two Reactions on one page, for a total of 4 pages of content. (or one Reaction per page for a total of 8 pages) First-person is allowed for this assignment. The Reactions should include agreements/disagreements (if any) with the author and the importance of this issue in the student's ministry setting/context.
2. Read the Tripp textbook and write a **Personal Reflection** paper to answer the following: Of the topics covered in the textbook, (a) which **five** were the most **surprising** to the student and why? (b) Which **five** have been the most **challenging** to the student and why? The discussion of (a) and (b) should include real-life examples from the personal experiences of the student. The Personal Reflection should be approximately 6-8 pages in length. Format: single-spaced, with a space between each single-spaced paragraph, with no paragraph indentions. Margins, pagination, and headings/subheadings should be in accordance with Turabian 9th edition. Documentation or quotes from the textbook can be referenced by endnotes, citing the page number. Example: "We are living at the beginning of our future. The world is changing, and we need to recognize the nature of that change" (12). First-person is allowed also for this assignment.
3. Read the Akin and Pace textbook and then compose a **Biblical Theology of Pastoral Ministry for the 21st century**. The Biblical Theology should involve biblical and historical insights, principles, and observations from the textbook and include significant implications for 21st-century pastoral ministry. The Biblical Theology should reflect a synthesis of both textbooks. The Biblical Theology should be 10-12 pages, utilizing the following format: double-spaced; margins, pagination, headings/subheadings, and footnotes should be in accordance with the Turabian 9th edition. Documentation or quotes from the textbook and biblical material should be

referenced by footnotes. **First-person is not allowed in writing this assignment. This assignment will be graded for Turabian form and style in addition to content.**

**Assignments 1, 2, & 3 are to be submitted to Canvas no later than 11:59 P.M.,
Friday, May 16, 2025.**

Instructions for Submitting Assignments via Canvas:

All assignments for this course will be submitted via a shared folder on Canvas.

During the Seminar:

Seminar Presentations: Each seminar participant will be involved in seminar presentations and discussions involving all three pre-seminar assignments as per the instructions of the professor.

Seminar Participation: Seminar participants are expected to be active participants in all sessions of the seminar.

After the Seminar:

1. **Interview** a pastor who is considered to be either a mentor or a role model (suggested length of the interview: one hour or less). The interview questions should relate to issues raised in the course. Write a four-page, single-spaced summary and reaction to the interview. A list of the questions asked should be attached as a separate appendix. The assignment may be done in an informal style, first person allowed, but is not to be a verbatim of the interview. **Students are advised to secure the person to be interviewed and the time for the interview prior to the beginning of the seminar.**

2. Based on the readings, assignments, and seminar discussions in the seminar, each student will write a **Personal Assessment** of his strengths and weaknesses in pastoral ministry (at least three strengths and three weaknesses). For each strength, discuss an action plan for maintaining the strength. For each weakness, discuss an action plan for improving the weakness. Suggested length of the Personal Assessment: 8-10 pages, single-spaced, utilizing the format described in Pre-seminar assignment #2.

**Both post-seminar assignments are to be submitted to Canvas no later than 11:59 P.M.,
Sunday, June 29, 2025.**

Assignments for Students Taking the Seminar as a Directed Study:

Directed Study students must complete and submit ALL the assignments listed above by the due dates listed.

1. Directed Study students will also develop an **Annotated Bibliography** of fifteen books (excluding the textbooks listed above). Each bibliographic entry should be one-half page in

length and give a brief statement in regard to the purpose of the book, the major themes of the book, and the strengths and weaknesses of the author's viewpoint. See www.annotatedbibliographymaker.com for guidance.

2. Directed Study students will select five (5) books from the following list and write a four-page (or less), single-spaced **Annotated Review** for each book (format the same as Directed Study Assignment #2 above), answering the following questions:

- a. What is a summary of the book and its purpose?
- b. What are the strengths of the book for pastoral ministry and leadership?
- c. What are the weaknesses of the book regarding pastoral ministry and leadership?
- d. What are the applications and implications of the book for pastoral ministry and leadership in the 21st century?

Biles, Deron J., ed. *Pastoral Ministry: The Ministry of a Shepherd*. Nashville: B&H Academic, 2017.

Bisagno, John. *Pastor's Handbook*. Nashville: B & H, 2011.

Bryant, James W., and Mac Brunson. *The New Guidebook for Pastors*. Nashville: B & H, 2007.

Cothen, Joe H. *Equipped for Good Work: A Guide for Pastors*. 3rd ed. Edited by Jerry N. Barlow. Gretna: Pelican, 2012.

Early, Dave, and Ben Gutierrez. *Ministry Is...How to Serve Jesus with Passion and Confidence*. Nashville: B & H, 2010.

Hebert, Andrew. *Shepherding Like Jesus: Returning to the Wild Idea that Character Matters in Ministry*. Nashville: B & H, 2022.

Klick, Jeffery A., Rodney A. Harrison and Glenn A. Miller. *Pastoral Helmsmanship: The Pastor's Guide to Church Administration*. Kansas City: ICM Publishing, 2015.

Phillips, Jere L. *Pastoral Ministry for the New Generation*. Collierville: Innovo Publishing, 2014.

Russell, Bob. *After 50 Years of Ministry: 7 Things I'd Do Differently & 7 Things I'd Do the Same*. Chicago: Moody Publishers, 2016.

Swetland, Kenneth L. *Facing Messy Stuff in the Church: Case Studies for Pastors and Congregations*. Grand Rapids: Kregel, 2005.

Thompson, James W. *Pastoral Ministry According to Paul*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academics, 2006.

Toler, Stan. *Stan Toler's Practical Guide for Pastoral Ministry*. Indianapolis: Wesleyan Publishing House, 2007.

Annotated Bibliography and Annotated Reviews from Directed Study students are to be submitted to Canvas by 11:59 P.M., Sunday, June 29, 2025.

Course Evaluation

Assignments will be weighted approximately equally, with room for the professors' discretion regarding assignments that are particularly outstanding or substandard.

Technical Assistance

For assistance regarding technology, consult ITC (504-816-8180) or the following websites:

1. Selfserve@nobts.edu - Email for technical questions/support requests with the Selfserve.nobts.edu site (Access to online registration, financial account, online transcript, etc.)
2. Canvas.NOBTS.com - Click on the "Help" button for technical questions/support requests regarding the NOBTS Canvas System. You can also email questions to Canvas@nobts.edu.
3. ITCSupport@nobts.edu - Email for general technical questions/support requests.
4. www.NOBTS.edu/itc/ - General NOBTS technical help information is provided on this website.

Help for Writing Papers at "The Write Stuff"

NOBTS maintains a Writing Center designed to improve English writing at the graduate level. Students can receive writing guides, tips, and valuable information to help them become better writers. A copy of the approved NOBTS Style Guide can be found in the course Canvas shell or can be located online at the Writing Center's page on the seminary website at:
<https://www.nobts.edu/resources/pdf/writing/StyleGuide.pdf>

Plagiarism on Written Assignments

NOBTS has a no-tolerance policy for plagiarism. Plagiarism, in certain cases, may result in expulsion from the seminary. See the NOBTS Student Handbook for definitions, penalties, and policies associated with plagiarism.

Selected Bibliography

- Adamson, Dave. *METACHURCH: How to Use Digital Ministry to Reach People and Make Disciples*. Orange: The Rethink Group, Inc. 2022.
- Akin, Daniel L., William J. Curtis, and Stephen N. Rummage. *Engaging Exposition*. Nashville: B&H, 2011.
- Akin, Daniel L., and R. Scott Pace. *Pastoral Theology: Theological Foundations for Who a Pastor Is and What He Does*. Nashville: B & H Academic, 2017.
- Akin, Daniel L., David L. Allen, and Ned L. Matthews, editors. *Text-Driven Preaching: God's Word at the Heart of Every Sermon*. Nashville: B&H, 2010.
- Alcorn, Randy. *The Treasure Principle: Unlocking the Secret of Joyful Giving*. Rev and Updated Ed. Colorado Springs: Multnomah, 2017.
- Allen, David L. and Lemke, Steve W., editors. *Whosoever Will: A Biblical-Theological Critique of Five-Point Calvinism*. Nashville: B & H Academic, 2010.

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- Biles, Deron J., ed. *Pastoral Ministry: The Ministry of a Shepherd*. Nashville: B&H Academic, 2017.
- Bisagno, John R. *Pastor's Handbook*. Nashville: B & H, 2011.
- Branson, Mark Lau, and Juan F. Martinez. *Churches, Cultures, and Leadership: A Practical Theology of Congregations and Ethnicities*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 2011.
- Bridges, Jerry. *The Discipline of Grace*. Colorado Springs, CO: NavPress, 2018.
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- Bryant, James W., and Mac Brunson. *The New Guidebook for Pastors*. Nashville: B & H, 2007.
- Charles Jr., H.B. *On Pastoring: A Short Guide to Living, Leading, and Ministering as a Pastor*. Chicago: Moody Publishers, 2016.
- Chester, Tim. *You Can Change: God's Transforming Power for Our Sinful Behavior and Negative Emotions*. Crossway, 2010.
- Clinton, Dr. Tim, and Dr. Ron Hawkings. *Quick-Reference Guide to Biblical Counseling*. Ada: Baker Books, 2009.
- Clinton, Dr. Tim, and Dr. Diane Langberg. *The Quick-Reference Guide to Counseling Women*. Ada: Baker Books, 2011.
- Cothen, Joe H. *Equipped for Good Work: A Guide for Pastors*. 3rd ed. Gretna: Pelican, 2012.
- _____. *The Pulpit Is Waiting*. Gretna: Pelican, 1998.
- Crabb, Larry. *Effective Biblical Counseling*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1997.
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- Daman, Glenn. *Shepherding the Small Church*. Grand Rapids: Kregel, 2002.

Early, Dave. *Pastoral Leadership Is...How to Shepherd God's People with Passion and Confidence*. Nashville: B & H Publishing Group, 2012.

_____. *The 21 Most Effective Prayers of the Bible*. [New Edition]. Uhrichsville: Barbour Publishing, 2005.

Early, Dave, and Ben Gutierrez. *Ministry Is...How to Serve Jesus with Passion and Confidence*. Nashville: B & H Publishing Group, 2010.

Fry, John W. *Jesus: The Pastor*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2000.

Gibson, Scott M. *Preaching with a Plan*. Ada: Baker Books, 2012.

Gingrich, Heather Davediuk. *Restoring the Shattered Self: A Christian Counselor's Guide to Complex Trauma*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press: Christian Association for Psychological Studies Books, 2020.

Granberg-Michaelson, Wesley. *Future Faith: Ten Challenges Reshaping Christianity in the 21st Century*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2018.

Greer, J.D. *Above All: The Gospel is the Source of the Church's Renewal*. Nashville: B & H Publishing, 2019.

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Hedges, Brian G. *Christ Formed in You: The Power of the Gospel for Personal Change*. Wapwalopen: Shepherd Press, Inc., 2010.

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Herrington, Jim, Trisha Taylor, and R. Robert Creech. *The Leader's Journey: Accepting the Call to Personal and Congregational Transformation*. 2nd ed. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2020.

- Hicks, H. Beecher. *On Jordan's Stormy Banks: Leading Your Congregation Through the Wilderness of Change*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2004.
- Horner, David. *A Practical Guide for Life and Ministry: Overcoming 7 Challenges Pastors Face*. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 2008
- Howe, Leroy. *A Pastor in Every Pew*. Valley Forge: Judson Press, 2000.
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