

**PATH5331 Pastoral Ministry (Internet)**  
New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary  
Division of Pastoral Ministries  
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### **Seminary Mission Statement**

The mission of the New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary is to equip leaders to fulfill the Great Commission and the Great Commandments through the local church and its ministries.

### **Purpose of the Course, Core Value Focus, and Curriculum Competencies Addressed**

The purpose of this course is to provide quality theological education for students in the discipline of pastoral ministries. The core value focus of the course will emphasize doctrinal integrity. The course will also address the competencies of interpersonal skills, characteristic excellence, spiritual and character formation, and servant leadership.

### **Course Description**

This course will aid students to develop competency in pastoral ministry through a study of being called to a church, beginning a pastoral ministry, building relationships, leading a church, and leaving a church field. Practical ministry matters, as well as theological and philosophical considerations, will include training in planning preaching, administering the ordinances, performing weddings, conducting funerals and ordinations, visiting, counseling, and sustaining spiritual growth.

### **Student Learning Objectives**

Pastoral ministry is a specific and important type of Christian shepherding. While all Christians shepherd others in various roles and relationships (such as parents, family, friends, counselors, teachers, mentors, helpers, and supervisors), not all are involved in a pastoral ministry vocation or calling and may have a variety of ministry callings and may pursue different academic degree programs. Although this course is particularly designed for students with a pastoral ministry calling (such as pastors, staff members, chaplains, missionaries, and church planters), all students will gain an understanding of Christian ministry and pastoral ministry.

A. By the end of this course, students will:

1. Be able to apply pastoral ministry principles, concepts, methodologies, and resources to their situation of beginning and carrying out ministry in a church or in selected shepherding situations.
2. Value pastor-type shepherding as a vital part of their ministry calling and work.
3. Demonstrate acceptable proficiency in pastoral ministry functions (such as able to articulate a clear theology and philosophy of pastoral ministry, carry out a personal prayer ministry and pastoral visitation, administer the ordinances, perform weddings and premarital counseling, conduct funerals and ordinations, do pastoral [non-licensed] counseling, manage some types of interpersonal conflict, enact people-sensitive and task-focused leadership, do basic organizational problem-solving and planning, and manage time) with the aid of course resources.

## Course Methods

1. Lecture presentations and other methods will be utilized to teach the course concepts and methodologies, as well as to present various resources available for pastoral ministry and Christian shepherding.

2. Writing assignments will be required to facilitate experiential learning regarding the role, responsibilities, and ministries of pastor-type shepherds.

3. Resource comparisons will be used to enhance and promote personal insights in ministry. Student interaction with peers, pastoral ministry resources, and the course instructor are encouraged during the duration of this class to facilitate such insights.

4. Conferences with the instructor are invited and may be accomplished via telephone or e-mail. Even informal conferences can stimulate learning and application of course principles and concepts.

## Textbooks

Students are encouraged to explore the variety of resources useful for contemporary pastoral ministry. The texts listed below and in the Selected Bibliography will be helpful.

The following textbooks are **required** (will be cited in various class presentations and/or used in assignments):

Bisagno, John. *Pastor's Handbook*. Nashville: Broadman and Holman, 2011.

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

Witmer, Timothy Z. *The Shepherd Leader*. Phillipsburg, NJ: P & R Publishing, 2010.

The following textbooks are **optional** (will be helpful and may be used in class assignments):

Bryant, James W., and Mac Brunson. *The New Guidebook for Pastors*. Nashville: Broadman and Holman, 2007.

Horner, David. *A Practical Guide for Life and Ministry*. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 2008.

Segler, Franklin M. *The Broadman Minister's Manual*. Nashville: Broadman Press, 1968.

## Course Requirements

Students are required to accomplish reading assignments, theology and philosophy ministry assignments, and a major ministry assignment, as follows:

A. **Reading Assignments** (you must do **both** of these two reading assignments).

1. Submit **one** typed, five pages or less (single-spaced) **annotated analysis** of the **three** required textbooks (i.e., Bisagno, Cothen/Barlow, and Witmer) and **two** books from the syllabus bibliography of the student's choice on pastoral ministry or on Christian shepherding. **Format:** this **one single-spaced** analysis should give a correct bibliographic listing of **each** of the **five** books with their associated annotations, which answer the following questions:

a. What is a two-paragraph (or less) summary of the book?

b. What is one (or more) helpful feature(s) of the book for pastoral ministry or Christian shepherding?

c. What is one difficulty, deficiency, or limitation in using the book for pastoral ministry or shepherding?

A cover page is to be **used**, but do not include an intervening blank page (nor a binder, if submitted by mail).

2. **Textbooks/Presentations Reading Assignment.** Read the **required** course textbooks and view the PATH5331 presentations on Blackboard as listed on page 6 of this syllabus and submit reading reports as noted on p.5.

B. **Theology and Philosophy Ministry Assignments** (you must complete **both** ministry assignments).

1. Prepare a typed (single-spaced), **four-page** (or less) **theology of pastoral ministry (or shepherding)**, which gives **biblical** references (i.e., two to five references per topic) **and** discusses these topics: the calling to pastoral ministry (or to Christian ministry), the church, the office of pastor, the office of deacon, preaching, ordination, the

ordinances, pastoral visitation and evangelism (or personal ministry visitation and evangelism), the pastor's (or Christian's) family and ministry priorities, servant leadership, and the pastor's (or Christian's) spiritual life and example. **Format:** each topic is to be taken **in the order** given herein and is to be listed as a heading followed by its respective **biblical references** and **discussion**. A cover page is to be **used**, but do not include an intervening blank page (or binder, if submitted by mail).

2. Prepare a typed (single-spaced), **four-page** (or less) **philosophy of doing pastoral ministry** with regard to: church worship (or personal worship), outreach/witnessing, discipleship, missions, ministries, stewardship, conflict management, time management, funerals, weddings, and church staff relationships (or ministry staff relationships). **Note:** if you are married, then your philosophy paper must conclude with a discussion of getting your family adjusted at a new church field (or in a new ministry area or church). **Format:** same as the theology paper, **except** that **biblical** references are **not** to be cited and discussed. A cover page is to be **used**, but do not include an intervening blank page (or binder).

**C. Major Ministry Assignment Options.** Choose only **one** of these three major ministry assignment options:

- \*Option one--documented ministry research essay;
- \*Option two--pastoral ministry handbook;
- \*Option three--pastoral ministry praxis experience.

1. **Option one: documented ministry research essay.** Type a topic-based essay of no more than **twenty** pages in accordance with Turabian (sixth or later edition) using **parenthetical references** [as per this example of documenting a quote from *Studying and Serving with Success* by Dr. Jerry N. Barlow: "Fear can be friend or foe" (Barlow 1999, 23)]. The paper topic is to be **entitled:** WHAT I NEEDED TO LEARN ABOUT PASTORAL MINISTRY THIS SEMESTER (or entitled: WHAT I NEEDED TO LEARN ABOUT MINISTRY SHEPHERDING THIS SEMESTER), with the title placed on the cover page and first essay page. Students may select one or more topics to research from the course topics listed in the **Course and Assignments Schedule** in this syllabus. **Note:** the selected bibliography of the essay must list a **minimum** of 6 print sources (books, journals, or periodicals) and a **minimum** of 4 Internet sources which have informed your knowledge of the topic researched. **Please note:** **all** bibliography entries **must be cited** in the essay as parenthetical references.

2. **Option two: pastoral ministry handbook--specifications:**

- a. Submit pastoral ministry-related assignments as per the instructions given on Blackboard.
- b. Handbook assignments will include eight typed prayers, two wedding ceremonies, four funeral services and sermon briefs, a quarterly sample church calendar, a plan of preaching for four Sundays and Wednesdays (with sermon briefs), and eight orders of worship (with two sermon briefs). The specified sermon brief form is on Blackboard.

3. **Option three: pastoral ministry praxis experience--specifications:**

- a. Complete and submit a Monthly Ministry Report for **two months** of pastoral ministry during the current semester (see Blackboard for this and the other forms for the praxis assignment).
- b. Complete and submit a Director of Missions Ministry Praxis Form.
- c. Complete and submit a Pastor Ministry Praxis Form. **Note:** the pastor must have a minimum of ten years of experience as a pastor and must be **approved** by the course professor as an appropriate praxis ministry mentor.
- d. Complete and submit a Personal Ministry Praxis Assessment and Growth Plan Form.

**D. Blackboard Discussion Board Postings.** Students are to participate in the course Discussion Board by making weekly postings to Blackboard. Each posting is to:

- 1. Answer briefly in one paragraph of two to four sentences the question listed for each Unit. Postings are to be made weekly to the course Discussion Board.
- 2. React briefly in one paragraph of two to four sentences to one or more answers posted by one or more students. Postings are to be made weekly to the course Discussion Board.

**Note:** postings will be graded in the last week of the course, as follows: 13-14 weekly postings of acceptable answers and of reactions **each** will be awarded a grade of an A; B: 11-12 postings of acceptable answers and reactions **each**; C: 9-10 weekly postings of answers and reactions; D: 8 weekly postings; F: 7 or less weekly postings of answers and reactions.

## Course Exam

The final exam will be a take-home, open-book exam, and questions will come from the course presentations, required textbooks, and assignments. The exam will also include an individual assessment of the personal accomplishment of two student-selected learning objectives in this syllabus.

## Evaluation

All course objectives will be evaluated through the grading of the course assignments and final exam. Student participation and behavior online will also be considered in the evaluation of the course objectives and grading.

The student's final grade will be determined as follows:

1. Annotated Analysis Reading Assignment	15%
2. Textbooks/Presentations Reading Assign.	15%
3. Theology Paper	15%
4. Philosophy Paper	10%
5. Major Ministry Assignment	20%
6. Discussion Board Postings	10%
7. Final exam	15%

## Late Assignments

Assignments turned in **past the date due** will incur a late penalty of **ten** points, which will be deducted from the assignment grade. Assignments will **not be accepted more than one week past the date due** without permission from the course professor (but some points for late assignments are better than no points for assignments not submitted).

## Course and Assignments Schedule

Course topics will be derived from the following possibilities:

### Introduction

- Course Syllabus
- Course Core Assumptions and Organization
- Student Background Survey

### A Theology of Pastoral Ministry and Christian Shepherding

- Biblical Concepts
- Historical Concepts
- The Calling to Pastoral Ministry and Shepherding
- God's Will and Pastor Search/Personnel Committees
- The Matter of Ordination

### A Philosophy of Pastoral Ministry

- Macro-Shepherding and Micro-Shepherding
- Essentials of an Effective Shepherding Ministry
- Competencies for Pastoral Ministry
- Beginning and Carrying Out Pastoral Ministry in a Church
  - Praying in Services and at Other Places and Times
  - Preaching and Worship Services: Preparing and Planning
  - Performing the Ordinances
  - Performing Funerals, Weddings, and Ordinations
  - Visiting and Counseling
  - Witnessing and Equipping
  - Servant Leadership and Church Administration
  - Interpersonal Relationships and Skills (Deacon, Staff, Community, and Family)

Problem Solving, Planning, Decision Making, and Conflict Management  
 Managing Change and Reviving a Church  
 Scheduling and Time Management  
 Spiritual Life, Example, Finances/Stewardship, and Personal Growth  
 Ministry, Technology, and Social Networking  
 Managing Facilities, Austere Times, and Ministry Transitions  
 Ending Pastoral Ministry with a Church  
   The Call to a New Work  
   Conflicted Church Situations and Relationships (Present and Future)  
   Turnover Files and Transition  
   Ending Responsibilities and Making New Commitments  
   Continuing Relationships and Returning  
 Concluding Matters in Pastoral Ministry and Christian Shepherding

**All** assignments are to be submitted by e-mail to [graddeanassist@nobts.edu](mailto:graddeanassist@nobts.edu) (or may be submitted by mail, postmarked before or by the assignment due date) and are due no later than **12:00 noon** on these **Mondays**:

1. Annotated Analysis Reading Assignment	April 28
2. Textbooks/Presentations Reading Assignment	(As indicated below)
3. Theology Paper	February 24
4. Philosophy Paper	March 31
5. Major Pastoral Ministry Assignment	May 5
6. Discussion Board Postings	Weekly (as indicated for each Unit)

Reading reports pertaining to the Textbooks/Presentations Reading Assignment are due by **12:00 noon**, as follows:

1. Reading Report 1—all reading assigned for topics one through five (syllabus, p. 6)—due February 24
2. Reading Report 2—all reading assigned for topics six through nine (syllabus, p. 6)—due March 31
3. Reading Report 3—all reading assigned for topics ten through fourteen (syllabus, p. 6)—due May 12

The final exam will be **available** by 12:00 noon on **Monday, May 5**, and will be **due only** by e-mail to [graddeanassist@nobts.edu](mailto:graddeanassist@nobts.edu) no later than **12:00 noon** on **Monday, May 12**.

#### **Online Course Reminders:**

1. Online Etiquette (Netiquette: Appropriate Online Behavior). While much learning can be done independently, students will have the opportunity to interact through the online answers posted through Blackboard on the Discussion Board. In doing so, students are reminded to show respect for others, be considerate of viewpoints, and demonstrate Christ-honoring behavior in posts and responses to posts that promotes learning by all.
2. Student Honesty. Students are expected to exhibit integrity in doing their assignments, submitting posts, and taking the course final exam.
3. Plagiarism. Students are reminded to demonstrate the high standards of conduct befitting Christians and Christian ministers in accordance with the seminary's policy on plagiarism in the current Graduate Catalog.

#### **Textbooks/Presentations Reading Assignment and Report Form**

Students are to **view** the PATH5331 presentations on Blackboard, **read** the related sections in the three required course texts (i.e., Bisagno, Cothen and Barlow, and Witmer), complete a **reading report** on this form for **each** of the three reading due dates (see syllabus, p.5), and submit each report by **12:00 noon** on the date due.

**Reading Topics**

- Topic one: View “Pastoral Ministry: Shepherding” and read Cothen/Barlow Chapters 1 and 16 (pp. 264-265); Bisagno Chapters 1-3, 32, 77; Witmer pp. 1-26, 247-249.
- Topic two: View “Shepherding Competencies” and read Cothen/Barlow Chapter 4 (pp. 56-61); Bisagno Chapters 4, 13-16; Witmer pp. 29-73.
- Topic three: View “Call to a Church” and read Cothen/Barlow Chapters 2 and 4 (pp. 61-66); Bisagno Chapters 12, 20-21, 23-24, 27, 45-46.
- Topic four: View “Church Entry Dynamics” and read Cothen/Barlow Chapters 3 and 4 (pp. 66-76); Bisagno Chapters 17-19, 50, 53-54, 56-57; Witmer pp. 75-105.
- Topic five: View “Leading God’s People” and read Cothen/Barlow Chapters 15 and 16 (pp. 265-270); Bisagno Chapters 35-38, 49, 55, 58-64; Witmer pp. 155-168.
- Topic six: View “Lead, Organize, Train” and read Cothen/Barlow Chapter 13; Bisagno Chapters 5-10, 22, 25-26, 51-52, 111-117; Witmer pp. 107-153.
- Topic seven: View “Programs and Facilities Oversight” and read Cothen/Barlow Chapters 11-12; Bisagno Chapters 91-102, 105-110, 118-133, 135-137.
- Topic eight: View “Becoming Ordained to the Gospel Ministry” and read Cothen/Barlow Appendix G and Chapter 14; Bisagno Chapter 134.
- Topic nine: View “Shepherding Through Supplication” and “Pastoral Response to Crisis” and read Cothen/Barlow Ch. 9 (pp. 152-155); Bisagno Chapters 11, 33, 40; Witmer pp. 169-189.
- Topic ten: View “Visiting, Counseling, Witnessing” and read Cothen/Barlow Chapters 6 and 7, and Appendix H (also A and D); Bisagno Chapters 39, 43, 65-73, 78-90, 103-104, 138-141.
- Topic eleven: View “Ordinances” and read Cothen/Barlow Chapter 10; Bisagno Chapters 74-75.
- Topic twelve: View “Funerals” and read Cothen/Barlow Chapter 9; Bisagno Chapters 41-42.
- Topic thirteen: View “Weddings” and read Cothen/Barlow Chapter 8 and Appendix F; Bisagno Chapter 44.
- Topic fourteen: View “Ministry Transitions” & “Concluding Considerations” and read Cothen/Barlow Chapters 4 (pp. 76-78), 16 (pp. 269-270); Bisagno Chapters 29-31, 47-48, 76, 142 ; Witmer pp. 191-245.

**Reading Report:** students are to report their completion of the assigned reading by answering on this form the following questions:

1. What topics and content in Cothen and Barlow were of most interest and benefit to you **and** why or how (grade value: 10 points)?
2. What topics and content in Bisagno **and** in Witmer were of most interest and benefit to you **and** why or how (grade value: 10 points)?
3. What topics and content in the PATH5331 presentations were of most interest and benefit to you **and** why or how (grade value: 10 points)?
4. How much of the reading for the topics assigned did you read? Please check **one** of the following answers:
  - \_\_\_ a. I read **all** of the reading for the topics assigned for this report (grade value: 70 points).
  - \_\_\_ b. I read **all but one book** of the reading for the topics assigned (grade value: 60 points).
  - \_\_\_ c. I read **all but two of the books** of the reading for the topics assigned (grade value: 50 points).
  - \_\_\_ d. I read **only one book** of the reading for the topics assigned (grade value: 40 points).
5. Reading Report due for (please give the date due, as per page 5): \_\_\_\_\_
6. Student’s name (typed): \_\_\_\_\_ Date submitted: \_\_\_\_\_

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- Erickson, Millard J., and James L. Heflin. *Old Wine in New Wineskins: Doctrinal Preaching in a Changing World*. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1997.
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