

PATH5331 Pastoral Ministry

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary

Division of Pastoral Ministries

Jacksonville Extension

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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 specifically address the competencies of interpersonal skills, servant leadership, spiritual and character formation, and disciple making.

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 pastors, parents, friends, counselors, teachers, mentors, helpers, and supervisors), not all are involved in a pastoral ministry vocation or calling. Usually, students who take this course have a variety of ministry callings and pursue different academic degree programs. Therefore, student learning objectives will vary, as follows:

By the end of this course, students (such as pastors, staff members, chaplains, missionaries, and church planters) with a pastoral ministry calling and in a related pastoral ministry academic degree program 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.

By the end of this course, students who do not have a pastoral ministry calling nor are in a related pastoral ministry academic degree program will:

1. Be able to apply selected pastoral ministry principles, concepts, methodologies, and resources in their ministry and service for Christ.
2. Value their role and calling and that of pastors in caring for others through Christian ministry and service.
3. Demonstrate a knowledge of what pastors do and an acceptable proficiency in shepherding functions applicable to their role and calling (such as able to articulate a clear theology and philosophy of Christian shepherding, carry out a personal prayer ministry and shepherding visitation, explain the administration of the ordinances, outline a wedding ceremony, describe premarital counseling, identify issues in conducting funerals and ordinations, do informal [non-licensed] counseling, manage some types of interpersonal conflict, enact people-sensitive and task-focused leadership, do basic organizational problem-solving and planning, or 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. Resource persons will be used to share experiences, as time permits.
3. Resource comparisons will be used to enhance and promote personal insights in ministry. Student interaction with peers, pastoral ministry resource persons, guest presenters, 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, e-mail, or personal visits. 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 lectures and/or used in assignments):

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

Malphurs, Aubrey. *Being Leaders: The Nature of Authentic Christian Leadership*. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 2003.

The following textbooks are **optional** (**NOTICE: One** of the following texts **must** be selected by the student and used for the required reading assignment. Each textbook will be helpful for course enhancement.):

Laniak, Timothy S. *Shepherds After My Own Heart*. Downers Grove, IL: Apollos IVP, 2006.

London, H. B., and Neil B. Wiseman. *Pastors at Greater Risk: Real Help for Pastors from Pastors Who've Been There*. Ventura, CA: Regal Books, 2003.

McNeal, Reggie. *A Work of Heart: Understanding How God Shapes Spiritual Leaders*. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass, 2000.

Miller, Calvin. *O Shepherd, Where Art Thou?* Nashville: Broadman and Holman Publishers, 2006.

Powell, Paul W. *The New Minister's Manual*. Dallas: Annuity Board, 1997.

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

Course Requirements

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

A. Reading Assignment

1. Submit **one** typed, **two- to three-page** (single-spaced) **annotated analysis** of the required textbook *The New Guidebook for Pastors* by Bryant and Brunson AND **one** book selected by the student from the optional textbooks listed above.

Format: this **one single-spaced** analysis should give a correct bibliographic listing of **each** of the two books with their associated annotations, which answer the following questions:

- a. What is a three-paragraph (or less) summary of the book?
- b. What are two (or more) helpful feature(s) of the book for pastoral ministry/Christian shepherding?
- c. What is one difficulty, deficiency, or limitation in using the book for pastoral ministry/shepherding?

A cover page is to be **used**, but do not include an intervening blank page or binder.

B. Theology and Philosophy of 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, the ordinances, pastoral visitation and evangelism (or personal ministry visitation and evangelism), the pastor's (or Christian's) ministry priorities, servant leadership, the pastor's (or Christian's) family, and the pastor's (or Christian's) spiritual life and example.

Format: each topic is to be taken **in the order** listed above 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.

2. Prepare a typed (single-spaced), **four-page** (or less) **philosophy of doing pastoral ministry** with regard to: church worship (or personal worship), outreach, discipleship, missions, ministries, stewardship/finances, conflict management, time management, church staff relationships (or ministry staff relationships), and relationships with others in the church (deacons, laity, etc.). **Note:** if you are married, then your philosophy paper must conclude with a discussion (two paragraphs or less) of your philosophy concerning your family in relation to your pastoral ministry.

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

Choose **only one** of these three major ministry assignment options:

***Option One**—Call to Ministry Assessment

***Option Two**—Leadership Style Self-Assessment

***Option Three**—Pastoral Ministry Praxis Experience

1. Option One: Call to Ministry Assessment

Instructions: Prepare a typed (double-spaced), **eleven- to twelve-page assessment of your personal call to pastoral ministry (or Christian ministry)**. This paper will use Reggie McNeal's book *A Work of Heart* (listed above) as a main source. At least **four other supportive sources** (books, journals, or periodicals) are required. **Please note: all sources must be cited** in a Bibliography.

Format: In an introductory section (no more than two paragraphs), identify which of the four biblical callings covered in McNeal that your personal call most closely resembles. Cite particular passages of Scripture of that person's calling to ministry in your discussion. In the following sections, explain why you chose this one example considering the areas covered in McNeal of **culture, call, community, communion, conflict, and commonplace**. Be specific enough to draw a clear but not overly-detailed comparison. Each area is to be taken **in the order** listed above and is to be listed as a **heading** followed by its respective **explanation**. In a **final section** (at least one page), explain and distinguish how your calling is **unique** to you. Give specific examples throughout all of your explanations and use the other sources to enhance your discussion. First person will be allowed; otherwise follow Turabian format. A cover page is to be used, but do not include an intervening blank page or binder.

2. Option Two: Leadership Style Self-Assessment

Instructions:

- a. Using Aubrey Malphurs's book *Being Leaders* (listed above), conduct a self-assessment using Appendices F and M. Reading Chapters 4 and 5 will help you greatly as you interpret the results.
- b. Prepare a typed (double-spaced), **ten- to twelve-page assessment of your personal leadership style**. In an introductory section, report your **findings from the inventories**. Next, include the **strengths, weaknesses, and implications for pastoral ministry (or Christian ministry)** for your style. In a closing section, address **one to two current situations** in your current ministry context and **how you can address them more effectively** as a result of your discoveries. First person will be allowed; otherwise follow Turabian format. A cover page is to be used, but do not include an intervening blank page or binder. You do **not** need to include a Bibliography page.

3. Option Three: Pastoral Ministry Praxis Experience

Instructions:

- 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 Pastor Ministry Praxis Form. Note: the pastor must have a minimum of ten years of experience as a pastor or associate pastor.
- c. Complete and submit a Personal Ministry Praxis Assessment and Growth Plan Form.

Course Exams

Students must take one mid-term exam and one final exam in accordance with the course schedule. The midterm exam will come from roughly the first-half of the class presentations and assigned readings. The final exam will come from the remaining class presentations and assigned readings (not comprehensive). See the course assignment and examination dates below.

Evaluation

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

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

1. Reading Assignment 20%
2. Theology Paper 10%
3. Philosophy Paper 10%
4. Major Ministry Assignment 30%
5. Mid-term exam 15%
6. 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. However, students are reminded that **some** points for submitted assignments are better than **no** points for assignments not submitted.

Course Assignments and Examinations Schedule

Course topics will be derived from the following possibilities:

- Introduction
- Course Syllabus
- Biblical Terms and Concepts
- Functions of Pastoral Ministry and Christian Shepherding
- Theology of Pastoral Leadership
- Servant Leadership and Church Administration
- Skills and Competencies for Pastoral Ministry
- The Call to Pastoral Ministry and Shepherding
- Licensing and Ordination
- Beginning Pastoral Ministry in a Church
- Priority of Prayer and Personal Growth
- The Ministry of Preaching and Teaching

- Planning and Leading Worship Services
- Performing the Ordinances
- Performing Funerals, Weddings, and Ordinations
- Pastoral Leadership Style
- Staff Relationships
- Other Interpersonal Relationships in the Church (Deacons, Committees/Ministry Teams)
- Visiting and Counseling
- Making Decisions and Managing Conflict
- Dealing with Criticism and Opposition
- Scheduling and Time Management
- Family and Personal Life
- The Call to a New Work (God's Will and Pastor Search Committees)
- Concluding Pastoral Responsibilities at Your Current Church
- Final Matters in Pastoral Ministry and Christian Shepherding

Assignments will be submitted in class and are due no later than **the beginning of class on these dates:**

1. Theology Paper - **February 24**
2. Philosophy Paper - **March 31**
3. Major Pastoral Ministry Assignment - **April 28**
4. Reading Assignment – **May 12**

The mid-term exam will take place **at the beginning of class on Monday, March 10**. The final exam will take place **at the beginning of class on Monday, May 12**. The mid-term examination may **not be taken later than one week past the examination date** without permission from the course professor. If it is taken late, the mid-term will incur a late penalty of **ten** points, which will be deducted from the examination grade. The final examination **must be taken at the assigned time to receive credit**.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Session	Date	Session Topic / Reading / Assignment Due <i>(Listed reading should be completed PRIOR to the class meeting in order to enhance discussion during the session)</i>
1	1/27	Introduction & Overview / Biblical Terms & Concepts / Functions of Pastoral Ministry / Theology of Pastoral Leadership
2	2/10	Servant Leadership & Church Administration / Skills & Competencies for Pastoral Ministry / The Call to Pastoral Ministry and Shepherding <i>Bryant/Brunson Ch. 1; Malphurs p. 13-22, 31-48</i>
3	2/24	THEOLOGY OF MINISTRY PAPER DUE Licensing and Ordination / Beginning Pastoral Ministry in a Church / Priority of Prayer and Personal Growth / The Ministry of Preaching and Teaching <i>Bryant/Brunson Ch. 3, 4, 6; Malphurs p. 52-66</i>
4	3/10	MID-TERM EXAM Planning and Leading Worship Services / Performing the Ordinances / Performing Funerals, Weddings, and Ordinations <i>Bryant/Brunson Ch. 9, 10, 12, 13</i>
5	3/31	PHILOSOPHY OF MINISTRY PAPER DUE Pastoral Leadership Style / Staff Relationships / Other Interpersonal Relationships in the Church <i>Bryant/Brunson Ch. 7, 8; Malphurs p. 73-103</i>
6	4/14	Visiting and Counseling / Making Decisions and Managing Conflict / Dealing with Criticism and Opposition <i>Bryant/Brunson Ch. 11, 14; Malphurs p. 119-129</i>
7	4/28	MAJOR MINISTRY ASSIGNMENT DUE Scheduling & Time Management / Family and Personal Life / The Call to a New Work (God's Will & Pastor Search Committees) / Concluding Pastoral Responsibilities at Your Current Church <i>Bryant/Brunson Ch. 5, 16, 18; Malphurs p. 131-155</i>
8	5/12	FINAL EXAM READING ASSIGNMENT DUE Final Matters in Pastoral Ministry and Christian Shepherding

*SCHEDULE SUBJECT TO CHANGE AT PROFESSOR'S DISCRETION

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