

Pastoral Ministry (PM 511)
Course Syllabus: Baptist Missionary Association Theological Seminary
Dr. Mark Livingston
Spring Semester 2012

Note: The instructor reserves the right to change or amend this syllabus as needed.
Class meets at BMATS

Course Description

PM 511. Pastoral Ministry (Summer/2011; Spring/2012) Attention is given to the nature of a call to pastoral ministry or a staff position in church ministries. A study is made of church organization and administration, finances, and staff relationships and the understanding of varied ministerial contexts. Brief attention is given to parliamentary procedure, denominational (associational) work, and public relations.
Note: Master's students who have taken PM 311 must substitute another level III course for this one.

Course Objectives

- Identify and discuss the Biblical role of pastor.
- Discuss the daily duties, functions and demands of the pastorate.
- Identify key components necessary for successful ministry.
- Discuss the role of family and personal life in pastoral ministry.
- Identify and discuss the importance of the call to ministry.
- Identify the marks of biblical preaching.
- Discuss the importance of learning in pastoral ministry.
- Identify and discuss necessary theological concepts for pastoral success.
- Identify and discuss how to handle church conflict.
- Define and discuss the biblical role of shepherding in ministry.

Required Reading

Ascol, Thomas K. *Dear Timothy: Letters on Pastoral Ministry*. Cape Coral: Founders Press, 2004.

The Holy Bible (I will use the ESV version). Any version is allowed that is a dynamically equivalent translation.

Course Assignments

To complete the course the following assignments are required. Each assignment counts as 25% of the class grade. Add up all four and you have your final average. Due dates for each project are enumerated in the schedule section of this syllabus.

1. **A 5-7 page book review over Tom Ascol's book , *Dear Timothy: Letters on Pastoral Ministry*.** The book review should clearly follow this outline:

- a. Choose five articles (out of a total of 20 in the book) from the required reading text, *Dear Timothy* (Note: *Dear Timothy* is a book compilation of pastoral articles from noted leaders. Each chapter is a new article).
- b. Write your book review over the five chapters/articles you have chosen to read.
- c. The book review should be broken down as follows:
 - i. Introduction to the entire book (1 paragraph).
 - ii. Give a heading for each article. Write at least a page on each article. Include in your article review:
 1. A general summary of the article.
 2. Why you liked or disliked the article.
 3. How this article will affect your pastoral ministry.
 4. Key strengths or weaknesses of the article
 5. If you would or would not recommend this article to a ministry friend.

Book reviews should follow format guidelines of the BMATS handbook. Please use 12-point type (Times New Roman), double-spaced, and include a cover page with your name (note: a cover page denotes that you do not need to put headings on each page). Be prepared to discuss (share/report) on at least one article you wrote on.

2. **A Theology of Ministry Paper:** Each student will write an **eight to ten-page** summary of their Theology of Pastoral Ministry. The subject of *Theology of Ministry* will be covered in detail Monday of class week.

The purpose of this project is to force the minister to think through their convictions and beliefs concerning areas of ministry (worship, polity, evangelism, pastoral roles, deacons, elders, business meetings, teaching styles). This project can be used throughout life to guide one in selecting the best church “fit”. This will help one to formulate vague ideas into firm convictions. It is better you know what you can, or can not, tolerate before ever taking a pastorate. It is always helpful that a pastor can also clearly articulate such convictions to any believer at any time.

3. **Examination:** multiple choice/true-false/fill in the blank, essay exam over material covered from class lectures, readings, and discussions. Mid-term and final exam.
4. **Participation:** Discussion and attendance

Late Work

Projects:

In the event that you are unable to turn in your project or book review on the stated date, you may still turn in late assignments. Five (5) numerical points will be

deducted from the assignment each day (Weekends included) AFTER the stated due date. You must turn in the stated projects in order to pass the course. Note: Your papers need to be physically submitted (no emails due to grading, etc). Therefore, you may mail it (**P.O. Box 3043 Lufkin, Texas 75903**). It simply needs to be postmarked. You will receive five points for each day it is late. It is best to plan ahead and turn in your projects. No papers or projects will be accepted after exams week. Grades will be turned in to the dean's office as soon as exams are completed. Exams:

Tests can be made up in the event of a ministry (or personal) emergency. All make up tests will be essay. The student should contact the professor as soon as the emergency is known. The professor reserves the right to deny a make-up if he deems the emergency superfluous.

You should not expect to miss exams!

Participation

The student should not do the following in class:

1. Have cell phones on and in use during class time.
2. Surf the Internet while class lectures are in progress.
3. Refuse to participate in class discussions.
4. Work on other course work, projects, etc. while in this class.
5. Dominate class discussion.
6. Miss excessive amounts of class.

If the instructor records the student breaking these participation rules, then the instructor will deduct one point per recorded violation from the student's final numerical grade.

***Tentative Class Schedule**

Begin week one on January 30, 2012

Week 1: Intro/Ministry Values part 1

Week 2: Ministry Values continued part 2

Week 3: Pastor's job description part 1

Week 4: Pastor's job description part 2

Week 5: Mid Term Exam

Week 6: Evaluating the call part 1

Week 7: Brand Lectures: Book Review emphasis/library research.

Week 8: Evaluation of the call part 2 (Book Reviews Due at beginning of class).

Week 9: Developing Preaching Skills part 1

Week 10: Developing Preaching Skills part 2

Week 11: Theology of Ministry Research and development

Week 12: Spring Break

Week 13: Developing Preaching Skills part 3 (Theology of Ministry paper due)

Week 14: Administrative Ministry Tools part 1

Week 15: Administrative Ministry Tools part 2

Week 16: Finals Week

*Class schedule may be amended or changed as the professor sees fit. This should serve as an example of our class time together.

PROFESSORS BIBLIOGRAPHY

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