Pastoral Ministry, PT5250

Reformed Theological Seminary, Houston

Fall 2020

Rev. Robert Arendale

**Course Description**

Students are introduced to the idea of Pastoral Theology. Specifically, we will consider the Biblical picture of a pastor-shepherd in the church of the Lord Jesus Christ. We will discuss such topics as his calling, his character, and his competence. Moreover, we will reflect on the dangers that pastors in ministry face. .

**Course Details**

Location: RTS-H campus at Christ Evangelical Presbyterian Church

Time: Thursday nights, 6:00 – 9:00

Date: September 10, 2020 – November 5, 2020

Instructor: Rev. Robert S. Arendale

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**Course Goals**

1. To glorify our Triune God who creates, sustains, and redeems his people.
2. To come to a better understanding of the high calling of shepherding the people of God in the church of God.

**Course Philosophy**

This course will consist of both lecture and discussion. In this course we will be diving into and engaging with the word of God. We will unpack what it means to be a shepherd of God’s flock. The shepherd is called to feed, lead, nourish, protect, know, manage, and discipline his sheep. Furthermore, we will spend some time discussing the ‘nuts and bolts’ of ministry – the daily and weekly details, challenges, joys, and sorrows of being called to leadership in Christ’s church.

**Course Requirements**

1. Unless providentially hindered, all registered students are expected to attend all class lectures.
2. Students are expected to read the following in full:
3. *Liberating Ministry from the Success Syndrome* by Kent and Barbara Hughes (Crossway)
4. *A Portrait of Paul* by Rob Ventura and Jeremy Walker (Reformation Heritage Books)
5. *The Work of the Pastor* by William Still (Christian Focus)
6. *The Religious Life of Theological Students* by B.B. Warfield (P & R Publishing)
7. “The Minister’s Self Watch” by Charles Spurgeon (lecture 1 from *Lectures to My Students)*. This can be found on-line.
8. “The Usefulness of the Cross” by Richard B. Gaffin, Jr. This article can be found on-line.
9. *Golden Booklet of the True Christian Life* by John Calvin (Baker Books)
10. *The Christian and Technology* by John Fesko (Evangelical Press)
11. ***The Pastor’s Book* by R. Kent Hughes (Crossway).** **Not required for class, but this is an excellent reference volume to have for your library.**

\*\* Throughout the lectures I will be giving suggestions and recommendations for other helpful works on various aspects of ministry \*\*

1. Book Response. The student will write a 3 page response essay to one of the assigned books. This response is NOT to be a running commentary or summary of the contents; it is to be a substantive engagement with the ideas presented by the author.
2. Final Exam. A final exam will be given on the last day of class. This exam will consist of short answer questions and is intended to test the student’s overall grasp of the material.
3. Essay. The student will write a 10 page essay answering the following question: “How does the Biblical picture of a Christian leader contrast with a worldly picture of a Christian leader?” We will discuss the details of the essay during the course.

**Grading**

**10% class attendance and participation**

**20% reading**

**20% book response**

**20% final exam**

**30% essay**

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| **MDiv\* Student Learning Outcomes**  *In order to measure the success of the MDiv curriculum, RTS has defined the following as the intended outcomes of the student learning process. Each course contributes to these overall outcomes. This rubric shows the contribution of this course to the MDiv outcomes.*  *\*As the MDiv is the core degree at RTS, the MDiv rubric will be used in this syllabus.* | | **Rubric**  Strong  Moderate  Minimal  None | **Mini-Justification** |
| **Articulation**  **(oral & written)** | Broadly understands and articulates knowledge, both oral and written, of essential biblical, theological, historical, and cultural/global information, including details, concepts, and frameworks. | moderate | Mini-paper and book reviews,  class participation, etc |
| **Scripture** | Significant knowledge of the original meaning of Scripture. Also, the concepts for and skill to research further into the original meaning of Scripture and to apply Scripture to a variety of modern circumstances. (Includes appropriate use of original languages and hermeneutics; and integrates theological, historical, and cultural/global perspectives.) | moderate | Spend time walking through and  studying portions of Scripture |
| **Reformed**  **Theology** | Significant knowledge of Reformed theology and practice, with emphasis on the Westminster Standards. | moderate | Consider Reformed luminaries  such as Calvin, Vos, Edwards,  etc |
| **Sanctification** | Demonstrates a love for the Triune God that aids the student’s sanctification. | strong | Purpose of class is to grow in  our love for the Triune God |
| **Desire for**  **Worldview** | Burning desire to conform all of life to the Word of God. | strong | Various aspects of life and  ministry considered as we  consider figures from the past |
| **Winsomely**  **Reformed** | Embraces a winsomely Reformed ethos.  (Includes an appropriate ecumenical  spirit with other Christians, especially  Evangelicals; a concern to present the  Gospel in a God-honoring manner to  non-Christians; and a truth-in-love  attitude in disagreements.) | minimal | Interaction with figures such as Augustine and Luther |
| **Preaching** | Ability to preach and teach the meaning  of Scripture to both heart and mind with  clarity and enthusiasm. | none |  |
| **Worship** | Knowledgeable of historic and modern Christian-worship forms; and ability to construct and skill to lead a worship service. | none |  |
| **Shepherd** | Ability to shepherd the local congregation: aiding in spiritual maturity; promoting use of gifts and callings; and encouraging a concern for non-Christians, both in America and worldwide. | moderate | Consideration of classic works of past thinkers will impact how we shepherd and care for the people of God |
| **Church/**  **World** | Ability to interact within a denominational context, within the broader worldwide church, and with significant public issues. | none |  |