

Pastoral Ministry

Reformed Theological Seminary — Washington, DC

Spring Term, 2024

Instructor: Dr. Irwyn L. Ince, Jr.

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Dates and Time

February 5 – April 15 (no class April 15, final exam due)
Monday's 1:00 PM – 4:00 PM.

Course Description

This course will lay the foundations of a biblical theology of the pastor and pastoral ministry in relation to the church and the world. This is all with an eye towards engaging diverse communities and a diverse world. Students will begin to formulate a philosophy of ministry, assess readiness, and attain progress in their calling. A variety of pastoral skills and competencies will be included.

Objectives

At the end of this course, the student will be able to:

1. Understand the biblical foundation for and calling to pastoral ministry,
2. Explain the relationship between identity and faithful pastoral ministry,
3. Articulate methods for exercising authority in a way that leads to flourishing,
4. Articulate the administrative aspects of leadership,
5. Express a practical philosophy of ministry that engages the core needs of a congregation and community.

Required Reading

1. Burns, Bob, Chapman, Tasha D., and Guthrie, Donald C. *The Politics of Ministry: Navigating Power Dynamics and Negotiating Interests*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2018. ISBN 978-0-8308-4150-9.
2. Langberg, Diane. *Redeeming Power: Understanding Authority and Abuse in the Church*. Grand Rapids, MI: Brazos Press, 2020. ISBN 978-0-8308-4552-1.
3. Ortland, Dane. *Gentle and Lowly: The Heart of Christ for Sinners and Sufferers*. Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2020. ISBN 978-1-4335-6613-4.
4. Peacock, Barbara L., *Soul Care in African American Practice*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2020. ISBN 978-0-8303-4671-9.
5. Tripp, David Paul. *Dangerous Calling: Confronting the Unique Challenges of Pastoral Ministry*. Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2012. ISBN 978-1-4335-3582-6.
6. PCA Ad Interim Committee Report, *Addressing Abuse: A Theological and Practical Guide* (www.pcacdm.org).

Additional Required Hours

1. "How Culture is Changing and the Future of the Church," Tim Keller, <https://youtu.be/M1ekh6e5Slq>
2. "Redeeming Power," Diane Langberg, <https://youtu.be/XGT3AXDBLbA>

3. "Unhelpful Perspectives on Race and Justice," Christina Edmondson
<https://youtu.be/J9Q-gg-nl14>

Recommended for Further Reading

1. Berkley, James, ed. *Leadership Handbook of Management & Administration*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 2007 (pp.347-552). ISBN 978-0-8010-6814-0.
2. Burns, Bob, Chapman, Tasha D., and Guthrie, Donald C. *Resilient Ministry: What Pastors Told Us About Surviving and Thriving*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2013. ISBN 978-0-8308-4103-5.
3. Collins, Jim. *Good to Great and the Social Sectors: Why Business Thinking is Not the Answer*. New York, NY: HarperCollins Publishers, 2011.
4. Crouch, Andy. *Strong and Weak: Embracing A Life of Love, Risk, & True Flourishing*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2016. ISBN 978-0-8308-4443-2.
5. Herrington, Jim, Creech, R. Robert, and Taylor, Trisha. *The Leader's Journey: Accepting the Call to Personal and Congregational Transformation*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2020. ISBN 978-1540960528.
6. Meek, Esther Lightcap. *Loving to Know: Introducing Covenant Epistemology*. Eugene, OR: Wipf and Stock Publishers, 2011. ISBN 978-1-60899-928-6.
7. Pei, Adrian. *The Minority Experience: Navigating Emotional and Organizational Realities*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2018. ISBN 978-0-8308-4548-4.
8. Presbyterian Church in America Ad Interim Committee. *Report on Women Serving in the Ministry of the Church to the Forty-Fifth General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in America*. 2017.
9. Thompson, Curt. *The Soul of Shame: Retelling Stories We Believe About Ourselves*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2015, ISBN 978-0-8308-4433-3.
10. Winseman, Albert L., Clifton, Donald O., and Liesveld, Curt. *Living Your Strengths: Discover Your God-Given Talents and Inspire Your Community*. New York, NY: Gallup Press, 2008. ISBN 1-59562-002-8.

Course Requirements

1. Attending lectures (required).
2. Assignment 1: 5%
3. Class participation: 15%
4. Required Reading (Due Monday, April 15, 2024): 15%
5. Online Assignments: 20%
6. Final Exam (Due Monday, April 15, 2024): 20%
7. Response Paper (Due Monday, April 22, 2024): 25%

RTS Grading System

A	97-100
A-	94-96
B+	91-93
B	88-90
B-	86-88
C+	83-85
C	80-82
C-	78-79
D+	75-77

D	72-74
D-	70-71
F	Below 70
I	Incomplete
W	Withdraw
S	Satisfactory
P	Passing

Guidelines for Assignment 1

1. Assignment 1

- a. Take the CliftonStrengths Assessment (<https://store.gallup.com/p/en-us/10108/top-5-cliftonstrengths>). This assessment is \$19.99. However, if you purchase the book *StrengthsFinder 2.0*, by Tom Rath for \$19.99, it also comes with a code for the assessment. The book will provide details on the 34 strengths. The assessment tool will give you your top five dominant themes or strengths and an action planning guide. Submit the results to Dr. Ince by **Monday, February 5, 2024**.

Guidelines for Online Assignment

2. Assignment 2

- a. Watch the three videos listed under “Additional Required Hours.” Choose two of the videos and write a 2-3 page reflection paper about each one. The reflection papers are to describe where and why you agree with the speaker, and where and why you disagree. Each student is required to interact with and respond (one to two paragraphs) on Canvas to at least two other student papers. **The reflection papers are due Monday, February 19, 2024, and are to be posted on Canvas. The responses are due Monday, February 26, 2024.**

Guidelines for Readings

100% of the required reading is to be completed by the submission date for your response paper (April 22, 2024). The books do not have to be read in any particular order. When you submit your response paper **indicate the percentage of reading you have completed.**

Guidelines for Final Exam (Due Friday, April 15, 2024)

The short essay based final exam will be posted and is to be submitted in Canvas. The questions will be based on the readings and lectures.

Guidelines for Response Paper (Due Monday, April 22, 2024)

The response paper is to be 10-12 pages in length. You are being asked to express the impact of the lectures and readings on your understanding of pastoral ministry and your philosophy of ministry. What does effective pastoral ministry look like? What is the relationship between a healthy self-identity and pastoral ministry? What place will self-care have in your ministry? How do you pastor in a way that promotes the flourishing of those in your care? How do/will you assess the effectiveness of your ministry? I am looking for these four components:

- a. CREATIVITY: Evidence of personal insight into the content.
- b. CLARITY: Thinking and expression of thought clearly communicated.
- c. CONCEPTUALIZATION: Analytical skills evident.
- d. CONTRIBUTION: Practical and usable in ministry.

Format Guidelines for Response Papers

The 10-12 page paper must be 12 point font (Times New Roman or similar) and double spaced. All papers must be in **MS Word** or **Pages 6.0** or higher. Email the paper as an attachment to: iince@rts.edu.

Course Objectives Related to MDiv* Student Learning Outcomes

Course: 06PT5250

Professor: Dr. Irwyn Ince

Campus: Washington

Date: Spring 2024 (Mondays, February 5 – April 15, 2024)

MDiv* Student Learning Outcomes		Rubric	Mini-Justification
<i>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.</i> <i>*As the MDiv is the core degree at RTS, the MDiv rubric will be used in this syllabus.</i>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strong • Moderate • Minimal • None 	
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. Also includes ability to preach and teach the meaning of Scripture to both heart and mind with clarity and enthusiasm.	Strong	<p>Students will write a 8-10 page response paper expressing their understanding of the biblical understanding of and calling to pastoral ministry.</p> <p>Students will take the Strengths Finder assessment and engage their primary strengths.</p>
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.)	Strong	Work through several passages of Scripture exegeting them with emphasis on the original languages and applying them to the pastorate and ministry leadership.
Reformed Theology	Significant knowledge of Reformed theology and practice, with emphasis on the Westminster Standards.	Strong	Explore the WLC on the second table of the Law and its implications for how we love our diverse neighbors in mission; particularly engaging public issues in diverse communities.
Sanctification	Demonstrates a love for the Triune God that aids the student's sanctification.	Strong	Centering our pastoral pursuits from a strong sense of identity in Christ.
Worldview	Burning desire to conform all of life to the Word of God. Includes ability to interact within a denominational context, within the broader worldwide church, and with significant public issues.	Strong	Attention is given to two historic black Presbyterian pastors and their application of Scripture to the needs of their communities and issues of their day.
Winsomely Reformed	Embraces a winsomely Reformed ethos. (Includes an appropriate ecumenical spirit with other Christians, especially Evangelicals; a concern to present the	Strong	Articulating the need for a deeper cultural self-awareness along with a

	Gospel in a God-honoring manner to non-Christians; and a truth-in-love attitude in disagreements.)		theological and cultural humility in pastoral ministry.
Pastoral Ministry	Ability to minister the Word of God to hearts and lives of both church and unchurched, to include preaching, teaching, leading in worship, leading and shepherding the local congregation, aiding in spiritual maturity, concern for non-Christians.		Attention is given to two historic black Presbyterian pastors and their application of Scripture to the needs of their communities and issues of their day. Particular attention is given to creating a congregational missional culture in the local church and discipling laypersons for cross-cultural mission at home.