

# REFORMED THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

GLOBAL



## Pastoral Ministry

Dr. Jordan Stone

### Course Overview

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#### Course Description:

PT5250 Pastoral Ministry, 2 hours Lecturing Professor and Professor of Record: Dr. Jordan Stone

This course will lay the foundations of a biblical theology of the pastor in relation to the church and the 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.

#### Course Objectives:

- · To grow the student's understanding of what God requires of ministers.
- · To discern the call to ministry
- To prepare future pastors for the highs and lows that often accompany pastoral ministry
- To equip students with tools for the various duties that mark a pastor's life and service

#### Required Textbooks:

Joel R. Beeke and Nick Thompson. *Pastors and Their Critics: A Guide to Coping with Criticism in the Ministry*. Phillipsburg, NJ: P&R, 2020.

Horatius Bonar. Words to Winners of Souls. Phillipsburg, NJ: P&R, 1995.

D. A. Carson. *Memoirs of an Ordinary Pastor: The Life and Reflections of Tom Carson.* Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2008.

Jordan Stone. A Holy Minister: The Life and Spiritual Legacy of Robert Murray M'Cheyne. Fearn, Ross-shire: Christian Focus, 2021.

[These books may also be available in ebook format through various retailers]

#### Reference: (Students will select one of the following to read and write a book interaction)

Charles Bridges. *The Christian Ministry: With an Inquiry into the Causes of Its Inefficiency*. Edinburgh: Banner of Truth, 1959.

Charles Spurgeon. *Lectures to My Students*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1980. \*There are multiple editions of Spurgeon's work available, make sure you read a complete and unabridged version.

#### Online Student Handbook:

The Online Student Handbook (can be downloaded here) has been designed to assist you in successfully navigating the Distance Education experience, whether you are taking a single course or pursuing a certificate or degree program. In it you will find valuable information, step-by-step instructions, study helps, and essential forms to guide you through every aspect of your distance education opportunity from registration to graduation. Please use this resource as your first-stop reference manual.

#### Summary of Requirements:

- 1. Listen to all recorded Lectures
- 2. Complete all Readings
- 3. Participate in Forum Discussions (with other students and the professor)
- 4. Submit Lesson12 FAQ Assignment
- 5. Submit Book Interactions
- 6. Submit Personal Retrospective and Prospective on Ministry
- 7. Take Final Exam
- 8. Submit Reading Report
- 9. Submit Mentor Report/Course Application Paper
- 10. Submit Course Complete Form

## Meet the Professor

#### Lecturing Professor and Professor of Record:



Jordan Stone joined the RTS faculty in 2021 as Assistant Professor of Pastoral Theology. He teaches preaching and worship courses for the Dallas campus. His research interests and publications have centered around a deep study of Robert Murray M'Cheyne. Dr. Stone is also the Senior Pastor of Redeemer Presbyterian Church in McKinney, TX. He has served in vocational ministry since 2005, after retiring from professional soccer.

Dr. Stone is married to Emily and they are the proud parents of six children. In his spare time, Dr. Stone enjoys reading, writing, and running on McKinney's trails.

#### **Publications:**

"The Works of Thomas Watson, Vol. 2" editor (Reformation Heritage Books, forthcoming).

A Holy Minister: The Life and Legacy of Robert Murray M'Cheyne (Christian Focus, 2021)

*Love to Christ: The Piety of Robert Murray M'Cheyne*, Profiles of Reformed Spirituality series, ed. Joel R. Beeke and Michael A.G. Haykin (Reformation Heritage Books, 2020)

A Communion of Love: The Christ-Centered Spirituality of Robert Murray M'Cheyne (Wipf & Stock, 2019)

"Robert Murray M'Cheyne: Preaching the Love of God in Jesus Christ," in *A Legacy of Preaching* Volume 2, ed. Benjamin K. Forrest, Kevin L. King, Bill Curtis, and Dwayne Milioni (Zondervan, 2018)

### Grades

#### Forum Discussion (15%):

The student is required to interact in two (2) forums:

- 1. Student-Professor Posts (15 total posts)
  - A. Personal Introduction Forum: The student is required to post a brief personal introduction to the professor/class. Suggested details include your vocation, where you live, your church background, why you chose RTS, and what you hope to gain through the course (1 required post).
  - B. 5 Topical Discussion Q&A Forums: The student is required to answer each topical discussion question with one (1) response. The professor will acknowledge the student's answer and will follow up with a subsequent question to which the student must also answer with one (1) response. Each topical discussion question, therefore, requires two (2) total posts/responses from the student (Total of 5 forums x 2 posts =10 total posts). The professor and/or TA reserves the right not to award points in the case where the intended structure of substantive back and forth interaction has not been followed.
  - C. Student-Professor Forum: The student is required to post four (4) times in this forum. Posts in this forum should focus on course-related content such as research paper topics, lectures and reading assignments, or other academic issues related to the course.
- 2. Student-Student Forum (5 total posts)
  A post may be either a new topic or a response to an already existing topic.

### Examinations (Final 25%):

The final exam will cover Lessons 1-11 and be comprehensive in nature. The exam for this course is to be taken online in the Learning Management System (LMS). After clicking on the exam link you, will be given detailed instructions about the exam. Please read these instructions carefully before entering the exam. Please note that you are required to have a proctor for all exams. Please see the proctor policy in the Global Student Handbook.

#### Personal Retrospective and Prospective on Ministry (20%):

Students will write a 2,000-word paper that accomplishes two things. First, it is a retrospective in that it examines any previous ministry models you've experienced. Such models are those churches at which you've been a member and those leaders who have served you. How have they shaped your ministerial view—positively or negatively? Second, it is a prospective in that the paper offers your personal hopes and desires for ministry. What unique challenges do you expect to face, and how will you overcome them? What non-negotiable emphases do you pray will mark your ministry?

#### Book Interactions (20%):

Students will write two 1,000-word interactions. One interaction will cover either the Carson or Beeke/Thompson volume, with the other reflecting on the work from Bridges or Spurgeon. Each interaction should summarize the book's content, analyze the book's key

contributions, and offer specific encouragements the book provided to the student. Keep quotations from the book to a minimum.

#### Lesson 12 FAQ Assignment (10%):

Students will watch or listen to Lesson 12 and provide Dr. Stone's answers (a summary is fine) to all of the questions asked. This assignment will be graded on a complete/incomplete basis. Please note that the use of AI and/or transcripting services is forbidden and will result in an automatic zero for the assignment and possibly for the course.

#### Reading Report (5%):

Students will submit a reading report at the end of the course.

#### Mentor Report OR Course Application Paper (5%):

If you are enrolled in an **RTS Global** degree or certificate program submit a mentor report. Every portion of the form (goals, summaries, assessments, and signatures) should be filled out completely by both the student and the mentor to receive full credit. You can download the Mentor Report form in your Canvas classroom. See specific instructions for this assignment in Canvas.

If you are receiving your degree through another **RTS campus** (Orlando, Jackson, Charlotte, et. al.), or special student (e.g. from another seminary), submit a 250-word summary of how you perceive what you have learned in this course will fit into the objectives you have for your ministry, your educational goals, or other objectives you wish to achieve in life. Course Application Papers (CAP) that fall well-short of 250 words will receive a grade deduction. See specific instructions for this assignment in Canvas.

#### Assignments:

Best practice for your time management is for you to submit all assignments at the end of the week in which they fall, using the upload links provided in the LMS. All work must be submitted by midnight of the course end date, per your course start letter. You are responsible for turning in all assignments on time; no late submissions are permitted. Any student who needs an extension must get approval from the Registrar prior to that time.

#### Contact Information:

Reformed Theological Seminary, Global Education

2101 Carmel Road Charlotte, NC 28226

Campus: (704) 366-4853 Toll Free: (800) 227-2013

E-mail: dess@rts.edu

Web site: rts.edu/campuses/online/

### Lessons

#### Lesson One

The Ministry

#### Lesson Two

The Minister's Heart

#### Lesson Three

The Minister's Home

#### Lesson Four

The Minister's Priorities: Piety & Preaching

#### Lesson Five

The Minister's Priorities: Patience, Perseverance, & Prayer

#### Lesson Six

The Call to a Church

#### Lesson Seven

The Minister's Meetings

#### Lesson Eight

The Minister's Labors

#### Lesson Nine

The Minister's Discipling

#### Lesson Ten

The Minister's Silent Struggles

#### Lesson Eleven

The Minister's Legacy

#### Lesson Twelve

Frequently Asked Questions

#### **Course Objectives Related to Student Learning Outcomes**

Course: Pastoral Ministry Professor: Dr. Jordan Stone

Student Learning Outcomes  In order to measure the success of the 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 outcomes.		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.	Strong	<ul> <li>Students will write 2 book reviews plus a retrospective/prospective on ministry which will hone their ability to think and write with clarity</li> <li>A final exam will further equip students to synthesize the course material in writing</li> </ul>
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	<ul> <li>The lectures present Biblical support for the manifold topics related to pastoral ministry</li> <li>The lectures present Biblical application for the variety of issues related to pastoral ministry</li> </ul>
Reformed Theology	Significant knowledge of Reformed theology and practice, with emphasis on the Westminster Standards.	Moderate	<ul> <li>This course presents the ins and outs of pastoral ministry through the lens of a Reformed perspective</li> <li>Quotes and illustrations are drawn from pastors of the past within a broadly Reformed perspective</li> </ul>
Sanctification	Demonstrates a love for the Triune God that aids the student's sanctification.	Strong	<ul> <li>Deeper love for God and His Word by repeatedly emphasizing the necessity for personal piety for pastoral ministry</li> </ul>
Desire for Worldview	Burning desire to conform all of life to the Word of God.	Strong	<ul> <li>Content and categories for pastoring are taken from the Bible, and designed to shape how students think about the church and themselves</li> </ul>
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.)	Moderate	How to apply the wisdom of Scripture in a loving manner to the variety of circumstances one faces in pastoral ministry
Teach	Ability to teach the meaning of Scripture to both heart and mind with clarity and enthusiasm.	Minimal	<ul> <li>Students are equipped to teach and apply Scripture for officer training, session meetings, and other activities involving church officers</li> </ul>
Church/World	Ability to interact within a denominational context, within the broader worldwide church, and with significant public issues.	Moderate	Students are equipped to face the challenges, obstacles, and opportunities that come with pastoring in a local church
MAR Specific SLO	An ability to integrate such knowledge and understanding into one's own calling in society	Moderate	Students are equipped to face the challenges of pastoral ministry and ministry in general in any given context