

COURSE SYLLABUS – PT5250
Pastoral Ministry
Reformed Theological Seminary
Jackson, Mississippi
Spring 2026

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Time: Tuesday, 1:00-4:15
Class Hours: 2
Revised: September 26, 2025

COURSE PURPOSE

An introduction to pastoral ministry.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

1. Formation of the minister's character.
2. Cultivation of the minister's pastoral gifts.
3. Establishing life-long devotional habits.
4. Memorizing scriptures concerning the pastor and his work.

REQUIRED TEXTS

The Bible.

Anyabwile, Thabiti M. *The Faithful Preacher: Recapturing the Vision of Three Pioneering African-American Pastors*. Wheaton, Illinois: Crossway, 2007.

The Book of Church Order of the Presbyterian Church in America (BCO). <https://www.pcaac.org/bco/>

Bridges, Charles. *The Christian Ministry: with an inquiry into the causes of its inefficiency*. Carlisle: Banner of Truth, 1991.

Kostenberger, Andreas J. *Commentary on 1-2 Timothy & Titus*. Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press, 2020.

Martin, Albert N. *The Man of God: His Calling and Godly Life*. Montville, NJ: Trinity Pulpit Press, 2018.

Westminster Larger & Shorter Catechisms.

Wingard, Charles Malcolm. *Help for the New Pastor: Practical Advice for Your First Year of Ministry*. Phillipsburg, NJ: P&R, 2018.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. ATTENDANCE

Class attendance is mandatory. Attendance is taken at each class. If a student anticipates an unavoidable absence, he should notify the TA in advance. Each unexcused absence subjects the student to reduction of his final grade by a full letter grade. In the event of absence, written work, including quizzes, must still be submitted by their due dates.

2. BIBLE MEMORY AND READING QUIZZES

Bible Memory and Reading Quizzes will be administered on Canvas and will be due before each class period. Ordinarily, this will be 11:59 p.m. of the day before class. See Canvas for due dates. *On the quiz you will be asked if you read all the assigned readings in their entirety.*

Quiz questions cover all reading assignments.

Each week one quiz question will be based on your readings of the Pastoral Epistles and Köstenberger: *Identify and explain three takeaways from your readings in the Pastoral Epistles and Köstenberger that will prove helpful in pastoral ministry.*

No quiz questions will be taken from *The Christian Ministry*. On your final exam, you will answer an essay question based upon your reading of this book (see below).

All quizzes and exams must be taken in the presence of an authorized proctor (this may be a friend or colleague, *not a family member*).

At the beginning of each quiz, you will be asked to fill in your proctor's name, cell phone number, and email address. Have your proctor review the exam instructions with you before you begin the exam to see what reference materials you are permitted to use, if any. No helps may be used unless explicitly stated in the exam instructions.

3. BOOK REVIEW.

You will submit one (1) three-page book review of Anyabwile's *The Faithful Preacher*.

In your paper, you will provide the reader with (a) a summary of the book's contents, (b) the primary arguments of the author, and (c) your evaluation.

The following formatting requirements apply: (a) Include a title page. (b) Use Times New Roman font and 12-point type. (c) Number pages in the body of the paper; do not number the title page. (d) Use one-inch margins on all four edges of the paper. (e) Lines must be double-spaced. Failure to follow these guidelines will result in a letter grade reduction.

4. FINAL EXAMINATION

Your final examination will be asked to write out some of your Bible Memory Verses and one answer. One essay question based on your reading of *Theology for Ministry*.

Essay question: "You have read *The Christian Ministry*.. In 900-1000 words (no less, no more), identify and explain specific ways that you believe this book will aid you in the development of your pastoral life and practice."

In your essay:

- Indicate your word count. Failure to include a word count will result in a 10-point grade reduction.
- State if you have read the book in its entirety. Failure to read book in its entirety will result in a 25-point grade reduction.

5. DUE DATE EXTENSION POLICY

There will be no extensions granted for any assignments. You receive your full schedule of assignments well before they are due, and you must plan accordingly. Unless otherwise noted in the syllabus, late submissions will be assessed a penalty of 10 points per day late.

6. GRADES

Bible Memory Verses and Reading Quizzes	60%
Book Review	20%
Final Examination	20%

7. GRADING SCALE

97-100%	A
94-96%	A-
91-93%	B+
88-90%	B
86-87%	B-
83-85%	C+
80-82%	C
78-79%	C-
75-77%	D+
72-74%	D
70-71%	D-
0-69%	F

8. ETIQUETTE

Gentlemen may not wear caps or hats in the classroom.

9. ELECTRONIC DEVICES

Computers and tablets are not permitted in the classroom. Cell phones should be turned off and put away. Voice recorders are not permitted in class.

10. DISCLAIMER

The instructor reserves the right to modify any portion of this syllabus during the semester. Students are expected to keep up with syllabus revisions, which are posted online. Late work because an out of date syllabus will not be excused.

11. OFFICE HOURS

Monday through Thursday, by appointment or whenever the door is open.

COURSE OUTLINE

January 27:

- A. Martin, unit 1: chapters 1-6; Köstenberger, introduction and exposition of 1 Timothy 1
- B. **Bible Memory and Reading Quiz:** 1 Timothy 1:5

February 3: Video Presentation (No in-person class)

- A. Martin, unit 1: chapters 7-13; Köstenberger, exposition of 1 Timothy 2; BCO, chapters 59-63
- B. **Bible Memory and Reading Quiz:** 1 Timothy 2:5-6

February 10:

- A. Martin, unit 2: chapters 1-6; Wingard, 20-48; Köstenberger, exposition of 1 Timothy 3
- B. Robert J. Cara, “Justification of Ordained Office of Deacon Restricted to Qualified Males” at <https://journal.rts.edu/article/justification-of-ordained-office-of-deacon-restricted-to-qualified-males/>
- C. **Bible Memory and Reading Quiz:** 1 Timothy 3:16

February 17:

- A. Martin, unit 2: chapters 7-14; Köstenberger, exposition of 1 Timothy 4
- B. **Bible Memory and Reading Quiz:** 1 Timothy 4:16

February 24:

- A. Bridges, Part 1; Köstenberger, exposition of 1 Timothy 5.
- B. Bible Memory and Reading Quiz:** 1 Timothy 5:24-25

March 3:

- A. Bridges, Part 2; Köstenberger, exposition of 1 Timothy 6.
- B. Bible Memory and Reading Quiz:** 1 Timothy 6:6-7

March 10: READING WEEK

March 17:

- A. Bridges, Part 3:1-5; Köstenberger exposition of 2 Timothy 1
- B. Bible Memory and Reading Quiz:** 2 Timothy 1:6-7

March 24:

- A. Köstenberger, exposition of 2 Timothy 2; Bridges, Part 3:6-10
- B. Reading Quiz and Bible Memory Verse:** 2 Timothy 2:24-26
- C. WLC 152-160, 178-196; WSC 84-90, 98-107
- D. Work Due: Book Review** - Three-page review of *The Faithful Preacher*

March 31: Make-up class if needed

- A. Bridges, Part 4:1-3; Köstenberger, exposition of 2 Timothy 3
- B. Reading Quiz**

April 7: Make-up class if needed

- A. Bridges, Part 4:4-6; Köstenberger, exposition of 2 Timothy 4
- B. Reading Quiz**

April 14: Make-up class if needed.

- A. Bridges, Part 5; Köstenberger, introductory materials and exposition of Titus 1
- B. Reading Quiz**

April 21: Make-up class if needed.

- A. Köstenberger, exposition of Titus 2-3
- B. Reading Quiz**

April 28: Make-up class if needed.

May 5-7: **Final Examination (TBA)**

MDiv* Student Learning Outcomes <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>		Rubric <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. Also includes ability to preach and teach the meaning of Scripture to both heart and mind with clarity and enthusiasm.	Strong	All oral and written work must demonstrate good style, grammar, and syntax.
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	Students work must demonstrate solid scriptural exegesis, and how scripture shapes pastoral ministry.
Reformed Theology	Significant knowledge of Reformed theology and practice, with emphasis on the Westminster Standards.	Strong	Student papers will demonstrate a solid grasp of Reformed Theology and its contributions to the church's understanding of pastoral care.
Sanctification	Demonstrates a love for the Triune God that aids the student's sanctification.	Strong	Students will study the connection between personal holiness and God-honoring pastoral ministry.
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.	Moderate	Students will address contemporary issues in a manner informed by scripture.
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.)	Strong	Student will develop an approach to pastoral ministry that appeals to the conscience while showing grace and sympathy to God's people.
Pastoral Ministry	Ability to minister the Word of God to hearts and lives of both churched and unchurched, to include preaching, teaching, leading in worship, leading and shepherding the local congregation, aiding in spiritual maturity, concern for non-Christians.	Strong	In pastoral ministry, students will learn to use language that is accessible to ordinary congregations.

READINGS IN PREACHING AND PASTORAL THEOLOGY

Adams, Jay E. *Preaching with Purpose*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan; Phillipsburg, NJ: P&R, 1982.

———. *Shepherding God's Flock*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1974, 1975.

Alexander, J. W. *Thoughts on Preaching*. Carlisle: Banner of Truth, 1988.

Ash, Christopher. *The Priority of Preaching*. Ross-shire: Christian Focus, 2010.

Azurdia, Arturo G III. *Spirit Empowered Preaching: Involving the Holy Spirit in your ministry*. Ross-shire: Christian Focus, 1998

Bannerman, James. *The Church of Christ: A treatise on the nature, powers, ordinances, discipline, and government of the Christian Church*. Edmonton, AB Canada: Still Waters Revival Books, 1991.

Baxter, Richard. *The Reformed Pastor*. Carlisle: Banner of Truth, 1989.

Bennett, Arthur. *The Valley of Vision*. Carlisle: Banner of Truth, 2003.

Bewes, Richard. *Speaking in Public Effectively*. Ross-shire: Christian Focus, 1998.

Blaikie, William G. *For the Work of the Ministry: A manual of homiletical and pastoral theology*. Birmingham, AL: Solid Ground Christian Books, 2005.

Bridges, Charles. *The Christian Ministry: with an inquiry into the causes of its inefficiency*. Carlisle: Banner of Truth, 1991.

Bridges, Jerry. *Respectable Sins: Confronting the sins we tolerate*. Colorado Springs: NavPress, 2007.

Broadus, John A. *Lectures on the History of Preaching*. Vestavia Hills, AL: Solid Ground Christian Books, 2004.

———. *On the Preparation and Delivery of Sermons*. Vestavia Hills, AL: Solid Ground Christian Books, 2005.

Brown, Charles. *The Ministry*. Carlisle: Banner of Truth, 2006.

Bucer, Martin. *Concerning the True Care of Souls*. Carlisle: Banner of Truth, 2009.

Bunyan, John. *The Pilgrim's Progress*. Carlisle: Banner of Truth, 2005.

Calhoun, David. *Prayers on the Psalms: From the Scottish Psalter of 1595*. Carlisle: Banner of Truth, 2010.

Carson, D. A. *A Call to Spiritual Reformation: Priorities from Paul and His Prayers*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1994.

Carson, D. A. *The Cross and Christian Ministry: Leadership lessons from 1 Corinthians*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1993.

Chappell, Bryan. *Christ-Centered Preaching: Redeeming the expository sermon*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2005.

_____. *Christ-Centered Worship: Letting the gospel shape our practice*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2009.

_____. *Using Illustrations to Preach with Power*. Wheaton: Crossway, 2001.

Charles, H.B., Jr. *On Preaching: Personal and Pastoral Insights for the Preparation and Practice of Preaching*. Chicago: Moody, 2014.

Chrysostom, St. John. *Six Books on the Priesthood*. Crestwood, NY: St. Vladimir's Seminary Press, 1984.

Clebsch, William A., and Jackle, Charles. *Pastoral Care in Historical Perspective*. New York: Jason Aronson, 1983.

Clowney, Edmund P. *Preaching Christ in All of Scripture*. Wheaton: Crossway, 2003.

_____. *The Unfolding Mystery: Discovering Christ in the Old Testament*. Colorado Springs: NavPress, 1988.

Dabney, Robert Lewis. *Sacred Rhetoric Or A Course of Lectures On Preaching: Delivered In the Union Theological Seminary Of the General Assembly Of the Presbyterian Church in the U.S. (1870)*. Whitefish, MT: Kessinger Publishing, 2010.

Dallimore, Arnold. *Spurgeon: A New Biography*. Edinburgh: Banner of Truth, 1985.

Dargan, Edwin Charles. *The History of Preaching*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1954.

Davis, Dale Ralph. *The Word Became Fresh: How to preach from Old Testament narrative texts*. Ross-shire: Christian Focus, 2006.

Dever, Mark and Gilbert, Greg. *Preach: Theology meets practice*. Nashville: B&H, 2012.

Dickson, David. *The Elder & His Work*. Phillipsburg: P&R, 2004.

Drucker, Peter F. *The Effective Executive: The definitive guide to getting the right things done*. New York: Harper Collins Publishers, 2002.

Eby, David. *Power Preaching for Church Growth: The role of preaching in growing churches*. Ross-Shire, Christian Focus, 1996.

Edwards, William R., John C. A. Ferguson, and Chad Van Dixhoorn (eds.) *Theology for Ministry: How Doctrine Affects Pastoral Life and Practice*. Phillipsburg, NJ: P&R, 2022.

Episcopal Church. *The Book of Common Prayer: and administration of the sacraments and other rites and ceremonies of the Church: according to the use of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States of America: together with the Psalter or Psalms of David*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1993.

Fairbairn, Patrick. *Pastoral Theology A Treatise: On the office and duties of the Christian pastor*. Audubon, NJ: Old Paths Publications, 1992.

Garretson, James. M. *Princeton and Preaching: Archibald Alexander and the Christian ministry*. Carlisle: Banner of Truth, 2005.

_____. *Princeton and the Work of the Christian Ministry*, 2 vols. Carlisle: Banner of Truth, 2012.

Goldsworthy, Graeme. *Preaching the Whole Bible as Christian Scripture*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2000.

Gordon, T. David. *Why Johnny Can't Preach: The media have shaped the messengers*. Phillipsburg: P&R, 2009.

Gordon, T. David. *Why Johnny Can't Sing Hymns: How pop culture rewrote the hymnal*. Phillipsburg: P&R, 2010.

Gregory. *The Book of Pastoral Rule*. Crestwood, NY: St. Vladimir's Seminary Press, 2007.

Houghton, Elsie. *Classic Christian Hymn-Writers*. Fort Washington: Christian Literature Crusade; Wales: Evangelical Press, 1982.

James, John Angell. *An Earnest Ministry: The want of the times*. Carlisle: Banner of Truth, 1993.

Johnson, Terry L. *Leading in Worship*. Oak Ridge, TN: The Covenant Foundation, 1996.

_____. *Reformed Worship: Worship that is according to Scripture*. Greenville: Reformed Academic Press, 2000.

_____. *Worshiping with Calvin: Recovering the Historic Ministry and Worship of Reformed Protestantism*. Darlington, England: EP Books, 2014.

Jones, Paul S. *Singing and Making Music: Issues in Church Music Today*. Phillipsburg: P&R, 2006.

Kelly, Douglas. *Preachers with Power: Four stalwarts of the south*. Carlisle: Banner of Truth, 1992.

Kistler, Don, ed. *Feed My Sheep: A passionate plea for preaching*. Orlando: Soli Deo Gloria Publications, 2002.

Lloyd-Jones, D. Martyn. *Preaching & Preachers*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2011.

Macartney, Clarence Edward. *Preaching Without Notes*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1946.

Manetsch, Scott M. *Calvin's Company of Pastors: Pastoral care and the emerging Reformed Church, 1536-1609*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2013.

Martin, Albert N. *You Lift Me Up: Overcoming Ministry Challenges*. Ross-shire: Christian Focus, 2013.

McNeill, John T. *A History of the Cure of Souls*. New York: Harper & Row Publishers, 1951.

Meilaender, Gilbert. *Bioethics: A primer for Christians*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2005.

Millar, Gary and Campbell, Phil. *Saving Eutychus: How to preach God's word and keep people awake*. Kingsford, AUS: Matthias Media, 2013.

Miller, Samuel. *Thoughts on Public Prayer*. Harrisonburg: Sprinkle Publication, 1985.

Motyer, Alec. *Preaching? Simple teaching on simply preaching*. Ross-shire: Christian Focus, 2013.

Murphy, Thomas. *Pastoral Theology: The pastor in the various duties of his office*. Whitefish, MT: Kessinger Publishing, 2002.

Old, Hughes Oliphant. *Leading in Prayer: A workbook for worship*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1995.

_____. *Worship: Reformed according to Scripture*. Louisville: John Knox, 2002.

_____. *The Reading and Preaching of the Scriptures in the Worship of the Christian Church. Vol 4, The Age of Reformation.* Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2002.

Olyott, Stuart. *Ministering Like the Master: Three messages for today's preachers.* Carlisle: Banner of Truth, 2003.

Orthodox Presbyterian Church. *The Book of Church Order of the Orthodox Presbyterian Church.* Willow Grove, PA: The Committee on Christian Education of the Orthodox Presbyterian Church, 2000.

Packer, J. I. *Evangelism & the Sovereignty of God.* Downers Grove, IL: IVP, 1961.

Peck, T. E. *Notes on Ecclesiology.* Richmond: Presbyterian Committee of Publication, 1892.

Perkins, William. *The Art of Prophesying.* Carlisle: Banner of Truth, 1996.

Piper, John. *Brothers, We are Not Professionals: A plea to pastors for radical ministry.* Nashville: B&H, 2002.

_____. *The Supremacy of God in Preaching.* Grand Rapids: Baker, 1990.

Postman, Neil. *Amusing Ourselves to Death: Public discourse in the age of show business.* New York: Penguin, 1985.

Pratt, Josiah, and John Henry Pratt, eds. *The Thought of the Evangelical Leaders: Notes of the Discussions of the Eclectic Society, London During the Years 1798-1814.* Edinburgh: Banner of Truth Trust, 1978.

Presbyterian Church of America, General Assembly. *The Book of Church Order of the Presbyterian Church of America,* Sixth Ed. Lawrenceville, GA: The Committee for Christian Education and Publications, 2013.

_____. *The Westminster Confession of Faith and Catechisms: as adopted by The Presbyterian Church in America.* Willow Grove, PA: The Committee on Christian Education of the Orthodox Presbyterian Church, 2007.

Prime, Derek & Begg, Alistair. *On Being a Pastor: Understanding our calling and work.* Chicago: Moody Publishers, 2004.

Robinson, Haddon W. *Biblical Preaching: The development and delivery of expository messages.* Grand Rapids: Baker, 2001.

Shaw, James E. *Classic Hymns of Christendom: 52 stories & studies of Scripture which inspired the hymns.* Rapid City, SD: Crosslink Publishing, 2013.

Shedd, William G. T. *Homiletics and Pastoral Theology.* New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1902.

Short, David and Searle, David. *Pastoral Visitation: A Pocket Manual.* Ross-shire: Christian Focus; Edinburgh: Rutherford House, 2004.

Smith, Morton H. *Commentary on the PCA Book of Church Order.* Taylors, SC: Presbyterian Press, 2007.

Spring, Gardiner. *The Distinguishing Traits of Christian Character.* Phillipsburg: P&R, 1967.

_____. *The Power of the Pulpit: Thoughts to Christian ministers and those who hear them.* Carlisle: Banner of Truth, 1986.

Spurgeon, Charles Haddon. *An All-Round Ministry*. Pasadena, TX: Pilgrim Publications, 1983.

_____. *Lectures to My Students*. Carlisle: Banner of Truth, 2008.

_____. *The Pastor in Prayer: A Collection of the Sunday morning prayers of C. H. Spurgeon*. Carlisle: Banner of Truth, 2004.

Still, William. *Dying to Live*. Ross-shire: Christian Focus, 1991.

_____. *The Work of the Pastor: Revised Edition*. Ross-Shire, Scotland: Christian Focus, 2010.

Stott, John R.W. *Between Two Worlds: The challenge of preaching today*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1982.

_____. *The Preacher's Portrait: Some New Testament word studies*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1961.

Von Allmen, Jean-Jacques. *Preaching and Congregation: Ecumenical studies in worship*. Richmond, VA: John Knox Press, 1962.

Warfield, Benjamin B. *The Religious Life of Theological Students*. Phillipsburg: P&R, 1983.

Waters, Guy P. *How Jesus Runs the Church*. Phillipsburg: P&R, 2011.

Watson, Thomas. *The Godly Man's Picture*. Edinburgh: Banner of Truth, 1992.

Wells, David F. *The Courage to Be Protestant: Truth-lovers, Marketers, and Emergents in the Postmodern World*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2008.

White, Peter. *The Effective Pastor: Get the tools to upgrade your ministry*. Ross-shire: Christian Focus, 2000.

Witmer, Timothy. *The Shepherd Leader: achieving effective shepherding in your church*. Phillipsburg: P&R, 2010.

Witsius, Herman. *On the Character of a True Theologian*. Greenville, SC: Reformed Academic Press, 1994.