



Covenant Reformed Seminary
18431 Reformed Pastoral Ministry
— *Fall 2018* —

PROFESSOR

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

A course designed to introduce the student to pastoral ministry in the Reformed tradition. Specific attention will be given to the ministerial vision of the Pastoral Epistles (1 & 2 Timothy, Titus). Topics to be covered include: personal piety, ordination, prayer, preaching, visitation, administering the sacraments, evangelism, leading various ministries, and church discipline.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

- Students will become familiar with the biblical vision of faithful ministry.
- Students will learn the distinctive traits of Reformed pastoral ministry.
- Students will engage, learn from, and critique the classic texts on Reformed ministry.
- Students will understand the importance of visitation for a shepherding ministry.
- Students will discover the ministerial convictions of other Christian traditions.
- Students will consider the common pitfalls in pastoral ministry.
- Students will learn about pastoral ministry by studying a figure in Church history.
- Students will participate in “on-the-ground” ministry in their local church.
- Students will gain practical wisdom by considering various case scenarios.

CLASSROOM EXPECTATIONS

I endeavor to lead our time together in such a way that we exemplify and experience the following values:

- We will maintain a **spirit of prayer**

- We will encourage one another **in song**
- We will display **the priority of God’s word** in our discussions on ministry
- We will show **dignity in word and deed** in our interactions with one another
- We will be concerned with **the experiential piety** of each participant
- We will value **a communal learning environment**

COURSE TEXTS & ASSIGNMENTS

Complete the following assignments as described by the indicated due date.

The following works are required for the course:

Beeke, Joel. *Puritan Evangelism: A Biblical Approach*. Grand Rapids: Reformation Heritage Books, 2007.

Bonar, Horatius. *Words to Winners of Souls*. Phillipsburg, PA: P&R Publishing, 1995.

Bridges, Charles. *The Christian Ministry: With an Inquiry into the Causes of Its Inefficiency*. Edinburgh: Banner of Truth Trust, 1997.

Students are required to read the following chapters/articles, all of which are available on Canvas:

- J.C. Ryle, “Simplicity in Preaching”
- C.H. Spurgeon, “The Preacher’s Private Prayer”
- C.H. Spurgeon, “Our Public Prayer”
- C.H. Spurgeon, “The Minister’s Fainting Fits”

ASSIGNMENT 1: Reading Reflections—150 points

You will read all three assigned books above and submit a reflection paper of *at least four pages* (double spaced). The goal of this assignment is to completion and comprehension of the readings. Your reflection should include the following:

- The author’s main thesis or burden in the book
- Your main takeaways from the book. Tell me which sections inspired, informed, or infuriated you—and why they did.
- 4–5 of the book’s most impactful quotes

You will read all four assigned articles above and submit a reflection paper of *at least one and a half pages* (double spaced). Your reflection should only consist of your main takeaways from the article.

Due Date: Submit a PDF of each reflection via Canvas following the course assignment chart below.

Students will choose *one* of the following for a book review:

Baxter, Richard. *The Reformed Pastor*. Carlisle, PA: Banner of Truth, 1997.

Boston, Thomas. *The Art of Man-Fishing: How to Reach the Lost*. Fearn, Ross-Shire: Christian Heritage, 2012.

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

ASSIGNMENT 2: Book Review—50 points

You will choose one of titles above for a book review (Baxter, Boston, or Garretson). Follow the seminary's style guide for writing a book review—pp. 35–37. The style guide is available on Canvas.

Due Date: Submit a PDF of your review via Canvas on November 1, 2018.

Students will choose *one* of the follow for a biographical presentation:

Bonar, Andrew. *Robert Murray M'Cheyne*. Carlisle, PA: Banner of Truth, 1960.

Dallimore, Arnold. *Spurgeon: A New Biography*. Carlisle, PA: Banner of Truth, 2005.

Parker, T.H.L. *John Calvin: A Biography*. Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox Press, 2007.

Thomson, Andrew. *John Owen: Prince of Puritans*. Fearn, Ross-Shire: Christian Focus, 2004.

ASSIGNMENT 3: Group Biographical Presentation—50 points

You will choose one of the biographies above (on Calvin, M'Cheyne, Owen, or Spurgeon) and let me know by October 1, 2017 the biography you selected. I will then post on Canvas who is in each presenting group. Everyone who selected Calvin will be in "Calvin's Cohort," or everyone who select M'Cheyne will be in "M'Cheyne's Cohort," etc. You will then work as a group planning and preparing a 45-minute group presentation on your subject. I encourage you to be as creative, yet clear as possible. Please do not treat your presentation as if you are reading a paper to the Evangelical Theological Society. That would not be a wise choice.

Due Date: Group presentations will take place in December. See course assignment chart below.

ASSIGNMENT 4: Personal Philosophy of Pastoral Ministry Paper—50 points

Write a five-page paper (double-spaced) articulating your personal philosophy of pastoral ministry. This is not a research paper. The only text you are required to interact with is Scripture—particularly the Pastoral Epistles. The paper should answer essential questions on pastoral ministry, such as:

- What constitutes a living ministry?
- What duties are required of pastors?
- How do you intend to grow in ministry?

Due Date: Submit a PDF via Canvas by October 1, 2018.

ASSIGNMENT 5: Ministry Log—200 points

Throughout the semester you will observe/participate in a few different ministry environments. You are required to record *at least one page* (double spaced) of your thoughts and impressions from each of the following occasions:

- Two elder meetings (yields at least two double-spaced in your log)
- Two staff meetings (yields at least two double-spaced in your log)
- Two visitations with an elder (yields at least two double-spaced in your log)
- One prayer meeting (yields at least double-spaced in your log)

The aim is for you to be participating, on average, in a ministerial context every other week during the semester. I encourage you to participate in these settings at your local church. *

**If you need my help in speaking with your pastor about the requirements, I am happy to do so. If your local church does not have any of the above meetings, please contact me and we can work to find such a church in your area. Or, you are certainly welcome to participate in these meetings at the local church I pastor.*

Due Date: Submit a PDF of your log via Canvas by December 14, 2018.

ASSIGNMENT 6: 1 Timothy 4 Recitation—40 Points

You will memorize 1 Timothy 4. I believe it contains all the essentials of a faithful ministry. On the last day of class, you will “recite” your memorization by writing it down, by hand, on paper. You can choose which translation you will recite. You will simply signify it on the recitation exam.

Due Date: June 7, 2018 in class.

Extra Credit—25 points

Read Timothy Witmer’s *The Shepherd Leader: Achieving Effective Shepherding in Your Church* and write a five-page book report.

Due Date: Submit a PDF of your review via Canvas by December 14, 2018.

ASSIGNMENT DUE DATES

DUE DATE	ASSIGNMENT	POINTS
9/11	Reflection on "The Preacher's Private Prayer"	5
9/18	Reflection on <i>Words to Winners of Souls</i>	20
9/25	Reflection on "Our Public Prayer"	5
10/9	Reflection on "Simplicity in Preaching"	5
10/16	Reflection on <i>Puritan Evangelism</i>	20
10/30	Book Review on Baxter, Boston, or Garretson	50
11/6	Personal Philosophy of Ministry Paper	80
11/20	Reflection on "The Minister's Fainting Fits"	5
12/4	Reflection on <i>The Christian Ministry</i>	20
12/4 or 12/11	Group Biographical Presentation	100
12/9	Ministry Log	200
12/11	1 Timothy 4 Recitation	40
Total 550		

DATE	COURSE SCHEDULE	LOCATION
9/4	Syllabus Questions Bible Reflection: 1 Timothy 1 Ministry Topic: The Goal of Pastoral Ministry <i>The Christian Ministry pp. 1-30</i>	SH1921
9/11	Bible Reflection: 1 Timothy 2 Ministry Topic: The Pastor and Vital Piety #1 <i>The Christian Ministry pp. 31-71</i>	SH1921
9/18	Bible Reflection: 1 Timothy 3 Ministry Topic: The Pastor and Vital Piety #2 <i>The Christian Ministry pp. 72-105</i>	SH1921
9/25	Bible Reflection: 1 Timothy 4 Ministry Topic: The Pastor and Prayer <i>The Christian Ministry pp. 106-137</i>	SH1921
10/2	Bible Reflection: 1 Timothy 5 Ministry Topic: The Pastor and Preaching #1 <i>The Christian Ministry pp. 138-164</i>	SH1921
10/9	Bible Reflection: 1 Timothy 6 Ministry Topic: The Pastor and Preaching #2 <i>The Christian Ministry pp. 165-195</i>	SH1921
10/16	Bible Reflection: Titus 1 Ministry Topic: The Pastor and Shepherding #1 <i>The Christian Ministry pp. 196-228</i>	SH1921
10/23	Bible Reflection: Titus 2 Ministry Topic: The Pastor and Shepherding #2 <i>The Christian Ministry pp. 229-258</i>	SH1921
10/30	Bible Reflection: Titus 3 Ministry Topic: The Pastor and His Family <i>The Christian Ministry pp. 259-295</i>	SH1921
11/6	Bible Reflection: 2 Timothy 1 Ministry Topic: The Pastor and His Leaders <i>The Christian Ministry pp. 296-326</i>	SH1921
11/13	Bible Reflection: 2 Timothy 2 Ministry Topic: The Pastor and His Staff <i>The Christian Ministry pp. 327-360</i>	SH1921
11/20	Bible Reflection: 2 Timothy 3 Ministry Topic: The Pastor and the Children <i>The Christian Ministry pp. 360-383</i>	SH1921
12/4	Bible Reflection: 2 Timothy 4 Ministry Topic: Calvin and M'Cheyne Presentations	SH1921

DATE	COURSE SCHEDULE	LOCATION
12/11	Bible Reflection: Ephesians 4 Ministry Topic: Owen and Spurgeon Presentations	SH1921

COURSE ATTENDANCE

Attendance is mandatory. If circumstances arise that necessitate a “brief” absence, please consult the professor.

PLAGIARISM: Plagiarism is using someone else’s words or ideas without giving credit. Students are expected to credit sources appropriately. Plagiarism will be reported to the Dean of Students, resulting in disciplinary action up to and including failing the course and academic dismissal.

SPECIAL NEEDS: God created you in His image, you are thus inherently valuable. It is my desire—and the seminary’s as a whole—to work with you regardless of whatever challenge you face. If this includes special accommodations—for example, the use of a recording device, adaptive equipment, or special note taking—please contact the professor prior to the first day of class.

DISCLAIMER

During the semester, I reserve the right to modify any portion of this syllabus I may deem necessary due to unforeseen events or circumstances.