PC 531 Essentials of Pastoral Care
Fall Semester 2018, Modular Course
Taylor Seminary’s Mission

To develop Christ-minded leaders who make a difference in the world

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My passion is to empower yours!
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SCHEDULE: Five-day modular course, October 15-19, 2018
8:30am – 4:00pm (with morning and afternoon breaks and one hour lunch)

CREDITS: 3 (90 hours of study outside of class time)

COURSE DESCRIPTION:
An introductory course that deals with the theology, theory, and practice of pastoral care in the context of Christian ministry. Attention will also be given to how pastoral care is performed though leading of special worship services: Lord’s Supper, baptism, weddings, and funerals, etc.

COURSE OBJECTIVES BASED ON TARGET STATEMENTS

A. Knowledge—Students will

• Describe a core philosophy from which to fulfill pastoral care in Christ and in a faith community that is holistic, theologically and biblically informed, Spirit-led, and practical.
• Articulate a biblical theology for practices of pastoral care.
• Identify issues involved in providing pastoral care along with the other demands within a ministry context.
• Describe and give evidence of using the resources available from church history and from contemporary contexts to develop and express effective pastoral care.
• State principles and practices for pastoral care in a variety of ministry contexts, such as preaching, teaching, the Lord’s Supper, baptisms, home and hospital visitation, weddings and funerals.
• Summarize pitfalls and conflicts in pastoral care contexts.
B. Character—Students will

- Attend classes, read texts and carry out course assignments, in prayerful Spirit-led ways.
- Prayerfully reflect on the function of pastoral care with growth in compassion and care.

C. Ability—Students will

- Provide examples of theological reflection on experiences of providing pastoral care.
- Care for people with compassion and skill through an attentive presence with Scripture-fed and Spirit-led prayer and spiritual direction, regardless of external circumstances.

COURSE TEXTS:

- Roger Helland. *The Devout Life: Plunging the Depths of Spiritual Renewal*. Wipf & Stock, 2017 (available from the instructor in class for $20.00, or online from Kindle).

Also, choose one of the following supplemental course texts:

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

**PRE-CLASS ASSIGNMENT (30%): DUE OCTOBER 15, 2018**

_Spend some time in Prayer. Then . . ._

**Read:** “Pastoral Care” and “Pastoral Care and Counseling, Role Conflicts in,” in the *Baker Encyclopedia of Psychology and Counseling*, 2nd ed. (Baker, 1999): Take notes of key ideas.
https://www.dropbox.com/s/17kw31rmqmd7d3f/BAKER%20ENCYCLOPEDIA%20OF%20PSYCHOLOGY%20AND%20COUNSELING.pdf?dl=0

**Read:** “Four Models of Counseling in Pastoral Ministry” by Timothy Keller, in *Gospel in Life.com* (2004): Take notes of key ideas.
https://www.dropbox.com/s/2h188ed6dl4f86h/Four_Models_of_Counseling_in_Pastoral_Ministry.pdf?dl=0

**Read:** “The Priest as Pastor” and “The Pastor as Counselor,” by William H. Willimon, in *Pastor: The Theology and Practice of Ordained Ministry*: Take notes of key ideas.
https://www.dropbox.com/s/sbtvgf57gifzf3f/William%20Willimon%20Pastoral%20Care.pdf?dl=0

Read: Timothy Z. Witmer, The Shepherd Leader. Take notes of key ideas.

Write a Letter: Drawing from what you read above, compose a six-page letter (1800 words) that offers advice to a young pastor who is assigned to a new congregation. Advise the new pastor in terms of what you consider to be a succinct definition of pastoral care, essential principles and practices, and some key warnings or conflicts in how to offer pastoral care to God’s flock (Acts 20:28; 1 Peter 5:2). Attach a two-page Appendix to the letter that contains an annotated list of at least 10 key passages that provide specific practices for pastoral care. **8 pages total.**

**MID-CLASS ASSIGNMENT (5%): DUE OCTOBER 16**

On Monday evening, for the class on Tuesday, be prepared to discuss the following:

Read: “How Pastoral Care Stunts the Growth of Most Churches,” by Carey Nieuwhof, in Church Leaders (November 23, 2015). Take notes of key ideas and your response: [https://goo.gl/7e8pCy](https://goo.gl/7e8pCy)


**POST-CLASS ASSIGNMENTS (65%)**

1. *Spend some time in prayer. Then . . .*  

Read: Roger Helland, The Devout Life: Plunging the Depths of Spiritual Renewal.

Write a Book Chapter Reflection: Select five of the ten chapters that you will explore in more depth in terms of their value to help facilitate spiritual formation and renewal in your context. Answer one exercise For Pastors and Church Leaders at the end of each of your selected chapters. If you are not a pastor or church leader choose one of the For Reflection and at the end of your five selected chapters. Write one page per chapter. **5 pages total.**  

Due: November 17 (20%)
2. **Book Review.** Read: one of the supplemental texts above. Take notes of key ideas.

Write a two-page Amazon.com type book review (600 words) that expresses the key ideas of the supplemental text and its application to your practices of pastoral care. Give the book a 1-5 star rating and your rationale. Then, meet with a “pastoral care-receiver” (not a relative or classmate) at least twice. Write two three-page reports (900 words each) of your meetings that describe the “care-receiver’s” situation, and an honest reflection of your conversational, listening, caring, and praying practices. **8 pages total. Due December 15 (20%).**

*Spend some time in Prayer. Then . . .

3. **Integrative Essay.** Write a seven-page (2100 words) Final Academic Integrative Essay that articulates your theology and practice of pastoral care.

Review your course notes and PowerPoint slides, previous assignments, and textbook readings. Identify the main contours of the course and consult two more sources from the bibliography and take notes. Structure your outline. Then, in six pages, carefully articulate six major contours of the course that integrates your research drawn from the course texts, class discussions and content, and at least two other resources listed in the bibliography (or other current sources not listed). As you develop the six contours, apply them to yourself in terms of theological foundations and specific practices to cultivate biblical personal character and pastoral care. Devote one page per contour. Use only the first person, not the second or third person. At the end of your research and writing, then write a concise and compelling introduction to the paper in one half page and a concise and compelling conclusion to draw the paper to a close in one half page. **7 pages total. Due December 15 (25%).**

**Process and Format for the Paper**

The paper should reflect solid academic and practical content, in the first person to avoid abstractions (I, me, my, mine), with good spelling and grammar, style, and formatting of paragraphs, headings and subheadings, footnotes, and bibliography. Use Word.doc, one-inch margins, half-inch indented paragraphs, double-spaced throughout (not triple spaced between paragraphs), with Times New Roman, 12-point font. Brief citations should only be used to support your key ideas and avoid typing out long passages of Scripture. For guidance in writing a research paper consult: [https://writing.wisc.edu/Handbook/PlanResearchPaper.html](https://writing.wisc.edu/Handbook/PlanResearchPaper.html)

**COURSE EVALUATION:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pre-class Assignment</td>
<td>October 15</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mid-class Assignment</td>
<td>October 16</td>
<td>5%</td>
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<td>Post-class Assignments</td>
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<tr>
<td>Read and write on <em>The Devout Life</em></td>
<td>November 17</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Read and write on supplemental text and care meetings</td>
<td>December 15</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Academic Integrative Essay</td>
<td>December 15</td>
<td>25%</td>
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Permission for Use of Student Assignments
As part of Taylor Seminary’s accreditation process, the faculty is required annually to review anonymized examples of student assignments from selected core courses in our Masters degrees. If you do not wish your assignment to be anonymized and then included in the random sample from which assignments will be chosen for review, please request an abstention from your course instructor.

ATTENDANCE POLICY: Unexcused absences and lack of participation may adversely affect your grade. Unexcused absences may result in failure for the course.

GENERAL INFORMATION:
1. MOODLE
Taylor Seminary’s Moodle is located on a shared platform with our partner seminary, Sioux Falls Seminary. Bookmark this site on your computer for easy, regular access:
https://moodle.sfseminary.edu

Moodle log-in is the first initial of your first name and your last name - all in lowercase, with no spaces. For example, if your name is John Calvin, you would log-in as jcalvin

The default enrolment key is the course code (all in lowercase, with no spaces). The course code consists of the course prefix followed by the course number.
For example, Old Testament Introduction’s key is: ot417

If you are having trouble logging into Moodle or self-enroling, please email teresa.seibel@taylor-edu.ca

2. COURSE WRITING
Formatting
All studies and papers should be typed and formatted according to the Society of Biblical Literature writing style as outlined in the Seminary’s Guidelines for Research Writing in Religion & Theology (SBL). For the full stylesheet, please refer to Patrick H. Alexander, et al., ed., The SBL Handbook of Style: For Biblical Studies and Related Disciplines (Atlanta: SBL Press, 2014) which is in Reading Room.

Research Language.
You should employ acceptable research language for your paper which is not too informal yet reads inclusively. Avoid the use of gender specific language (e.g., Do not refer to “man” generically or to “mankind,” “men,” “he”; rather use “humankind,” “humanity,” “person,” etc.)
Plagiarism.
Academic honesty and integrity is essential to the academic enterprise and the Seminary community. All written work submitted must be your own. Guidelines for Research Writing defines plagiarism as the failure to give credit where credit is due: “To plagiarize is to give the impression that you have written something original which in fact you have borrowed from another without acknowledging that other person's work” (Guide for Research and Writing, 2016, p. 11-13). If you borrow ideas or distinctive phrases, or include direct quotations in your written assignments, you must acknowledge your source(s) properly by in-text citation or footnote. It is also wrong to copy another person’s work or to submit an assignment previously handed in for credit in another course. Students guilty of plagiarism may receive a grade of zero for the assignment and may be brought to the attention of the Seminary’s Academic Committee.

3. COURSE WITHDRAWAL POLICY
After the period for which tuition refunds are available, a “W” will be placed on the transcript of a student who withdraws from any course. Beyond those dates, an “F” will be recorded on the student’s transcript.

COURSE OUTLINE:

Class 1: Monday Morning: Theological Foundations and Reflection in Pastoral Care
Class 2: Monday Afternoon: Historical and Contemporary Contexts of Pastoral Care

Class 3: Tuesday Morning: Practical Templates and Protocols for Pastoral Care
Class 4: Tuesday Afternoon: Soul Care: Sin, Satan, and Sickness, Abuses and Addictions (Sam)

Class 5: Wednesday Morning: The Holy Spirit, Prayer, and Pastoral Care in Community
Class 6: Wednesday Afternoon: Pastoral Care in Times of Trial and Tragedy

Class 7: Thursday Morning: Pastoral Care in Preaching, Teaching, Hospital and Home Visitation
Class 8: Thursday Afternoon: Pastoral Care in Baptisms, Communion, Weddings, and Funerals

Class 9: Friday Morning: Biblical Foundations of Spiritual Formation and Renewal
Class 10: Friday Afternoon: Practices of Spiritual Formation and Renewal
BIBLIOGRAPHY


The essentials of pastoral care involve the pastor's distinctive task of caring for those who are estranged—the lost sheep. Taken from the biblical image of the shepherd, the pastor by virtue of his or her professional calling cultivates wise judgment in order to hear the hurting and offer guidance, reconciliation, healing, sustaining presence, and empowerment to those in need. This book will outline the quintessential elements pastors need to wisely minister in today's context by discussing four major kinds of lostness: grief, illness, abuse, and family challenges. The purpose of the book is to provide pastors with the necessary tools and understanding to effectively minister to those who are estranged—the lost sheep. John Patton is the Professor Emeritus of Pastoral Theology at Columbia Theological Seminary in Decatur, Georgia, and a retired United Methodist minister. He is the author of many books, including Pastoral Care: An Essential Guide, Is Human Forgiveness Possible? and Pastoral Care in Context: An Introduction to Pastoral Care. Dr. Patton is also an associate editor of Abingdon's Dictionary of Pastoral Care and Counseling. Read more. Product details.