



Nazarene Theological Seminary

1700 E Meyer Blvd • Kansas City, MO 64131 • 816/333-6254

PHL790/890—Legal and Ethical Issues in the Pastoral Ministry Online Summer 2009

Essential Information

Please refer to the following resources for information essential for the successful completion of courses and degree programs at Nazarene Theological Seminary. Links to these resources are available at http://support.nts.edu/index.php/Essential_Information. Additional technical support information can be found at <http://support.nts.edu>.

- NTS Mission Statement & Purpose and Master of Divinity Objectives
- Tips for online learning success
- NTS library services
- NTS bookstore procedures
- Online technical requirements and Moodle support information
- NTS Student Handbook including statements on quality of work, plagiarism, and academic probation
- *A Handbook for Inclusive Language*

Instructor Information

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between 9:00 p.m. and 8:00 a.m.

Catalog Description

This course is designed to address through reading and the case study method the more significant resources and issues confronting the pastoral ministry. The major focus will be placed upon the specific moral, theological, and pastoral rationality involved in address the major ethical and moral issues facing those in the ministry.

Course Narrative & Rationale

The importance of addressing the specific challenges of the Christian life has always be an important part of pastoral ministry. Pastoral ministry in the postmodern era poses particular challenges for the pastoral ministry. Yet, the focus of pastoral ministry is much more clinical than theoretical. Therefore, this course will attempt to remain attentive the actual questions raised in the context of the pastoral ministry.

Course Outcomes

A student to successfully completes this course should be able to: a) define the major moral and legal resources available to the pastoral ministry, b) address with clinical precision the moral and legal issues that confront the pastoral ministry, c) engage in the critical rationality necessary for

pastoral ministry, and d) articulate pathways toward further intellectual growth in the area of pastoral ethics.

Required Texts & Course Materials

Gaylord Noyce, *Pastoral Ethics: Professional Responsibilities of the Clergy*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1988.

Mary Angela Shaughnessy, *Ministry and the Law: What You Need to Know*. New York and Mahwah, NJ: Paulist Press, 1998.

Samuel Wells, *God's Companions: Reimagining Christian Ethics*. Malden, MA: Blackwell Publishers, 2006.

Course Outline

Week One and Two: Legal and Ethical Resources for the Practice of Pastoral Ethics

Week Three: Ministerial Confidentiality

Week Four: Finances and Employment Law

Week Five: Social and Political Issues in the Pastoral Ministry

Week Six: Professional Issues

Course Assignments & Requirements

Participation - 40%: Each student must make a post on at least five days each week. Students are required to post substantial responses to posts and/or make substantial posts each week. A quality post is one that begins a new topic, critical reflection on another person's post, or one that moves the discussion in a new direction. Weekly responses must be at least seven twenty-five words.

A substantial post is one that engages the specific content of the week. It is essential that each post critically engage course content. No points will be given for the type of notes that merely encourage one another or comments not related to the content of the course. Participation will be assessed Monday through Saturday (11:59pm - Central Time) of each week. You cannot make up participation points. You will receive a weekly grade for participation.

Participation will be worth up to 50 points each week. Participation will be evaluated on the basis of the following criteria: degree of insight in questions/comments, connection of comments/questions to assigned reading, and participation throughout the week.

Book Review - 20%: A book review on *God's Companions* will be required. Total possible points: 125. Criteria for evaluation: grasp of content - 50 pts, grasp of theological issues - 35 pts, connection to material covered in class - 25 pts, force of the argument and writing - 15 pts.

Weekly Case Study 40% - Each week you will be required to post a case study arising from the topic we will be discussing/reading about. For example, when we talk about ministerial confidentiality you will write a simple case study involving the issues involved this moral and legal concern. Your case study should be about two pages typed. Each case study will be worth 50 points and be assessed on the following criteria: appropriateness of the problem, clarity of the analysis, and writing/grammar.

Method for Submitting Assignments

All assignments must be submitted through Moodle in the appropriate assignment link.

Policy Regarding Late Work & Missed Exams

All work submitted late will be reduced by 20%. Any exception to this must be approved by the professor prior to the due date. Normally, the only requests that will be approved will be for illness, death in the family, etc.

Relevant Academic Policies

- No work will be accepted after **July 10 @ 11:59pm - Central Time.**
- All work must be submitted through the assignments function of Moodle set up for this class.
- All grades are open to reasonable and respectful review.
- It is expected that all work turned in for this class reflect the labors of the person whose name appears on the paper. If there is any evidence to the contrary of this the student will receive a zero for the assignment.

Course Grading – The relative weight of each assignment is defined in the assignment section.

A - - 725-652

B - - 651-580

C - - 579-507

D - -506-435

F - - 434-000

Course Calendar

Date	Week	Assignment
May 18	1	<p>Legal and Ethical Resources for the Practice of Pastoral Ethics</p> <p><i>The purpose of this week is to understand the nature and limits of pastoral ethics. We will look at various ethical theories as they relate to the practice of ministry.</i></p> <p>Reading Assignment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Noyce, 15-88 • Shaughnessy, 8-15 <p>Assignments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Post your case study by May 19 • Participation for this week ends May 23
May 25	2	<p>Legal and Ethical Resources for the Practice of Pastoral Ethics</p> <p>Reading Assignment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Noyce, 183-196 <p>Assignments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Post you case study by May 26 • Participation for this week ends May 30
June 1	3	<p>Ministerial Confidentiality</p> <p><i>The purpose of this week is to think together about the moral and legal implications of pastoral confidentiality.</i></p> <p>Reading Assignment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Noyce, 89-11 • Shaughnessy, 16-33 <p>Assignments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Post your case study by June 2 • Participation for this week ends June 6
June 8	4	<p>Finances and Employment Law</p> <p><i>This week we will look at the moral and legal implications of how the finances of the church are handled and how employees are treated.</i></p> <p>Reading Assignments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Noyce, 113-132 • Shaughnessy, 34-52 <p>Assignments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Post your case study by June 9 • Participation for this weeks end June 13

June 15	5	<p>Social and Political Issues in the Pastoral Ministry</p> <p><i>This week we will look at the legal and ethical issues that arise at the point of the intersection between the church and social/political concerns.</i></p> <p>Reading Assignments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Noyce, 151-180 <p>Assignments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Post your case study by June 16 • Participation for this week ends June 20
June 22	6	<p>Professional Issues</p> <p><i>This week we will look at particular issues that connect to the practice of ministry as a profession.</i></p> <p>Reading Assignments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Noyce, 71-88; 133-149 • Shaughnessy, 53-79 <p>Assignments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Post your case study by June 23 • Participation for this week ends June 27 • Book Review is due July 8