

Nazarene Theological Seminary
PTH510 Theology of Church and Ministry
August 24-September 2, 2009
5:30 p.m.—9:30 p.m.
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Updated 6/09

Course Syllabus

I. Course Description

The course develops a pastoral theology of the church based on biblical, historical, and theological reflection. From this foundation a structure for contemporary practice of ministry will be developed. The course introduces the model of integration of biblical, historical, theological, and pastoral concerns to which NTS is committed. For M.Div. students, this is a required course and should be taken during the first year of study.

II. Course Outcomes

On successful completion of PTH510, students will have the ability to:

1. Articulate an understanding of pastoral theology based on historical and biblical reflection
2. Reflect theologically on life and ministry
3. Write an integrative philosophy of ministry that will answer, “Why I do what I do when I do it”
4. Participate intentionally, successfully and in an informed manner in the Supervised Ministry Program

III. Course Required Textbooks

Mahan, Jeffrey H., Barbara B. Troxell, and Carol J. Allen. *Shared Wisdom: A Guide to Case Study Reflection in Ministry*. Nashville: Abingdon, 1993. (ISBN 0687383358, 142 pages, \$10)

Purves, Andrew. *Pastoral Theology in the Classical Tradition*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox, 2001. (ISBN 0664222412, 137 pages, \$19.95)

Rowell, Jeren. *What’s a Pastor to Do? The Good and Difficult Work of Ministry*. Kansas City: Beacon Hill, 2004. (ISBN 0834122073, 96 pages, \$10)

Thompson, James W. *Pastoral Ministry According to Paul: A Biblical Vision*. Grand

Rapids: Baker, 2006. (ISBN 0801031095, 174 pages, \$18)

Willimon, William H. *Pastor: The Theology and Practice of Ordained Ministry*.
Nashville: Abingdon, 2002. (ISBN 0687045320, 386 pages, \$26)

Wilson, Jonathan R. *Why Church Matters: Worship, Ministry, and Mission in Practice*.
Grand Rapids: Brazos, 2006. (ISBN 1587430371, 158 pages, \$19.99)

Supervised Ministry Handbook, 2008-2009 edition.

IV. Course Requirements

A. Pre-Course work

1. Read the six textbooks listed above. You will need a general knowledge of these texts to do the assignments during and after the course.
2. After reading *Shared Wisdom*, write a two-page, single-spaced case study based on a recent event connected with your local congregation or ministry setting and using the format suggested on pages 115-117. Points will be awarded for form (including numbered lines), length, notice of confidentiality, personally specific, recent event, with additional credit given in the theological reflection section and for overall insight.

B. Course work (during the course)

1. Student groups will make site visits to interview local KC pastors. Class will begin by breaking into groups based on a sign-up list from the day before. The groups will determine carpooling plans, interview questions and the post-interview meeting arrangements. Following the interview, groups will meet at a place of their choice until the end of class time to prepare a presentation and report of the visit at the assigned time. Additional meeting times and/or Blackboard group discussions might also be necessary. The interview should be conducted so that the following questions can be addressed in the written report:
 - a. What is the biblical foundational for this pastor's ministry? How would this pastor respond to the biblical vision for ministry laid out by Thompson?
 - b. What motivates this pastor to and in ministry? What similarities to Rowell does this pastor have with the experience of the good and difficult aspects of ministry?
 - c. Describe the priorities in ministry for this pastor in relation to Willimon's chapter categories.
 - d. To which classical writer mentioned in Purves would you compare this pastor and why?

- e. What connections do you find between the ideas of this pastor and Wilson about worship, ministry and practice?

The written report, a 4-6 page paper addressing the above questions, is due at the time of the presentation. A grading rubric for the presentation and report will be distributed in class.

2. In class students will demonstrate an understanding of the purposes and requirements of Supervised Ministry by completing a sample Learning Covenant. (Note: Students registered in PTH621, 631 for fall 2009 should submit an authentic Covenant with the required signatures. An approved supervisor should be identified and consulted beforehand. Contact Dr. Copp if you have questions.)
3. Students will sign up for a site visit at pre-determined cross-cultural sites. The group should be prepared to share an informal report afterward.
4. Student Case Study assignments will be shared in small groups according to the presentation format given in *Shared Wisdom*. Two hard copies of the Case Study should be submitted.

C. Post-Course work

By October 16, 2009, the student will submit a personal Philosophy of Ministry in two parts. The first is a 4-6 page, double-spaced essay giving a detailed description of the manner in which you think ministry ought to be carried out in your present context and why. The following questions should be addressed:

1. What is the biblical foundation for your ministry including images of the church? How does the biblical vision for ministry laid out by Thompson inform your ministry?
2. What motivates you to and in ministry? Relate this motivation to your experience of the good and difficult aspects of ministry in Rowell.
3. Describe your priorities in ministry in reference to Willimon's chapter categories.
4. With which classical writer from Purves do you resonate and why?
5. What connections do you find between your ideas and those of Wilson about worship, ministry and practice?

The second is a separate two-page, double-spaced Philosophy of Ministry that is a more general summary of the 4-6 page paper. It will be placed in your NTS portfolio and not returned to you until you enroll in Senior Integrative Seminar.

For requirements regarding quality of work, see the NTS Student Handbook. Late work will be penalized at the following rate: 1 day to 1 week late—15% of points, 1 week to 2 weeks late—25% of points, over 2 weeks late—50% of points.

V. Learning Units (Schedule to be determined)

Unit I—Ecclesiology and Calling (Wilson, Rowell)

Unit II— Biblical and Historical Foundations (Purves, Thompson)

Unit III— Preparation and Vocation (Willimon)

Unit IV—Supervised Ministry (*Shared Wisdom*)

VI. Course Learning Assessment

Assignment	Points	Grading Scale
Pastor Interview Report--	150	A= 460-500
Case Study--	50	B= 415-459
Philosophy of Ministry--	250	C= 370-414
Attendance/Participation--	<u>50</u>	D=325-369
Total Possible	<u>500</u>	F= less than 325

In addition to attendance, the attendance/participation points will include the submission of two surveys, the sample Learning Covenant and the course evaluation.

VII. Bibliography (A detailed bibliography will be supplied later)