ML727
Theology and Practice of Pastoral Ministry
SYLLABUS
Professor: Andrew D. Rowell
Term: Spring 2015
Delivery: Traditional
Dates: Feb 02, 2015 – March 5, 2015; March 20, 2015 - May 22, 2015
Tuesdays: Feb 3, 10, 17, 24, Mar 3, 24, 31, Apr 7, 14, 21, 28, May 5, 12, 19
Course credits: 3.0
Enrolled: 3 students
Location: BSSP 103.

BETHEL SEMINARY
Bethel University
3900 Bethel Drive
St. Paul, MN 55112
Description

This course explores the theology and practice of pastoral ministry from the apostle Paul to today’s megachurch. We will (a) analyze church leadership in the New Testament; (b) read classics on pastoral ministry from Gregory the Great, George Herbert, and Richard Baxter; (c) compare descriptions of pastoring by 20th century pastor-theologians Karl Barth, Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Lesslie Newbigin, and Martin Luther King, Jr.; and (d) reflect on diverse contemporary models of church leadership from Eugene Peterson to Bill Hybels to Pope Francis. The purpose of this course is to expose students to outstanding examples of pastoral ministry in the history of the church that in the process students might be formed for excellence and innovation in their future Christian ministry.

Learning Outcomes

Upon completing this course, students will be able to: reflect with biblical and historical perspective on contemporary church leadership and pastoral ministry approaches for effective and wise future ministry.

Upon completing the course, students will be able to:

- Apply Scriptural messages appropriately to contemporary contexts
- Evaluate their own theology in light of the wider Christian tradition
- Analyze emerging theologies in conversation with historical Christianity
- Explain and differentiate various approaches to management and administration in ministry
- Integrate key course concepts into personal wholeness and faith praxis
- Integrate key course concepts into professional practice
- Integrate key course concepts across disciplines
Instructor Information

Professor Andrew D. Rowell ("Andy")
Instructor of Ministry Leadership
Email: a-rowell@bethel.edu

Address: Bethel Seminary, MSC #7006
3949 BETHEL DR
SAINT PAUL MN 55112
Bethel Office phone: 651.638.6226 (This voicemail does not get checked regularly. Email is preferable).
Bethel Seminary Office: A201
Facebook: My current policy is not to be Facebook friends with students. I only use it to occasionally post family photos so you are not missing anything.
Twitter: https://twitter.com/AndyRowell I sometimes post links to things I’m reading here but there is no need to watch this. Any resources for this class, I will share with you through Moodle.

Course communication:

In Moodle, I have chosen the option “forced subscription” for the "General Discussion Forum" so that you receive emails when I “add a new discussion topic” there as a class announcement. It is my way of emailing the class. You can also “reply” in case something needs clarification. Another student may be able to “reply” and help you or I will. These replies send an email to everyone since this is a “forced subscription.” If you have a question or resource that all of us might benefit from, you can also post a “discussion topic” in the General Discussion Forum and everyone will be emailed. It is a way for you to email the whole class. If your question is more personal and does not need to be sent to the whole class, please feel free to use my email address: a-rowell@bethel.edu

- I will return email messages within 24 hours—usually within a few hours.
- Grading turn-around times: I will plan to return assignments within one week.
Required Resources:


978-1597520591


978-0881413182


978-0679443599

OR


978-0140424553 eBook available.


978-0060663537


978-0802801142. eBook available.
General Activity Guidelines

Total hours: 120

Class time (21 hours)

Reading (51 hours)

Assignments (48 hours)

1. Essays: The six papers are to be 795-1060 words (3-4 pages). (6 hours X 6 modules = 36 hours allotted). They are due 30 minutes before the class session begins. I do not ask students to inform me how much they have read. I expect that students may need to skim or omit reading under the pressure of time. The papers will give some demonstration about the degree of the student’s engagement with the reading.

2. Interview pastors. Please interview a pastor or other church leader about how they understand and practice pastoral ministry. Please write 530-795 words (2-3 pages) paper with the first page sharing some of the interesting tips and ideas from the pastor and the second page sharing your ongoing concerns, excitement, and reflection about what was shared. You will do this assignment twice during the semester. = 6 hours X 2 = 12 hours

You can ask whatever questions you like. You want to want to adapt some of the following which I brainstormed for interviewing pastors during our class sessions.

Potential questions to ask a pastor meeting with the Theology and Practice of Pastoral Ministry class.

a) Please tell us about your journey as a pastor. (Small churches or large churches? Rural or urban churches? Local churches or also parachurch ministry or nonprofit or camp or educational ministry too? Painful moments? Learning moments? Joyous moments?)

b) Why do you do it? What impact does the church make when it is functioning well?

c) Some pastors see the role of the church seeking justice so they lobby for social change. Other pastors see the role of the church as reaching outsiders so they seek church growth. Others are focused on nurturing deep discipleship. How do you think about the different approaches to pastoring? Does it have to do with your gifts? Or maybe your theology of the church? Your church tradition?
d) Some people describe pastoring as 1/3 preaching, 1/3 pastoral care, and 1/3 administration. How do you spend your time?

e) I sometimes tell students who are looking for mentors that they may need multiple mentors because not many pastors are good at supervising and management, preaching, pastoral care, personal spiritual disciplines, and family life. How do you use your special gifts but also address other areas?

f) Have you given much thought biblically and theologically to the role of the pastor/elder/overseer/eqipper/apostle? The pastor’s or priest’s role has traditionally centered on preaching and the administration of the sacraments? Do you want to give us guidance about those things?

g) Some of the pastor’s manuals we are reading have to do with how to guide different kinds of people? How do you think about this?

h) Do you have thoughts on trying to take pressure off your spouse and family? Does the church have expectations of them?

i) Some of us wonder if we are “called.” Should we expect God’s speaking to us like God did to Moses, Isaiah, and Paul or does it more have to do with loving the church, finding the work fulfilling, and being affirmed by other Christians about one’s ability?

j) Who are your pastoral heroes?

k) Any books or authors or sermon podcasts or magazines you would recommend?

l) Do you have some sort of hobby or recreation that helps you get away from the demands of people?
## Course Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Reading Due</th>
<th>Assignment Due</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3-Feb-15</td>
<td>First day = 3 hours in class</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10-Feb-15</td>
<td>Visions of pastoral ministry&lt;br&gt;3 hours class + 8 hours reading + 6 hours writing = 17 hours</td>
<td>Peterson¹ = 167 pages = 6 hours&lt;br&gt;PDF Bonhoeffer² = 6 pages = .5 hour&lt;br&gt;PDF Barth³ = 18 pages = 1 hour&lt;br&gt;Read online: King⁴ = 9 pages = .5 hour&lt;br&gt;&lt;a href=&quot;http://www.africa.upenn.edu/Articles_Gen/Letter_Birmingham.html&quot;&gt;<a href="http://www.africa.upenn.edu/Articles_Gen/Letter_Birmingham.html">http://www.africa.upenn.edu/Articles_Gen/Letter_Birmingham.html</a>&lt;/a&gt; = 8 hours</td>
<td>Paper due. How do Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Karl Barth, Martin Luther King, Jr. and Eugene Peterson describe pastoral ministry? What is the church for? What is the pastor’s role? What excites you? What concerns you? How does all this intersect with how you see your</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17-Feb-15</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Reading/Study Material</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>24-Feb-15</td>
<td>Biblical and theological perspectives on pastoral ministry</td>
<td>Barrett 5 = 90 pages = 3 hours Oden ch. 1-11 6 = 171 pages = 6 hours = 9 hours</td>
<td>Paper due. Compare how C. K. Barrett as a biblical scholar understands the church and Christian ministry compared to Thomas Oden, an historian and theologian. They both happen to be Methodist.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3-Mar-15</td>
<td>3 hours class + 9 hours reading + 6 hours writing = 18 hours</td>
<td>Optional: PDF Barth 7 = 3 pages = .5 hours PDF Brown 8 PDF Fee 9 = 32 pages = 1 hour PDF Fee 10 = 15 pages = .5 hour PDF Fee 11 = 17 pages = .5 hour PDF Hays 12 PDF Johnson 13 PDF Liefeld 14 PDF Paget 15 = 13 pages = .5 hour PDF Willimon 16</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

7 Barth, *Church Dogmatics*, IV/3.1, 33-35.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Reading</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10-Mar-15</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>Break</td>
<td>Intensives</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17-Mar-15</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>Break</td>
<td>Intensives</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24-Mar-15</td>
<td>Classic wisdom on pastoral ministry</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3 hours class + 9 hours reading + 6 hours writing = 18 hours</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31-Mar-15</td>
<td>Gregory(^{17}) = 200 pages = 7 hours</td>
<td>PDF Bernard(^{18}) = 23 pages = 1 hour</td>
<td>Paper due. What did you glean about pastoral ministry from the classic book on pastoral ministry by Gregory the Great? Do you see any connections between what Gregory said in 590, what Bernard said to the Pope</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Read online: Pope Francis(^{19}) = 26 pages = 1 hour</td>
<td><a href="http://www.americamagazine.org/pope-interview">http://www.americamagazine.org/pope-interview</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>= 9 hours</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>You may substitute instead:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Baxter(^{20})</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Reading and Writing Requirements</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7- Apr-15</td>
<td>Contemporary understandings of pastoral ministry</td>
<td>3 hours class + 10 hours reading + 6 hours writing = 19 hours</td>
<td>Oden ch. 12-18, Conclusion&lt;sup&gt;21&lt;/sup&gt; = 147 pages = 5 hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14- Apr-15</td>
<td></td>
<td>Read online: Newbigin&lt;sup&gt;22&lt;/sup&gt; = 150 pages = 5 hours <a href="http://newbigin.net/searches/detail.cfm?ID=1700">http://newbigin.net/searches/detail.cfm?ID=1700</a></td>
<td>[You may also substitute Newbigin's book for another one on pastoring of your choice] = 10 hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21- Apr-15</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Paper due. What did you learn about the practice of pastoral ministry from these two books? What excites you? What concerns you? How does all this intersect with how you see your future ministry?</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

<sup>21</sup> Oden, *Pastoral Theology: Essentials of Ministry.*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 28-Apr-15  | The art and spirituality of pastoral ministry  
3 hours class + 8 hours reading + 6 hours writing = 17 hours  
Herbert\(^23\) or \(^24\) page 5-255 = 8 hours | Paper due.  
What can we learn from the poetry, prayer, and spirituality of George Herbert? |
| 5-May-15   | Specialized pastoral ministry  
3 hours class + 7 hours reading + 6 hours writing = 16 hours  
Book of choice = 210 pages = 7 hours | Paper due.  
Review and respond to a book of your choice on pastoring. |
| 12-May-15  | 108 hours of weekly assignments + 12 hours for two pastoral interviews = 120 hours total  
51 hours reading | 36 hours of weekly assignments + 12 hours for two pastoral interviews = 48 hours |

Grading

Assessed Activity Weighting

Visions of pastoral ministry 15%
Biblical and theological perspectives on pastoral ministry 15%
Classic wisdom on pastoral ministry 15%
Contemporary understandings of pastoral ministry 15%
The art and spirituality of pastoral ministry 15%
Specialized pastoral ministry 15%
Pastor’s Interview Reflection #1 5%
Pastor’s Interview Reflection #2 5%

Total 100%
Final Grade Breakdown

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Point Range</th>
<th>Letter Grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>95.00%</td>
<td>95-100</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>90.00%</td>
<td>90-94</td>
<td>A-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>87.00%</td>
<td>87-89</td>
<td>B+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>84.00%</td>
<td>84-86</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80.00%</td>
<td>80-83</td>
<td>B-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>77.00%</td>
<td>77-79</td>
<td>C+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>72.00%</td>
<td>72-76</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70.00%</td>
<td>70-71</td>
<td>C-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Late Work Policy

Late work will be accepted up to one week with a 2-letter grade deduction (A to C, etc.). This severe penalty is to encourage the student to get their discussion in on time—for the sake of the whole class. Work that is submitted less than one week late may be accepted for less deduction at the instructor’s discretion. Due date extensions with no penalty will only be granted due to the most extreme circumstances and at the discretion of the instructor.

Diversity of resources and assignments:

Providing a variety of perspectives and giving students relevant assignments is very important to me as a teacher. I desire to give students resources from diverse sources: male and female, different parts of the world, different church and denominational traditions (Lutheran, Mennonite, Baptist, Reformed, etc.), difference social classes, ethnicities, races, large and small church, and city and rural settings. Therefore I am willing to consider substituting required course readings and assignments with other comparable ones if a student would benefit from this. This may also involve the student doing some research in identifying such resources.
Bibliography


Pope Francis, and Antonio Spadaro, S.J. "A Big Heart Open to God." America (2013).
http://www.americamagazine.org/pope-interview
