



TYNDALE
Seminary

**Course Syllabus
Winter Semester 2012**

**THE THEOLOGY AND PRACTICE OF MINISTRY
PAST 0541**

**January 11-April 11
Wednesdays, 6:30-9:20 p.m.**

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Office Hours: Tuesdays 2-4 p.m. and Thursdays 10:30-12 noon

To access your course materials at the start of the course, please go to
<http://mytyndale.ca>

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

Designed for individuals considering serving in a pastoral ministry. Through reading, lectures, case studies and discussion, we will explore the theological and practical dimensions of ministry.

II. LEARNING OUTCOMES

The overall goal of this course is to help learners understand the dynamics of faithful pastoral ministry in a congregational setting. More specifically, through the integration of readings, lectures, discussions and personal life experience, learners will:

- Grow in their ability to articulate a biblical theology of pastoral ministry.
- Aspire to the biblical qualifications and character traits of pastors.
- Deepen their familiarity with basic pastoral practices.
- Gain wisdom from the “cloud of witnesses” of pastoral practitioners over the ages.
- Become alert to the pitfalls and challenges of pastoral ministry and develop a self-care plan for sustained, long-term ministry.

III. COURSE REQUIREMENTS

A. REQUIRED TEXTS

Willimon, William. *Pastor. The Theology and Practice of Ordained Ministry*. Nashville: Abingdon, 2002. ISBN 978-0687045327

_____. *Pastor: A Reader for Ordained Ministry*. Nashville: Abingdon, 2002. ISBN 978-0687097883

Peterson, Eugene. *The Pastor: A Memoir*. New York: HarperCollins, 2011. ISBN 978-0061988202

B. SUPPLEMENTARY / RECOMMENDED READING:

Oden, Thomas. *Pastoral Theology: Essentials of Ministry*. New York: Harper & Row, 1983. ISBN 978-0060663537

Your own denomination's resources and standards for ordained ministry.

C. ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING

1. Attendance, Reading and Class Participation (10% of final grade)

Attendance and participation in all class sessions is required. Excused absences only in cases of illness or personal emergencies. *If you miss more than 20% of the classes, you are not eligible for a pass in the course.*

Blessed is the student who invests the necessary time to read the assigned texts in advance of class! As you read, jot down your questions and observations, which will become a part of our weekly conversation. I look forward to your thoughtful comments and questions that will probe and clarify the life and work of pastoral ministry. At the end of the term I will ask for a written statement summarizing how much of the assigned readings were completed.

2. Weekly Peterson Reading and Response Assignments (Due weekly; worth 30% of your grade; 2.5 points for 12 weeks)

You will be reading Eugene Peterson's *The Pastor: A Memoir* to gain insight into the life and practices of a master pastor. Each week as you read, reflect on three critical questions:

- *What new insight do you gain about the life and work of a pastor from these chapters?*
- *What question would you like to ask about Peterson's understanding of pastoral identity and the practice of ministry?*
- *What pastoral practice or perspective on pastoral identity emerged from the reading that you hope to integrate into your own ministry?*

Write down your response to at least two of these three questions and turn in your responses every week. Each week I will ask two students to kick off the discussion by reading out their response to one or more of the questions above. We will spend 30 minutes each week in debriefing these readings and wrestling with the questions listed. Reading and Response Assignments must be turned in on the day of class. No points will be given for late submissions.

3. Willimon Précis and Case Study (Due on week assigned; 20% of final grade)

Beginning with week 3, two or more students will present assigned chapters from the two Willimon textbooks. The team will have up to 40 minutes to engage in three tasks:

- Summarize the key themes and respond to the assigned chapter in Willimon's *Pastor*. (Up to 10 minutes)
- Summarize the key themes and respond to one of the assigned selections in Willimon's *Reader*. (Up to 10 minutes)
- The team will then narrate a pastoral ministry situation related to the week's theme. It can be an incident from their own experience, from the Bible, from history, from their reading, or from contemporary life and media. We learn not only from the "success stories" of ministry but also (especially) from irritations, defeats and disappointments. Explore and evaluate the incident in light of the wisdom you have gained from the readings. The class will then join in the discussion, asking questions and responding to your analysis of the situation. (Up to 20 minutes)

4. Integrative Essay (Due on April 18; 40% of final grade)

Prepare a 12-15-page essay entitled "My Philosophy of Pastoral Ministry." Summarize your emerging understanding of the theology and practice of pastoral ministry in a congregational context. It should be biblically grounded and informed by our course readings, lectures, discussions and your own life experience. It should also take into account your own faith tradition's understanding of pastoral ministry. Structure your essay in three sections.

1. Pastoral call and identity Trace your own pilgrimage by reflecting on the pastoral office, biblical qualifications, and the call to ministry and where you are in discerning and accepting that call. Be honest in your reflections. If you are not yet sure of this call or if it does not yet have complete clarity, you are not alone. Reflect on what you have learned thus far.

2. Pastoral practices Identify and reflect on two or three pastoral practices that most energize and motivate you. What makes them fulfilling? How do you intend to use these gifts to build up the church? Identify and reflect on two or three pastoral practices that feel intimidating or foreign to you right now. How will you address the pastoral practices about which you now feel least competent or motivated?

3. *Pastoral self-care* Develop a personal self-care strategy to sustain your ministry. Explain how you plan to nurture self-awareness, appropriate relational intimacy, stress management, proper boundaries, and Sabbath rest.

D. GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR THE SUBMISSION OF WRITTEN WORK

Students should consult the current *Academic Calendar* for academic policies on Academic Honesty, Gender Inclusive Language in Written Assignments, Late Papers and Extensions, Return of Assignments, and Grading System. The Academic Calendar is posted at www.tyndale.ca/registrar/calendar.

For proper citation style, consult the *Chicago-Style Quick Guide* (Tyndale e-resource) or the full *Chicago Manual of Style Online*, especially ch. 14. See <http://www.tyndale.ca/seminary/mtsm modular/resources>.

E. SUMMARY OF ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING

Evaluation is based upon the completion of the following assignments [Sample]

Attendance, Reading and Class Participation	10 %
Peterson Assignments (2.5 x 12)	30 %
Willimon Précis and Application	20 %
Integrative Essay	40 %
Total Grade	100 %

IV. COURSE SCHEDULE, CONTENT AND REQUIRED READINGS

(See the appendix for an extended outline of topics to be covered)

PART ONE: BIBLICAL FOUNDATIONS

January 11 Ministry and the Pastoral Office
Readings: Chapter 2 in both Willimon volumes

January 18 Calling, Qualifications, and Character Traits
Readings: Chapter 1 in both Willimon volumes; Peterson, 1-23

PART TWO: PASTORAL PRACTICES

January 25 The Pastor as Priest: Leading Worship
Readings: Chapter 3 in both Willimon volumes; Peterson, 25-55

Feb. 1 The Priest as Pastor: Ongoing Pastoral Care
Readings: Chapter 4 in both Willimon volumes; Peterson, 56-83

- Feb. 8 The Pastor as Interpreter of Scripture: The Call to Study
Readings: Chapter 5 in both Willimon volumes; Peterson, 84-107
- Feb. 15 The Pastor as Preacher: Servant of the Word
Readings: Chapter 6 in both Willimon volumes; Peterson, 108-142
- Feb. 22 The Pastor as Counselor: Care through the Life Cycle
Readings: Chapter 7 in both Willimon volumes; Peterson, 143-166
- Feb. 29 The Pastor as Teacher: Building up Believers in the Faith
Readings: Chapter 8 in both Willimon volumes; Peterson, 167-196
- March 7 The Pastor as Evangelist: Commending the Gospel to All
Readings: Chapter 9 in both Willimon volumes; Peterson, 197-222
- March 21 The Pastor as Prophet: Speaking Truth to Power
Readings: Chapter 10 in both Willimon volumes; Peterson, 223-249
- March 28 The Pastor as Leader: Guiding People into God's Future
Readings: Chapter 11 in both Willimon volumes; Peterson, 250-269

PART THREE: SUSTAINING OUR MINISTRY THROUGH SELF-CARE

- April 3 Self-awareness, intimacy issues and stress management
Readings: Chapter 12 in both Willimon volumes; Peterson, 270-288
- April 11 Boundaries, Sabbath, and beginning a new pastorate
Readings: Chapter 13 in both Willimon volumes; Peterson, 289-317

V. SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

To be distributed on the first day of class and will also be posted on the class page.

APPENDIX: AN EXPANDED OUTLINE OF TOPICS TO BE COVERED

1) Biblical Foundations for Pastoral Ministry

a) Ministry

- i) The ministry of Christ through the ministry of the church
- ii) The ministry of the people of God
- iii) The ministry of elders and deacons
- iv) The ministry of pastors

b) The pastoral office

- i) The role of the pastor in the local church
- ii) Shepherding as a pivotal analogy
- iii) The plight of sheep without a shepherd
- iv) Human shepherds and the Good Shepherd

c) Qualifications for pastoral ministry

- i) God's mysterious call
- ii) Biblical qualifications (1 Timothy 3 and Titus 1)
- iii) Proper motives (1 Peter 5)

d) Character traits

- i) Love for God and people
- ii) Faith
- iii) Integrity
- iv) Humility
- v) Self-discipline
- vi) Wisdom
- vii) Flexibility
- viii) Accountability
- ix) Impartiality and inclusiveness
- x) Openness and confidentiality
- xi) Gratitude and contentment
- xii) Who then is able? (Matt. 19:25-26; Eph. 3.20)

e) Crucial questions

- i) What are the goals of pastoral ministry?
- ii) Is the pastorate a profession?
- iii) How do we define success in ministry?

2) What Pastors Do: Pastoral Practices

a) The pastor as priest in worship and prayer

- i) Planning corporate worship
- ii) Leading corporate worship
- iii) Facilitating prayer in the congregation

b) The priest as pastor: regular and ongoing pastoral care

- i) Listening
- ii) Hospitality
- iii) Visiting in hospital and homes
- iv) Setting up structures for care

c) The pastor as interpreter of scripture: the call to study

- i) Why study?
- ii) When do we study?
- iii) What do we study?
- iv) How should we study?

d) The pastor as preacher: servant of the Word

- i) Thinking through the preaching diet
- ii) Sermon planning
- iii) Other oral and written communication

e) The pastor as counselor: care through the life cycle

- i) Beginnings
 - (1) Pre-marital counseling
 - (2) How to perform a wedding
 - (3) New children and rituals of welcome
 - (4) New homes and house blessings
- ii) Endings
 - (1) Care for the sick and dying
 - (2) How to perform a funeral
 - (3) Comforting the grieving
 - (4) Separation and divorce
 - (5) The Poor and Unemployed
- iii) Strategic pastoral counseling (Benner)
 - (1) Diagnosing and treating spiritual ills
 - (2) Offering guidance

f) The pastor as teacher: building up believers in the faith

- i) The lost art of catechizing
- ii) Building relational groups in the church

g) The pastor as evangelist: commending the gospel to all

- i) Evangelistic lifestyle
- ii) Evangelistic ministries
- iii) Evangelistic preaching

h) The pastor as prophet: communicating in challenging times

- i) Leading the church through change
- ii) Peacemaking
- iii) Church discipline
- iv) Speaking truth to power

i) The pastor as leader: guiding people into God's future

- i) Leading with a team
- ii) Equipping others for ministry
- iii) Leadership and administration
- iv) Developing processes and policies
- v) Representing the church in the larger community

3) Sustaining our pastoral ministry: strategies for self-care

- a) nurturing self-awareness
- b) appropriate relational intimacy
- c) stress management
- d) proper boundaries
- e) Sabbath re-creation and rest
- f) First things to do when you begin a new pastorate