

THE CONTENT OF THIS DESCRIPTION IS NOT A LEARNING CONTRACT AND THE INSTRUCTOR IS NOT BOUND TO IT. IT IS OFFERED IN GOOD FAITH AND INTENDED AS A HELPFUL GUIDE TO THE STUDENT.

=====

**TITLE:** The Pastoral Vocation in Historical Perspective

**TERM:** Fall 2019-2020

**PROFESSOR:** Gary Hansen

**CREDIT HOURS:** 3

**REGISTRATION:** LIMITED TO: 12  
# AUDITORS: 5

UNLIMITED \_\_\_\_\_  
NO AUDITORS \_\_\_\_\_

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

The work of a pastor has many definitions today. Consequently, many find themselves pulled apart by the conflicting demands of being a teacher, evangelist, counselor, small business manager, event planner, fundraiser, and youth activities director, and so forth. This seminar will help students develop a theologically coherent understanding of pastoral ministry by extensive conversation with influential writings on the topic from the Early Church, Reformation, post-Reformation and current periods.

**CLASS OBJECTIVES:**

1. Students will grow in their ability to analyze and discuss theological texts from different periods of history.
2. Students will increase their understanding of the ways the pastoral vocation has been understood in different periods, contexts, and theological traditions.
3. Students will develop their own coherent theological understanding of the pastoral vocation in conversation with leading voices of the past and fitted for their own present context.

**PREREQUISITES:** None

**REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS/READING:** Please include ISBN numbers and price.

Joseph A. Sittler and Richard R. Osment. *The Shape of Pastoral Ministry*. (Access online.)

Gregory of Nazianzus. Oration 2, "In Defence of His Flight to Pontus, and His Return, After His Ordination to the Priesthood, with an Exposition of the Character of the Priestly Office." (Access online.)

Gregory the Great, *Pastoral Care [Regula Pastoralis]*. ISBN: 978-0809102518, \$26.02.

Martin Bucer. *Concerning the True Care of Souls*. ISBN: 978-0851519845. \$22.86.

George Herbert *The Country Parson, The Temple*. ISBN: 978-0809103171. \$21.13.

Richard Baxter. *The Reformed Pastor*. ISBN: 978-0851511917. \$9.00

Eugene Peterson. *Working the Angles: The Shape of Pastoral Integrity*. ISBN: 978-0802802651. \$15.98.

Barbara Brown Taylor. *The Preaching Life*. ISBN: 978-1561010745. \$13.69.

**ASSIGNMENTS & GRADING:**

Students will contract for the grade they desire, committing to a group of assignments including some or all of the following: Active prepared participation in discussion, bibliographic research, an essay on the theology of the pastoral vocation in one historical model or period, and an essay articulating their own coherent theology of the pastoral vocation in conversation with past eras and the present context.

**ATTENDANCE:** Required.