

BRIERCREST

CM 701 Pastoral Theology and Practice Fall 2021

Professor: Blayne Banting, DMin, PhD
Email: bbanting@briercrest.ca
Phone: 306.756.3291
Course Dates: November 13, 2021, and January 22, 2022

3 Credit Hours

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course explores the many dimensions of pastoral ministry from a biblical standpoint, with the goal of equipping students to function effectively as pastoral leaders within the contemporary culture. This course covers issues such as planning, scheduling, dealing with the expectations of others, administering the sacraments, performing weddings and funerals, functioning effectively with church staff (paid and volunteer), handling conflict and criticism, avoiding burnout, and other day-to-day aspects of the ministry.

COURSE INTEGRATION

This course will explore many facets of pastoral ministry from a biblical framework, to equip each student to experience fruitfulness as a pastoral leader in today's culture as a shepherd, spiritual guide, theologian, and missional leader. This course will cover the theological foundations of pastoral ministry, the pastor's spiritual and personal life, designing worship services, preaching the Bible and public reading of Scripture, leadership with church staff, lay-leaders, and boards, planning, disciple-making, discernment and decision-making, pastoral care and spiritual direction, leading effective congregational meetings, managing conflict and change, the pastor as theologian and teacher, administering the sacraments, performing weddings, funerals, baby dedications, and leading a church in missional spirituality and disciple-making, particularly with the challenges and opportunities of those pastoring a smaller church.

COURSE TEXTS

Kim, Matthew D. *7 Lessons for New Pastors*. 2nd ed. Eugene, OR: Cascade, 2020.

Tan, Siang-Yang. *Shepherding God's People*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker, 2019.

Trull, Joe E. and R. Robert Creech. *Ethics for Christian Ministry*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker, 2017.

Vaters, Karl. *Small Church Essentials*. Chicago, IL: Moody, 2018.

EITHER: Ferguson, Dave and Warren Bird. *Hero Maker*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2018.

OR: Im, Daniel. *No Silver Bullets*. Nashville, TN: Broadman and Holman, 2017.

See assignments below to determine which of Ferguson or Im to choose.

Students are expected to refer to Briercrest Seminary's Format and Style Guides and Guide for Writing Research Papers, available as PDF documents here: <https://www.mybriercrest.ca/seminary/documents/>.

These texts are available in store and online at the Briercrest Bookstore: <http://briercrest.ca/bookstore>.

Students are responsible for course materials and communication on Canvas (<https://briercrest.instructure.com>; cf. <http://briercrest.ca/online/canvas>) and their myBriercrest.ca email account.

COURSE OUTCOMES

1. Feel an enlarged, theologically shaped, passion for and pride in the roles and responsibilities of pastoral ministry with greater confidence and biblical convictions.
2. Have a greater sense of personal call to pastoral ministry, and reliance on the Holy Spirit and hearing God for spiritual leadership, discernment, and decision-making.
3. Commit to ongoing growth in personal and corporate spiritual formation and mission, personal time management and planning, and family priorities.
4. Describe the theological foundations and practices for fruitfulness as a servant leader within the culture as a shepherd, spiritual guide, theologian, and missional leader.
5. Express key values and skills needed to lead well in various areas of pastoral ministry such as worship services, preaching, care, leading leaders and boards, planning, conflict and change, baptisms, communion, weddings, and funerals.
6. Develop an approach to pastoral leadership that expresses itself in disciple-making and leadership development.
7. Embrace devotion to prayer and the ministry of the Word and a posture of Spirit-led and empowered pastoral leadership.
8. Develop a theology and practices for pastoral ethics.
9. Understand and appreciate the dynamics of the smaller church.

COURSE OUTLINE AND CONTENT

NOTE: a full schedule of the day(s) with greater detail will be published on Canvas 4 weeks prior to each Saturday spent in class.

Saturday November 13 Morning: The Pastor as a Person

Theological Foundations/Calling/Ordination

Spiritual and Character Formation

Saturday November 13 Afternoon: The Pastor as Leader

Self-leadership

Congregational leadership

Worship leadership: preaching, baptisms, Communion, child dedications

Saturday January 22 Morning: The Pastor as Missiologist

Change and Conflict Management

Discipleship Pathways and Leadership Pipelines presentations

Saturday January 22 Afternoon: The Pastor as Shepherd

Pastoral Ethics

Pastoral care, weddings, funerals

ASSIGNMENTS***Pre-Course Assignments:*****1. Vaters Book Review**

Each student will read *Small Church Essentials* and write a 5-page book review assessing the author's thesis and development of that thesis throughout the book. The review will highlight the three most significant insights from the author relating to leading the smaller church.

Due: November 13, 2021 9:00 AM Weighting: 10%

2. Tan/Kim Tandem Book Review

Each student will read both *Shepherding God's People* and *7 Lessons for New Pastors* and review each book in turn concerning its thesis and thesis development, strengths and weaknesses. Then the two authors are to be placed in conversation with each other where the student assesses which book was most helpful and why, what were the points of disagreement/agreement between them, and the combined learnings for pastoral ministry from them both. The entire assignment is to be 10 pages long.

Due: January 22, 2022 9:00 AM Weighting: 20%

Mid-Course Assignment:

1. Discipleship Pathway/Leadership Pipeline Strategy

Each student will choose to read **either** Im's *No Silver Bullets* **or** Ferguson and Bird's *Hero Maker* and submit a 5-page review of the book. The student who has chosen to read *No Silver Bullets* will present a strategy on how to develop a **discipleship pathway** in the local church which will be presented (complete with PowerPoint slides and/or handouts) on Saturday morning, January 22, 2022. The student will be responsible for 1 hour of class time including Q&A. The student who reads *Hero Maker* will present a strategy for a **leadership pipeline** in the local church (complete with PowerPoint slides and/or handouts) on Saturday morning January 22, 2022. This student will also be responsible for 1 hour of class time including Q&A.

Due: January 22, 2022

Weighting:

Review: 10%

Presentation: 20%

Post-Course Assignment:

1. Ministry Manifesto

Each student will compose his/her own 15-page pastoral ministry manifesto after reading Trull and Creech's *Ethics for Christian Ministry*. This manifesto will include the student's personal convictions and understanding of the call and functions of pastoral ministry, a personal spiritual formation regimen and a personal pastoral code of ethics.

Due: March 19, 2022

Weighting: 40%

SEMINARY CALENDAR

Students are expected to be aware of the policies that govern course work at Briercrest Seminary, all of which are published in the current Seminary Calendar:

<https://www.briercrestseminary.ca/academics/calendar/>.

Attendance Policy

In order to benefit fully from a seminary education, to be good stewards of time and finances, and to be considerate of their classmates and faculty members, students must be in class at every opportunity.

Modular Courses

Students are expected to attend 100 per cent of each modular for which they register. If this is impossible due to extenuating circumstances, arrangements must be made with the course professor before the first day of class. If extenuating circumstances prevent a student from attending class, a maximum of one (1) full day of class can be foregone. If additional time is missed, the student will fail the course unless they first request to withdraw from the course or move the course to an audit.

Online Courses

If extenuating circumstances prevent a student from attending scheduled meeting times, then up to 20% of meeting time can be foregone. Students missing scheduled meeting times should make every effort to inform the course professor prior to any time missed. If additional time is missed, the student will fail the course unless they first request to withdraw from the course or move the course to an audit.

Semester-Based Courses

All students missing more than two full weeks of a particular course from registration to the last day of classes will receive an automatic fail (0%). A student may appeal a course failure due to excessive absences. Successful appeals will be granted only in rare cases where all absences are clearly beyond the student's control. Appeals must be made through the Academic Appeal Process.

Course Schedules

Classes begin at 9:00 a.m. on Monday morning and run a minimum of 30 hours through the course of the week. The schedule is determined by the course professor. Students should check the syllabus for specifics. When the syllabus does not state class times, students are responsible to check with the professor prior to making travel plans.

Assignment Submission

All assignments must be submitted no later than eight weeks after the last day of class as stated in the syllabus. The correct due dates will be clearly noted in the syllabus and each faculty member will state in their syllabus how assignments should be submitted. Assignments submitted within a week after the due date will be accepted with a 10 per cent penalty. For additional information refer to the late assignment policy or the extension policy in the [academic calendar](#).

Return of Graded Assignments

Professors are expected to return graded assignments within six weeks of the due date. If they fail to do so, students may submit an inquiry to the [Seminary](#). If an extension is granted, the professor is no longer obligated to meet this deadline.

Academic Honesty

Students are accountable to perform each task according to principles of academic honesty. Please refer to pages 24-25 in the [academic calendar](#) for more information.

Academic Accommodations

Any student with a disability, injury, or health condition who may need academic accommodations (permanent or temporary) should discuss them with the course instructor after contacting the Director of Student Success in person (L234 in the Library), by telephone (1-306-756-3230) or by email (egordon@briercrest.ca). Documentation from a qualified practitioner will be required (i.e., medical doctor, psychologist, etc.).

BIBLIOGRAPHY

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