

BRIERCREST

CM 701 Pastoral Theology and Practice Fall 2023

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Course Dates: November 13-17, 2023
Course Delivery Method: In-Person Modular

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 in a secular culture.

COURSE TEXTS

Banting, Blayne A. *Taking Up Preaching: The Spheres of the Preaching Life*. Eugene, OR: Wipf and Stock, 2023.

Packiam, Glenn. *The Resilient Pastor*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker, 2022.

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

AND 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

Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to:

1. Develop an enlarged, theologically shaped, passion for and pride in the roles and responsibilities of pastoral ministry with greater confidence and biblical convictions.
2. Commit to ongoing growth in personal and corporate spiritual formation and mission, personal time management and planning, and family priorities.
3. 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.
4. Develop an approach to pastoral leadership that expresses itself in disciple-making and leadership development.
5. Develop a theology and practices for pastoral ethics.

COURSE OUTLINE AND CONTENT

Monday November 13 The Pastor as a Person

Morning: Theological Foundations/Calling/Ordination

Afternoon: Spiritual and Character Formation

Tuesday November 14 The Pastor as Leader

Morning: Self-leadership

Afternoon: Corporate leadership

Wednesday November 15 The Pastor as Minister of Word and Sacrament

Morning: Corporate worship, preaching, baptisms, Communion, dedications

Afternoon: Pastoral Ethics

Thursday November 16 The Pastor as Missiologist

Morning: Change and Conflict Management

Afternoon: Discipleship Pathways and Leadership Pipelines presentations

Friday November 17 The Pastor as Shepherd

Morning: Pastoral care, weddings, funerals

ASSIGNMENTS

Please submit all written assignments to Canvas.

Pre-Course Assignments:

1. Packiam Book Review

Each student will read *The Resilient Pastor* 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 pastoral resilience.

Due: November 13, 2023 9:00 AM Weighting: 10%

2. Tan/Banting Tandem Book Review

Each student will read both *Shepherding God's People* and *Taking Up Preaching* 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 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: November 13, 2023 9:00 AM Weighting: 20%

Mid-Course Assignments:

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(s) who has chosen to read *No Silver Bullets* will cooperate to present a strategy on how to develop a **discipleship pathway** in the local church which will be presented to the rest of the class (complete with PowerPoint slides and/or handouts) on Thursday afternoon, November 16. The student(s) will be responsible for 1 hour of class time including Q&A. The student(s) who read *Hero Maker* will present a strategy for a **leadership pipeline** in the local church (complete with PowerPoint

slides and/or handouts) on Thursday afternoon, November 16. This student(s) will also be responsible for 1 hour of class time including Q&A.

Due: November 16, 2023

Weighting:

Review: 10%

Presentation: 20%

Post-Course Assignments:

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: January 12, 2024

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.

Course Schedules

Modular 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

As members of the Briercrest learning community, students have a responsibility to conduct themselves with integrity and honour. Students who cheat on exams, plagiarize, inappropriately collaborate, or use generative AI (e.g., ChatGPT) without instructor authorization in the preparation and/or submission of their assignments violate the trust placed in them by their instructors, fellow students, and the seminary. Any such actions constitute a breach of academic honesty and will result in serious consequences, such as failure of an assignment, failure of a course, or expulsion from the seminary.

Plagiarism, whether intentional or involuntary, is the submission of the work of others, published or unpublished, in whole or in part without acknowledgment or proper documentation. All information, ideas and/or direct quotations taken from other primary or secondary sources must be documented appropriately. Students are responsible to ensure they are using their sources with transparency and honesty. For more details, consult the [Seminary Calendar](#). In addition to being familiar with these pages, instructors assume that you have completed the Briercrest Academic Integrity course on [Canvas](#) and understand the information contained in it.

Academic Accommodations

Any student with a disability, injury, or health condition (mental or physical) who may need academic accommodations (permanent or temporary) should contact the ARC Coordinator in person (L234 in the Library), by phone (1-306-801-6159), or by email (arc@briercrest.ca). Documentation from a qualified practitioner will be required (i.e., medical doctor, psychologist, etc.). It is recommended that students meet with their professors to discuss the requirements of their accommodations (i.e., how the student will receive lecture notes, or how the professor wants to receive extension requests).

BIBLIOGRAPHY

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