

**The Rev. Jack Gabig, PhD**  
Associate Professor of Practical Theology  
Office Hours: Available by Appointment and on Mondays 9:30 AM - Noon  
jgabig@tsm.edu  
Mobile: (412) 841-9344

## **I. COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course provides a practical basis for the important role of the Christian Pastor/Priest in the care of souls. It will cover the theological and practical issues at play in the various sacramental rites, Christian pastoral counselling and spiritual direction, as well as providing tools for responding to life issues and pastoral crises.

## **II. COURSE OBJECTIVES AND OUTCOMES**

After participating in this module students will be more able to:

- Articulate a personal pastoral theology grounded in the Scriptures, theology and the experience of the Church
- Demonstrate a capacity to analyze and evaluate pastoral situations in parish systems, and make appropriate pastoral responses
- Make use of the various sacramental rites of the Church in the pastoral care of parishioners
- Hone listening and pastoral counseling skills for working with others
- Cultivate an intentional practice of theological reflection, connecting theological education, the practice of ministry and personal spirituality

These objectives will be evaluated by means of:

- Student attendance, preparation and participation in class (20%)
- Personal theological reflection paper on pastoral identity (20%)
- A Verbatim of pastoral counselling or spiritual direction (10%)
- A Verbatim of a pastoral situation or crisis (10%)
- Final Project: Pastoral Resource Handbook (40%)

## **STUDENT OUTCOMES**

### **MDiv**

- (1) The student will recognize and identify the biblical theology evident in the course work.
- (2) The student will be able to articulate an Anglican understanding of biblical, historical, systematic, and pastoral theology.
- (3) The student will be able to communicate effectively the Christian message to a diversity of people in order to advance the mission of God.

(4) The student will be prepared to effectively lead in a variety of Christian faith communities.

### **MAR**

- 1) The student will recognize and identify the biblical theology evident in the course work.
- 2) The student will be able to articulate an Anglican understanding of biblical, historical, systematic, and pastoral theology.
- 3) The student will be able to communicate effectively the Christian message to a diversity of people in order to advance the mission of God.
- 4) The student will be equipped to apply scholarship to the life of the church in his or her chosen theological discipline.

### **III. METHODOLOGY**

Student learning in this course will take place by means of: preparation in reading, class lectures, case study discussion groups, and large group class discussions, as well as theological reflection papers and the compilation of a Pastoral Resource Handbook

### **IV. COURSE TEXTS**

#### **Required Reading**

Benner, David: *Strategic Pastoral Counseling*, Baker Academic, 978-0801026318

Brown, Rosalind & Cockworth, Christopher, *On Being a Priest Today*, Cowley Publications, 978-156101253X

Oden, Thomas: *Pastoral Theology: Essentials of Ministry*, Harper, 978-0060663537

Purves, Andrew: *Pastoral Theology in the Classical Tradition*, Westminster John Knox Press, 978-0664222413 \$20

Additional articles will be distributed on the Google online learning platform

#### **Recommended Future Reading**

E.B Hollowfield, *History of Pastoral Care in America: from Salvation to Self- Realization*, Wipf & Stock, 978-1597523424

Kubler-Ross, Elizabeth, *On Death and Dying*, Scribner, 978-1476775548

Mike Mason, *The Mystery of Marriage*, Multnomah Books, 978-1590523742

McNutt, F. – *Deliverance from Evil Spirits*, Chosen Books, 978-0800794606

Nouwen, Henri, *In the Name of Jesus*, Crossroad, 978-0824509156

Taylor, Jeremy, *Holy Living and Dying*, CreateSpace Publishing, 978-1519446909

- V. **ASSIGNMENTS** (in order of due date). Please submit all written assignments electronically through the Google online learning platform.
- A. **Attendance and reading (20%)**– A schedule of reading will be handed out at first class; students are to come prepared for class discussions.
- B. **Personal Theology of Pastoral Care (20%) – Due September 26.** Write a paper (about 5 pages) describing your personal theology of pastoral care, outlining the Scriptural passages and theological themes that undergird your understanding of pastoral care. Reference what you are learning through class discussions, lectures and class reading from Purves’ *Pastoral Theology in the Classical Tradition* and Brown and Cocksworth’s *On Being a Priest Today*.
- C. **Verbatim/Theological Reflection Paper #1 on a spiritual direction or pastoral counseling situation (10%) – Due October 31.** Write a 3-4 pages paper, referencing the class reading: 1. Start (1 page) with an Introduction describing the context, then offer a brief verbatim of a real pastoral conversation you’ve had this semester *in a spiritual direction or pastoral counseling situation*. 2. Describe (1 page) the experience, noting both what transpired in the situation as well as your own interior personal experience. What went well? What could have been better? 3. Conclude (1 page) with a personal theological reflection on what you believe is God was doing in that situation. (If appropriate, invite the care-receiver to give feedback.)  
*NB. Disguise names of people, towns and congregations for anonymity.*
- D. **Final Project**  
**MAR – A Final Theological Paper (40%)** Write an essay on a particular contemporary issue for pastoral care, 10-12 pages in length, integrating both biblical and systematic theological reflection. The bibliography must contain at least 10 entries. The topic is to be negotiated with the Instructor. Final submission is due December 12.  
**MDiv. - Pastoral Resource Handbook (40%)** – A two-page outline is due November 14; final submission is due December 12. Develop a “handbook” or “resource notebook” on a particular issue for pastoral care such as: Marriage preparation and/or counseling; Addiction; Suicide; Depression; Grief/Loss; death, etc. The Handbook must include:
- A list of appropriate or helpful Scripture passages
  - A short biblical/theological reflection on the topic
  - Annotated Bibliography for further reading (books and articles)
  - Sermon outline addressing the topic
  - A list of appropriate local community resources available to help
  - A list of “dos” and “don’ts” for lay caregivers
  - Either of the following:
    - A detailed outline of a Five-week class or program, either for those facing the issue or for those being trained to give care.
    - A Five-week devotional book with Scripture readings and written reflection/commentary
  - **Note Bene:** Reference all sources, written and oral/personal.
- E. **Verbatim/Theological Reflection Paper #2 on a pastoral situation or a crisis (10%) – Due November 28.** Write a 3-4 pages paper, referencing

the class reading: 1. Start (1 page) with an Introduction describing the context, then offer a brief verbatim of a real pastoral conversation you've had this semester *in response to a pastoral situation or crisis*. 2. Describe (1 page) the experience, noting both what transpired in the situation as well as your own interior personal experience. What went well? What could have been better? 3. Conclude (1 page) with some personal theological reflection on what you believe is God was doing in that situation. (If appropriate, invite the care-receiver to give feedback.)  
*NB. Disguise names of people, towns and congregations for anonymity.*

## VI. EVALUATION

Attendance, preparation, and engagement are expected, as are strict adherence to Trinity's policy on plagiarism and the institution's expectations regarding classroom conduct. Students who must miss a session for appropriate purposes are asked to negotiate with the professor. To receive a passing grade, students must:

- Attend and participate in class, giving evidence of advance preparation
- Complete assignments adequately and on time

### Grading Scale

|        |            |
|--------|------------|
| 95-100 | A          |
| 90-94  | A-         |
| 89-87  | B+         |
| 86-83  | B          |
| 82-80  | B-         |
| 79-77  | C+         |
| 76-73  | C          |
| 72-70  | C-         |
| D      | (below 70) |
| F      | (below 60) |

## VII. CLASS SESSIONS – (\* Add Session on Human Sexuality)

September 7 – Course Introduction, Incarnational Pastoral Theology, and Prayer and the Care of Souls

September 14 – Practical Theology and Pastoral Assumptions in Post-Christian Society

September 21 – A Theology of Ordained Ministry and the life of the Pastor

September 28 – Christian Anthropology and Human Sexuality

October 5 – Marriage Preparation

October 12 - Divorce and Remarriage

October 19 – Reading Week (No class)

October 26 – Pastoral Counseling and Inner Healing

November 2 – Confession and Spiritual Direction

November 9 - Healing: Physical and Spiritual (Exorcism)

November 16 - Home and Hospital Visitation, Ministry with the Elderly

November 23- Thanksgiving Break

November 30 - Death, Dying, and Grief and Depression

December 7 - Crisis Intervention: Abuse and Addiction

December 14 - Suicide, Course Review, and Self Care for Long Haul Ministry