



CM/THEO 705 Pastoral Theology Fall 2025

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Course Dates: October 20-24, 2025
Course Delivery Method: In-Person Modular

3 Credit Hours

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course explores the many dimensions of vocational and co-vocational pastoral ministry leading to wise pastoral praxis. Students will bring biblical and theological texts to bear on pastoral acts of preaching, pastoral care, baptism, and the Lord's Supper leading to more effective pastoral leadership within the contemporary culture. This course will also touch on issues such as planning, scheduling, dealing with the expectations of others, 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 historical/theological foundations of pastoral ministry, the pastor's spiritual and personal life, understanding ministry contexts locally and culturally, the ethical dimensions of pastoral functioning, leading a church in missional spirituality and disciple-making amidst the challenges and opportunities of pastoring in a secular culture, and developing an informed theology of pastoral functions within a community of faith.

COURSE TEXTS

Siang-Yang Tan. *Shepherding God's People: A Guide to Faithful and Fruitful Pastoral Ministry*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2019.

James W. Watson and Narry F. Santos, eds. *Tentmakers: Multivocational Ministry in Western Society*. Eugene, OR: Wipf and Stock, 2022.

Douglas D. Webster. *Pastoral Identity: True Shepherds in the Household of Faith*. Grand Rapids, MI: Kregel Ministry, 2023.

William H. Willimon. *Pastor: The Theology and Practice of Ordained Ministry*. Rev. ed. Nashville, TN: Abingdon, 2016.

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.briercrestseminary.ca/seminary-life/documents>.

These texts are available in store and online at the Briercrest Bookstore: <https://www.briercrestseminary.ca/seminary-life/bookstore>.

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

SEMINARY-WIDE OUTCOMES

Students will graduate:

1. Describing and demonstrating evangelical faith and values. (Assignments 2,3,5)
2. Preparing to serve God's kingdom in its diversity. Describe God, God's kingdom, and your calling (vocational sensitivity) within it, including the types of contexts and people you feel best prepared to serve. (Assignments 1,2,3,5)
3. Participating in the action of our Triune God through formation of the soul (i.e., virtue and spiritual integrity), mind (academic rigour), and strength (vocation). (Assignments 1,2,5)

COURSE OUTCOMES

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

COURSE OUTLINE AND CONTENT

Monday October 20

The Pastor as One Called

Morning: Theological Foundations/Calling/Ordination

Afternoon: Presentations of Classical Texts in Pastoral Theology

Tuesday October 21

The Pastor in Context

Morning: Understanding the Church

Afternoon: Corporate leadership; Change and Conflict Management

Wednesday October 22

The Pastor as Person

The choice of texts must be cleared with the professor by October 3, 2025. There will only be one presentation allowed per classic text, and they will be allotted on a first-come first-served basis.

The students will hand in their notes and extensive outline to the professor after the presentation and have the outline available to members of the class through PowerPoint and/or photocopies.

Pastoral Theology Texts

(Some of these texts may be accessed online, others may be accessed through libraries or purchased personally)

Ambrose – (4th Century)

1. *"On the Duties of the Clergy"*
2. Read Books I-III

Gregory of Nazianzus – (4th Century)

1. *"Oration II" or "In Defense of His Flight to Pontus, and His Return"*
2. Read the entire work

John Chrysostom – (4th Century)

1. *"On the Priesthood"*
2. Read Books I-VI

Gregory the Great – (6th Century)

1. *"Pastoral Rule"*
2. Read Parts I and II, and Part III Chapters I-XIX, and Part IV

George Herbert – (17th Century)

1. *"The Country Parson"*
2. Read the entire work

Richard Baxter - (17th Century)

1. *"The Reformed Pastor"*
2. Read the entire work in abridged format

John Owen – (17th Century)

1. *"Duty of Clergy and People Distinguished"*
2. Read the entire work

Charles Spurgeon – (19th Century)

1. *"Lectures to My Students"*
2. Read Chapters I-IV; XI-XV

Charles Jefferson – (19th-20th Centuries)

1. *"The Minister as Shepherd"*
2. Read the entire work

Dietrich Bonhoeffer – (20th Century)

1. *"Spiritual Care"*
2. Read the entire work

Reinhold Niebuhr – (20th Century)

1. *"Leaves from a Notebook of a Tamed Cynic"*
2. Read the entire work

Weighting: 30%

Due: October 20, 2025

Post-Course Assignments:

4. Watson, Santos Review

Each student will read and review this compilation volume and assess its primary purpose and the contribution to this purpose by each of the chapters. The reviewer will assess the role of multivocational (or covocational) to the ministry of the church in the future, including possible implications for the reviewer him/herself. The review will be 1000 words (4 pages).

Weighting: 10%

Due: December 19, 2025

5. Pastoral Ministry Rule of Life

Each student will read Tan's *Shepherding God's People* and develop a detailed pastoral rule of life for his/her practice of pastoral ministry. This will include both personal and vocational practices using the chapters in Tan's book as a guide. This rule will be detailed enough to guide regular practices but not so detailed as to become burdensome or legalistic. This rule will be 3700 words (15 pages).

Weighting: 40%

Due: December 19, 2025

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](#):

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.

Modular 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 without instructor authorization 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.

Generative AI is an umbrella term for a type of machine learning and a group of algorithms that can create new content, such as text, code, images, videos, music, or a combination of all these formats. Generative AI produces output in response to a query or prompt using generative models such as Large Language Models (LLMs) that rely on large datasets. Generative AI features are also often embedded within tools such as Grammarly, allowing these tools to generate new content, such as the rewriting, paraphrasing, or summarizing of existing text. The generated responses of these tools are probabilistic, which can result in errors and biases in responses.

The use of generative AI to create audio or visual media, to produce outlines, to generate partial or complete drafts of assignments, to answer questions on quizzes or exams, or to edit the grammar of assignment drafts is considered unauthorized unless it is explicitly permitted by the course instructor in writing. All use of generative AI tools must be properly documented.

Students are responsible for ensuring they are using their sources and completing their assignments with transparency and honesty. For more details, consult the [Seminary Calendar](#) and the Briercrest Format Guide. 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).

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