Course Description (from catalogue):
Examines the roles and functions of pastoral work as designated in Scripture and various traditions. Ministerial identity and foundational pastoral tasks are discussed. Emphasizes practical aspects of pastoral ministry. This course, or MC 702, meets the MC requirement for the M.Div. program.

Course Objectives
- To sharpen a biblical and theological vision of pastoral ministry
- To clarify a sense of pastoral calling and identity
- To consider together fundamental pastoral tasks and their applications in contemporary settings
- To wrestle with issues, challenges, obstacles, etc. toward faithful and effective pastoral ministry today

Required Texts
1. Thomas Oden, *Pastoral Theology: Essentials of Ministry*
2. Richard Baxter, *The Reformed Pastor*
3. Eugene Peterson, *Working the Angles*
4. Ken Swetland, *Facing Messy Stuff in the Church*
5. Bo Giertz, *The Hammer of God*
6. Bruce Powers, *Church Administration Handbook*

Recommended Texts
Some "minister's manual" such as:
- the *Book of Common Prayer*
- *Star Book for Ministers*
- *Broadman Minister's Manual*
- other denominational resource
Bridges, Charles, *The Christian Ministry*
Fernando, Ajith. (1) *Jesus Driven Ministry*
Heschel, Abraham Joshua. *The Sabbath*
Nouwen, Henri. *In the Name of Jesus*
Peterson, Eugene. *Under the Unpredictable Plant*
Stevens, Paul. *Liberating the Laity*
Willimon, William. *Pastor: The Theology & Practice of Ordained Ministry*
Course Requirements

1. Attendance (in the full sense of the word) is required for all class sessions.
Students are to be present and engaged in all sessions—listening to lectures,
participating in class discussions, etc. Such attendance is not measured, simplistically,
by how much one talks in class, but by how much one honestly attends to professor,
fellow learners and the subject matter during our times together. Surfing the web (unless
directed to do so by the professor), checking e-mail or text messaging, etc., is, obviously,
wholly inappropriate for class sessions. Students will self-assign a grade for their
attendance at the end of the term, using a form provided by the professor (see page 5 of
the syllabus for a preliminary idea of the form) ................................................................. 10%

2. Reading of all the required texts for the course. If the student has previously read one
or more of the texts for a previous class, alternative reading can be done from the course
recommended texts or course reading list. Other selections are also acceptable if
approved by the instructor. A reading report is to be handed in with the final paper (the
form will be posted on-line in CAMS) ................................................................. 20%

3. Interview paper. Each student is to conduct an interview with at least one pastor and
to write a summary and reflection. The interview should be requested in advance.
Suggested questions for this assignment, as well as other details for this assignment, can
be found below (p. 4 of the syllabus) ................................................................. 20%

4. Bible memory work. Each student is to memorize biblical verses/passages that relate
to pastoral identity and labor. The verses noted below (p. 3) in the course outline-
acronym are possibilities, but students are free to memorize any (new for them) passages
that relate to some aspects of pastoral ministry. The expectation is that 20 verses will be
memorized for this assignment. A mid-term quiz on the memory work, worth 10% of the
final grade, will be held on 10/27. The final memory quiz, also worth 10%, will be held
on the last day of class ................................................................. 20%

5. Pastoral strategies paper. Each student shall write a major paper dealing with at least
two of the major areas of pastoral ministry that are discussed in class (for example:
pastor as evangelist, pastor as reconciler, etc.). The paper should include both biblical
and theological foundations for the tasks and specific, strategic ideas for ministry in
these areas. The paper must feature significant interaction with at least 3 of the required
course texts; use of other pertinent texts is highly recommended. Interaction with course
lecture notes and material from guest presenters is also recommended. The paper should
be 5-8 pages in length (typed, single-spaced). Note: other topics or approaches to the
paper may be approved by the professor ................................................................. 30%
Note: ALL written work for ALL students shall be due as stipulated on the course schedule (see below). The student’s final paper, attendance grade sheet and reading report are to be placed in one large envelope with the student’s name, box number (or address), the course name and professor’s name clearly written on the front of the envelope. The work can be delivered through campus mail or dropped off in a box that shall be placed outside the professor’s office (no electronic copies, please; ‘hard’ copies only).

Course Schedule
Note: The class will be outlined around the following memory device:
SHEPHERD the FLOCK (based on Acts 20:28 & 1Peter 5:2).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pastor as…..</th>
<th>Topics</th>
<th>Assignment due for class</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Steward (Tit. 1:6-9; 1Co. 4:1-5)</td>
<td>Follower (Ph’p. 3:7-16; Jn. 21:19, 22)</td>
<td>Oden, Intro. - ch. 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Evangelist (2Ti. 4:1-5)</td>
<td>Overseer (1T. 3:1-7; 1P. 5:1-4; Ac.20:28)</td>
<td>Oden, ch. 9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Priest (1Co. 11:23-26; Ro. 15:16)</td>
<td>Catechist (Gal. 6:6; 1Co. 15:3)</td>
<td>Baxter, Dedication &amp; ch. II</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Host (Jn. 1:37-39; Tit. 1:8; Ro. 12:13)</td>
<td>Keeper of the Keys (Mt. 16:19; 18:15-20)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Equipper (Eph. 4:11-16)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reconciler (2Co. 5:14-21)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discipler (Mt. 28:18-20)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Topics</td>
<td>Assignment due for class</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9/15</td>
<td>NO CLASS ON TUES., 9/15</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9/17</td>
<td>Pastor as Follower</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9/22, 24</td>
<td>Pastor as Steward</td>
<td>Oden, chs. 7-8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9/22, 24</td>
<td>Pastor as Herald</td>
<td>Baxter, Intro, Preface &amp; ch. I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9/29, 10/1</td>
<td>Pastor as Evangelist</td>
<td>Oden, ch. 9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9/29, 10/1</td>
<td>Pastor as Herald</td>
<td>Baxter, Dedication &amp; ch. II</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/6/8</td>
<td>Pastor as Evangelist</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/13, 15</td>
<td>FIRST READING WEEK – NO CLASSES</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/20, 22</td>
<td>Pastor as Priest</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/27</td>
<td>Pastor as Host</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/29</td>
<td>Pastoral Mid-term Mem. Quiz, 10/27</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11/3, 5</td>
<td>Pastor as Leader</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11/3, 5</td>
<td>Pastor as Overseer</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11/10, 12</td>
<td>SECOND READING WEEK – NO CLASSES</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11/17, 19</td>
<td>Pastor as Equipper</td>
<td>Interview Paper Due, 11/17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11/17, 19</td>
<td></td>
<td>Oden, chs. 11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11/24, 11/26</td>
<td>Pastor as Catechist</td>
<td>Oden, ch. 10; Baxter, ch. III</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12/1, 3</td>
<td>Pastor as Reconciler</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12/1, 3</td>
<td>Pastor as Discipler</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12/8, 10</td>
<td>Pastor as Keeper of the Keys</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12/8, 10</td>
<td>Concluding Remarks</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tue., 12/22</td>
<td>ATTENDANCE GRADE, READING REPORT &amp; PASTORAL STRATEGIES PAPER DUE</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Suggested Procedures/Questions for Pastoral Interview  

- Be sure to request a time for your interview as well in advance as possible (getting started on this TODAY is a very good idea). Tell the pastor whom you are hoping to interview that this is an assignment for your Pastoral Ministry class at GCTS. Tell him/her that 30 minutes is all you’ll need (though, s/he is able and willing, you may extend the interview a bit further). Offer to buy him/her a cup of tea or coffee (you can meet at a coffee shop or pick up a cup to bring to his/her offices, whichever works best for him/her). Explain that you will be writing a summary/reflection paper based upon the interview, but that no personal information will be shared without the pastor’s permission.
- If you have a classmate (or two, or more) who is/are planning to ask the same pastor for an interview, you may conduct the interview together (to safeguard the pastor’s time). But your papers will need to be written individually.
- Choose your questions from among the following suggestions. Since time will likely not permit you to ask all of these, prioritize your list in advance. Or, you may want to give the entire list to the pastor in advance and ask him/her to choose which ones s/he would like to answer.
  - How long have you been a pastor? How long in this congregation?
  - What is your particular role, position? Please describe your responsibilities in this role.
  - Did you feel a strong sense of calling to be a pastor? Please explain.
  - How did you settle upon this denomination (or, if non-denominational—why did you not choose to be part of a denomination)?
  - What part of your pastoral work have you most enjoyed? Why?
  - What part of your pastoral work have you least enjoyed? Why?
  - What part of your pastoral work would you most like to strengthen at this point? Do you have any plans about how you might do so?
  - What part of your pastoral work has most surprised you—is something that you didn’t really anticipate you would be doing?
  - What do you wish they had taught you in seminary (or other training programs—Bible college or institute, denominational training, etc.) that you don’t remember being taught?
  - What do you wish you had done differently in terms of your own preparation for pastoral ministry, including your time at seminary (if applicable)?
  - How does your pastoral work impact your personal walk?
  - How does your pastoral work impact your ministry with your family?
  - How open do you believe a pastor should be with members of his/her own congregation? What is your reasoning for such a view?
  - If you could speak to a seminarian now preparing for pastoral ministry, what would you most like to say to him or her?
- If the pastor’s time permits, you may ask additional questions that come to mind. Be sure your questions are appropriate and not too personal or intrusive.
- After the question/answer time, ask the pastor to pray for you. Ask, also, how you can be praying for the pastor.
- Ask the pastor if he/she is willing to have his/her name used in your written reflection upon this interview. If so, then use it in your paper. If not, then use a pseudonym and do not include denominational information or other easily identifiable church information in the paper.
- Give the pastor your full name, and also give them my name and e-mail address (gary.parrett@gmail.com) and invite them to contact me if they have any questions or concerns about this assignment.
- Conclude by thanking the pastor for his/her time and willingness to share.

Your paper should be 3-4 pages in length (typed, single-spaced)

NOTE: Doing the interview(s) via e-mail may be acceptable if circumstances more or less demand it. However, if possible, seek to do this either in person (choice 1) or via phone (choice 2) before going with e-mail (definitely choice 3).
Attendance Self-Grading Form for MC 701

Please approach this self-grading for attendance with honesty and integrity. The expectation for this course has been that you would be present physically for all class sessions and would seek to engage the materials and respect your fellow class participants. In light of this, please assign to yourself a grade for the following components and offer any explanatory comments you would like to add. Weight the components equally, and then assign a final attendance grade for yourself. Return the completed form in the envelope containing all your course work by Tue, 12/22.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Self-Grade</th>
<th>Comments (welcomed, but not required)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Physical attendance at all sessions (keep in mind, as well, such issues as arriving at class on time and staying for the entirety of the class)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attentiveness to the subject matter, the instructor, guest speakers, and to fellow students</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Final Attendance Grade**

Student Name _________________________________________________________

Signature & Date _______________