

Pastoral Theology

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Page 1: Pastoral Theology

Sacred Heart Theological Seminary

Module 4-Pastoral Theology

Content: A branch of theology concerned with the practical application of the study of religion in the context of regular church ministry.

Overview:

This course is more pragmatic than speculative in nature. The essential spiritual and religious needs related to the actual pastoral role will be explored, as well as those everyday practical areas of ministry that will aid new ministers. The course is designed for those in, or preparing for ministry in the Christian Churches whether ordained or not.

Goal:

Pastoral theology seeks to integrate the theoretical and the practical theology and experience, faith and action.

Learning Objectives:

1. Recognize the importance of a critical examination of Christian life and ministry.
2. Examine the relationships between faith, humanity, experience, practice, professional and working life, church, culture, social context and theology.
3. Develop a capacity for systematic theological reflection on lived experience, pastoral ministry and specific situations of life and work.
4. Understands the necessity of being prepared as a member of the clergy for service to the Church through emphasis on practical application of knowledge to ministry.
5. Identify and become aware of contemporary problems and issues facing the Church.
6. Recognize the value of adequate preparation as a minister with emphasis on Holy Scripture at the mission and parish levels.
7. Defends the desire to become a minister of Christ and the dispenser of the mysteries of God.
8. Define the main areas of the following: pastoral theology, De doctrina christiana; prayer; philosophy of religion; homiletics; spirituality, grief counseling; compassion, and evangelism.
9. Complete weekly assignments and pass a comprehensive examination related to the course learning outcomes.
10. Write a formal term paper on a pastoral theological question(s).

Why study pastoral theology?

Your vocation to feed His flock and your call to leadership in the Church is the most glorious calling on this earth, yet it carries with it an awesome responsibility. The very nature of life will require that you anticipate and be prepared to help those experiencing family tragedies. Those who are interested in ministry must reexamine their moral character and be prepared to know and teach the gospel of Jesus Christ with diligence.

Pastoral Theology

Parishioners and other clergy anticipate that you will be prepared academically, spiritually, and morally to perform the duties required as God representative on earth. Embracing the pastoral experience of the Gospel as well as those already experienced in ministry will be informative and invaluable.

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Assignment # 1

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pastoral_theology

Read PP 1-2

http://www.newworldencyclopedia.org/entry/Second_Epistle_to_Timothy

Read PP 1-5

1. Define the term “pastoral theology and why it is considered a practical theology.
2. Summarize the history of pastoral theology beginning with the Middle Ages.
3. Explain the period when pastoral theology takes its present systematized form.
4. Explain the significance of The Council of Trent.
5. Cite some examples of pastoral authors during the Middle Ages.
6. Discuss the purpose of the Second Epistle to Timothy
7. Explain why the above Epistle is particularly important
8. Discuss the two reasons in 2 Tim.3:16 is important
9. Summarize the message Paul offers Timothy his spiritual son
10. Discuss what Paul meant by a “spirit of timidity.”

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Assignment # 2

Read PP 1-4

De doctrina christiana

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/De_doctrina_christiana

1. Who was the author of De doctrina christiana and what was its purpose?
2. Identify the time frame in which the four text books were written.
3. Explain why Augustine's early study of the Bible had been unsatisfactory and what tool he used to help interpret the reading of Scripture.
4. Explain the two classes of words Augustine used to read Holy Scripture.
5. Discuss what Augustine wrote as key factors in biblical interpretation.
6. Summarize each of the four books written by Augustine.
7. Discuss the process and two governing factors of free interpretation in De doctrina christiana.
8. List the seven steps to wisdom according to Augustine
9. Explain how memorization is critical to understanding scripture
10. Explain in your own words the general message of Augustine from the materials assigned.

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Assignment # 3

Prayer

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Prayer>

Read PP 1-15

1. Define prayer and list the different forms of prayer
2. List the underlying beliefs about the benefits of prayer
3. Discuss the pre-Christian religions of Greeks and Romans ceremonial prayer life.
4. Describe the content of the bible in Abrahamic religions.
5. Explain the ultimate goal of prayer in Judaism.
6. Discuss the prayer approach to prayer used by the Kabbalah also known as Jewish mysticism religions.
7. In Christianity what is a formulaic closure in prayer
8. What is meant by the term “glossolalia?”
9. Summarize what Christian Science teachers about prayer
10. Discuss the Islam and Bahi i concept of prayer
11. Compare and contrast prayer the various Eastern religions
12. Summarize the studies, experiments and efficacy of healing prayer

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Assignment # 4

Philosophy of Religion

Read PP 1-7

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Philosophy_of_religion

1. Why is there liberty in the definition of Philosophy of Religion?
2. Explain how the philosophy of religion differs from the sociology of religion?
3. Explain why philosophy of religion is part of metaphysics
4. Compare and contrast philosophers of religion to theologians.
5. Define the terms deism and theism
6. Summarize the distinctive differences between Monotheism and Polytheism.
7. Discuss the main positions with regard to the existence of God that one might take.
8. Define the term “natural theology.”
9. Explain why D. Z. Phillips rejected “natural theory.”
10. If a person believes in one God with three divine persons, the Father, Son and Holy Ghost, where does this belief best fit into the materials assigned?

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Assignment # 5

Homiletics

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Homiletics>

Read PP 1-11

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sermon_on_the_Mount

Read PP 1-8

1. Define the general term homiletics and its expanded term.
2. What were the two forms of sermons Jesus preached and commissioned his Apostles to do?
3. Discuss the ministerial homily of Justin Martyr
4. Explain the laity involvement in what is called missionary preaching
5. Summarize the Sermon on the Mount
6. Discuss why the office of preaching belongs to bishops and priests
7. List the names of noted preachers and the person who is said to be the greatest since St. Paul.
8. Compare and contrast the preaching from the middle ages to the preaching in the Renaissance.
9. Where do we trace the influence of the present day preaching?
10. Who is credited with being the first to treat the theory of preaching?
11. Explain the three conditions for preaching set out by Hugh of St. Victor.
12. Discuss what value the newspaper and current events is to the preacher today?

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Assignment # 6

Discussion Question:

Paper

Assume that you truly wanted to be an effective preacher or more effective preacher of the word of God, what must you do to accomplish this goal? Discuss this transformation step by step. The various stages toward improvement should not be for your own edification, but rather, for the Kingdom of God. What materials would you study? Who would you talk with about self-improvement? What would you read? Should you memorize passages of scripture? How could you have an evaluation or self assessment of your effectiveness? What might be the outcome if you made a significant improvement?

Please limit your paper to 5-6 pages.

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Assignment # 7

Sacraments of the Catholic Church

Read PP 1-9

[http://wikipedia.org/wiki/Sacaments of the Catholic Church](http://wikipedia.org/wiki/Sacaments_of_the_Catholic_Church)

1. What is the relationship between a sacrament, grace and salvation?
2. List the sacraments according to the Catechism of the Catholic Church.
3. What does the sacrament of Baptism offer those who receive it?
4. List the three theological virtues received in baptism
5. What is the relationship of baptism to confirmation?
6. Define the term “transubstantiation.”
7. Discuss in detail the two Sacraments of healing
8. Explain the term ex pere operato and how it impacts ministers
9. What does the term validity and liceity mean?
10. What are some of the conditions for validity of a marriage in the Catholic Church?
11. Define the terms impediment and dispensation.
12. Name the sacraments that may not be repeated.
13. List the ordinary and extraordinary ministers of the sacraments
14. Explain why the Catholic Church does not recognize a baptism in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

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Assignment # 8

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Spirituality>

Spirituality

Read PP 1-8

1. What are the spiritual practices that are intended to develop an individual's inner life commonly called spirituality?
2. Cite two people and their writings that are examples of a spiritual journey using a higher state of awareness to communion with God or with the creation.
3. Name the two phases that describe spirituality.
4. What in your opinion is the difference between spirituality and religion?
5. In your opinion why is the field of spirituality overlapping and ill-defined?
6. How can we better live and manage our inner lives?

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Assignment # 9

Grief

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Grief>

Read PP 1-8

http://wikipedia.org/wiki/Grief_counseling

Grief Counseling

Read 1-5

1. Discuss some of the expressions of emotion in the grief process.
2. Differentiate between grief counseling and grief therapy.
3. What is the goal of grief therapy?
4. What is meant by complicated grief?
5. What has research shown by those receiving grief therapies?
6. Research independently from the assigned reading materials and learn the location of a crisis line and a resource book in your community for where to turn in the event of a serious mental problem.
7. Research your State Statutes and list the various credentials for the following occupations: Mental health counselor (Ph.D., Psy.D.); psychologist; social worker; and psychiatrist.
8. Discuss the various dimensions of loss other than the conventional focus on emotion.
9. List the resources available for those in grief to access additional support.
10. Summarize the various types of bereavement including legal termination of parental rights.

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Assignment #10

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Compassion>

Compassion

Read PP 1-7

1. Why is compassion considered in all the major religious traditions among the greatest of virtues?
2. Discuss the three Scriptural verses that are examples of God's compassion?
3. Find in the Gospel where it says that compassion should extend to all, even to the extent of loving one's enemies.
4. Explain the Hinduism tradition of "DAYA."
5. Compare and contrast compassion within Buddhism with Jainism
6. What is the summary of the Jewish law according to Rabbi Hillel?
7. Discuss the toll tax .Zakat in the Muslim scriptures.
8. What is the Arabic word for compassion?
9. Describe the last incident of compassion you have personally witnessed in your everyday activity.
10. Recall from your readings the location where a statue of compassion is personified.

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Assignment # 11

Evangelism

[Http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Evangelism](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Evangelism)

Read PP 1-5

2 Timothy

Read 4:2

1. Do you agree with the definition of evangelism? Is it possible to evangelize to those who hold your beliefs?
2. Is it necessary for an evangelist to communicate Christian faith to new geographical areas and cultures? Do we need evangelist at home? What's the difference between a missionary and an evangelist?
3. Discuss the term "Etymology" and how it is used in Scripture.
4. Where does the modern word Gospel come from historically?
5. Define the term "Proselytism."
6. What command did Jesus give his eleven disciples during his last days on earth?
7. In Matthew 4, what do the scriptures mean by preaching the word in and out of season?
8. On what basis are you prepared to convince, rebuke and exhort others in preaching the word?

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Assignment #12

Final Paper

Before a Christian can have true faith, he or she must understand in whom and in what they believe in. Discuss how you can build a model foundation of belief to reach the would be Christian. What part would the community of believers play? What about scripture and tradition? What about the personal experience of the believer? What part would reason play in your foundation? How do you proceed to reach people to have trust, and confidence in your effort?