

MP553 Introduction to Pastoral Care

Course Developer: Rev. Dr. Barbara Brice

Contacts

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Please email the professor to request a phone or Zoom video appointment.

Flourish Institute of Theology Registrar: Martha Oloo | registrar@flourishinstitute.online

Course Description

A survey of pastoral care including theological underpinnings, the pastor's role, pastoral care issues, and tools.

Course Purpose

Much of a pastor's time is spent caring for people and so the purpose of this course is to introduce what it means to pastor, while exploring the breadth of pastoral care. We will spend time discovering the distinctiveness of the pastoral role, while building a foundation for the work of pastoral care. In addition, we will briefly explore several common pastoral care topics.

Course Objectives

Upon successful completion of this course, students will:

- **Affective:** A deeper understanding of what it means to pastor.
- **Behavioral:** An initial, sustainable, flexible, and biblical model for self-care, providing pastoral care, and growing in pastoral identity.
- **Cognitive:** A grasp of pastoral care issues and building caregiving relationships.

Course Schedule

The course is organized into twelve content weeks called "Lessons," one holiday week, and one additional week focused on completing major summative assignments. Weeks begin on a Tuesday and end on a Monday.

Week(s)	Lesson Title
1	Lesson 1: Introducing Pastoral Care
2	Lesson 2: Pastoral Care Frames
3	Lesson 3: Pastoral Work
4	Lesson 4: Pastoral Integrity and Vocational Holiness
5	Lesson 5: Pastor Know Yourself



6	Lesson 6: In Times of Community Crisis
7	Lesson 7: In Times of Crisis
8	Lesson 8: Grief and Loss
9	Lesson 9: Some Common Issues
10	Lesson 10: Some Common Issues
11	Lesson 11: Pastoral Counseling – One Framework
12	Lesson 12: Wrapping Up
13	Final Coursework

Learning Tasks

I. Lectures

Students are required to watch weekly lecture videos. These videos are available on the course site. Students are required to watch all the lecture videos to pass the course and will submit a course report at the end of the course attesting that they have completed this requirement (and others).

II. Course Meetings with Professor

All students will meet a few times with the Course Professor as an entire class to discuss course content, insights, questions, and concerns. Dates and times are on the course site. Information on how to connect to these Course Meetings will be available on the course site. *The course meeting times are in Pacific Time.*

Each student will also have an individual meeting with the Course Professor. Meetings will take place the week of April 16-22, 2024. Students should email the course instructor to set up the Zoom meeting as early in the course as possible, but no later than April 2, 2024.

III. Small Group Meetings and Summaries

All students taking the course for credit will be required to participate in a small group of 3-5 individuals. Groups will be formed at the beginning of the course. Each small group will be required to find a mutually agreeable time to meet weekly via Zoom to discuss course content in response to questions composed by the Course Developer. After the group meeting each week, each student will prepare and submit a one-page written response to the questions that reflects both the group discussion and their own conclusions in response to each question. These will be graded by the Course Professor.



IV. Reflections

One-page reflections (250-word minimum) of course content and/or group discussions are due across the course. Please see the course site for specific requirements and due dates for each of the ten reflections.

V. Pastoral Role Reflection

During the first weeks of the course we look broadly at the pastoral role. For this three-page (750-word) minimum reflection, you are asked to consider and share your concerns and plans for personal growth as a pastoral care provider. Please see the course site for specific requirements and due date for this assignment.

VI. Resource Development Plan

Pastors are called to assist in many differing situations. Therefore, it is important that we have a ready list of outside “helpers” (e.g., Christian counselors). For this assignment you are asked to develop a list of the resources that you will want to have at hand. Please see the course site for specific requirements and due date for this assignment.

VII. Pastor Interviews

One of the best ways to learn about providing pastoral care is to speak with pastors providing that care. For this assignment you will be asked to interview two pastors from differing pastoral settings and then to write a four- to five-page reflection on your findings. Please see the course site for specific requirements and due date for this assignment.

VIII. Capstone Paper

This capstone paper will bring together your biblical, theological, and practical thinking about providing pastoral care. The first part will focus on your philosophy of pastoral care, including theological and biblical foundations. The second will build on that foundation by developing an initial framework for providing pastoral care to individuals and communities (e.g., congregation) around a particular pastoral care issue. Please see the course site for specific requirements and due date for this assignment.

Learning Resources

Students are required to read the following books:

- Benner, David G. *Strategic Pastoral Counseling: A Short-Term Structured Model*. Baker Academic, 2003 (160 pages). ISBN-13: 978-0801026317
- Browning Hesel, Philip. *Pastoral Care and Counseling: An Introduction*. Paulist Press International, 2019 (184 pages). ISBN-13: 978-0809153909
- McClintock, Karen A. *Trauma-Informed Pastoral Care: How to Respond When Things Fall Apart*. Fortress Press, 2022 (182 pages). ISBN-13: 978-1506480718



- McIntosh, Gary L. and Samuel D. Rima. *Overcoming the Dark Side of Leadership: How to Become an Effective Leader by Confronting Potential Failures*. Baker Books, 2007 (256 pages). ISBN-13: 978-0801068355
- Peterson, Eugene. *Under the Unpredictable Plant: An Exploration in Vocational Holiness*. Eerdmans Pub Co., 1994 (207 pages). ISBN-13: 978-0802808486
- Peterson, Eugene. *Working the Angles: The Shape of Pastoral Integrity*. Eerdmans Pub Co., 1989 (137 pages). ISBN-13: 978-0802802651
- Purves, Andrew. *Pastoral Theology in the Classical Tradition*. Westminster John Knox Press, 2001 (144 pages). ISBN-13: 978-0664222413
- Sittser, Jerry. *A Grace Disguised: How the Soul Grows through Loss*. Zondervan, 2021 (256 pages). ISBN-13: 978-0310363590
- Wright, N.T. *God and The Pandemic: A Christian Reflection on the Coronavirus and Its Aftermath*. Zondervan, 2020 (96 pages). ISBN-13: 978-0310120803

Course Assignments and Weighting

Assignment	Weighting
Reflections	15%
Pastoral Role Reflection	15%
Pastor Interview Reflection	25%
Resource Development Plan	15%
Capstone Paper	30%
Course Report (pass/fail) includes:	
Reading	Must complete to pass course
Lecture Viewing	Must complete to pass course
Small Group Meetings	Must attend to pass course
Course Meetings	Must attend to pass course
TOTAL	100%

Assignment Formatting

FIT uses The SBL Handbook of Style, 2nd Edition. This style guide is used by scholars in the field of Biblical Studies and by many publishers in that field. It is itself based on the Chicago Manual of Style



(CMOS) and aligns with Kate Turabian's Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses and Dissertations (7th ed.).

All of these works are available to reference on FIT's DTL2 library. A quick-start guide for formatting term papers is available at this link: <https://www.sbl-site.org/assets/pdfs/pubs/sblhssupp2015-02.pdf>

You will find that there are standards for everything—formatting a paper, how to reference the Bible, how to cite other authors with long quotations, how to make a bibliography, and more.

If all of this seems confusing, please reach out to FIT's Tutorial Services via studentadvisor@flourishinstitute.online. A FIT tutor will be able to coach you through formatting a paper, proper citations, crafting a bibliography, and more. Tutorial sessions are an additional cost.

Mutual Commitments

What I, as your Course Instructor, expect from you as an emerging leader in service of Christ:

- I expect you to be diligent in preparing for each session.
- I expect you to submit work on time (or if this is not possible, to request an extension adequately ahead of the deadline).
- I expect you to participate fully and constructively in all course activities and discussions.
- I expect you to show respect towards other students, being sensitive to national, cultural, political, gender, and other individual differences, and listening courteously when others speak in class.
- I expect you to provide accurate and constructive feedback on the course content and methodology that will help me as I teach this course and when I teach this material again in the future.

My commitments to you as a Course Instructor are:

- I will make myself available to you regularly by taking part in our Course Web-Meetings
- I will encourage reciprocity and cooperation among you as a class of emerging leaders inside and outside those meetings
- I will make myself available to meet with you individually throughout our course
- I will provide prompt feedback on all your work in ways intended to affirm your learning and encourage and extend your learning
- I will promote active learning, respecting diverse talents and learning styles to the best of my ability



Attendance Policies

Course Meeting Attendance

Each course will meet as an entire class 4-6 times. All students are required to attend all course meetings. Meeting dates are posted on the syllabi when course registration opens for the trimester. Exceptions can be made for personal and family emergencies. If an emergency arises, a student must reach out to the professor to let them know they will be missing the meeting. Students' participation scores will be penalized if they miss a meeting without notifying the professor.

Small Group Meeting Attendance

Each course will have small group meetings. These meeting times are set by the group of students, not the professor or FIT Registrar. A student is expected to attend all small group meetings for their course(s). Exceptions can be made for personal and family emergencies. A summary of the meeting is required at the end of the lesson when the small group meets. Therefore, if a student does not attend (for personal reasons, and not an emergency) their small group attendance score will be penalized.

Academic Integrity

"Neither by wanting to be better than others, nor by empty pride, but in humility think of others as better than yourselves" (Philippians 2:3).

In order to be properly equipped as a public theologian—as all ministry leaders are—students must learn to respect the work of others. Research, writing, publishing, editing, and all other works of art, are the fruit of someone's labor. We seek to "honor everyone" (1 Peter 2:17), and so lift up the contributions that have gone ahead of us and have directly or indirectly informed our own ways of thinking.

This respect is made manifest by making fair use of the works of others. This involves properly citing ideas, indirect quotes, direct quotes, and other works, according to standard forms. FIT uses the Society of Biblical Literature (SBL) format, which is based on Turabian/Chicago Manual of Style (CMOS).

Students are sometimes tempted to plagiarize the work of others, to pass off the ideas or work of others as their own. This kind of intellectual theft is not respectful, it is not conducive to a student's best learning potential, nor does it reveal the goodness of the kingdom of God to a dark world.

Rather than spelling out a legal formulation of exactly what plagiarism entails, consider the principle of respecting the work of others, and the goal of your own intellectual formation. If your professors discover evidence of plagiarism, he or she will call you to account and recommend you to enroll in FIT's Tutorial Program's "Academic Research" section. Because there is a wide variety of access to intellectual material today, plagiarism would include the use of phrasing, outlines and ideas in print



or online, in journals or audio, in other student's papers, etc. without completely citing the original authors.

Any future evidence of plagiarism after completion of the Tutorial Program will result in those works receiving a zero grade.

Accommodations, Couse Drops, and Extensions

Accommodations

The Flourish Institute of Theology understands that God has gifted individuals in various ways and that different individuals thrive better in different environments. If you have a diagnosed disability that will impact your ability to engage with our programs effectively, we aim to offer reasonable accommodations to support your discipleship and learning here.

In order to receive accommodations, FIT requires that students provide documentation from a qualified professional that:

- Diagnoses your condition
- Defines how this condition limits your learning in the following environments:
 - Viewing lectures
 - Engaging in Zoom-based live discussions
 - Participating in mentored ministry experiences
 - Attending and participating in in-person gatherings
 - Reading paper-based books and ebooks
 - Writing academic papers
- Provides suggestions for reasonable accommodations

The registrar will work with you and the student advisor to develop a learning plan based on this information and will communicate these accommodations to course professors.

Course Drops

In the realm of discipleship, quality is far more important than quantity. Maintaining a suitable course load is an important component in equipping you for the work of ministry. In order to thrive in every course, it is vital that you are not overworked and so unable to engage in a course completely. We encourage you to talk with your professors and student advisor as soon as possible if you are considering dropping a course.

If you would like to drop the course, you are able to do so. The deadlines and refund amounts are listed in the Student Handbook. Once the 13th Friday of the course passes, and you have not completed the coursework, you will receive an "incomplete" for the course.



When you request to drop a course, you will be asked to fill out a form for our records with the name of the course, the reason you are dropping the course, and confirmation that you have notified your professor.

Extensions

Arrangements for submission of late work during the trimester are made between the student and the professor. Extensions must be requested before the assignment is due, and extensions are only granted for extenuating circumstances. If an extension is not granted, and an assignment is submitted late, grading of that assignment will be affected based on how late the assignment is submitted. Additional paperwork is not needed by the FIT Registrar to grant an extension during the trimester.

All extension requests for after the end date of the trimester need to be submitted to the FIT Registrar. An Extension Petition must be submitted to registrar@flourishinstitute.online no later than the last Friday of the trimester. A student can request an Extension Petition from the FIT Registrar at registrar@flourishinstitute.online. The petition will ask for the agreed upon extension date set by the student and the professor. Extensions are only granted for extenuating circumstances. There will be a fee for extensions of \$40 (per week) that will need to be paid when the student submits their Extension Petition. An extension of one day to seven days is \$40, eight days to fourteen days is \$80, and so on.

Arrangements for submission of late work at a date on or before the end date for the trimester are made between the student and Instructor. However, course work to be submitted after the publicized end date for the trimester or term must be approved by the FIT Registrar. An Extension Petition must be submitted to registrar@flourishinstitute.online no later than the Friday before the last day of the course. Extensions are only available for those with exigent and unforeseen circumstances and are generally not granted for work, ministry, or educational overload. There will be a fee for extensions of \$40 that will need to be paid when the student submits their Extension Petition. To request an Extension Petition, please email the FIT Registrar at registrar@flourishinstitute.online with the name of the course and the deadline you and your instructor agreed upon.

