



COURSE SYLLABUS

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SECTION 1: COURSE INFORMATION

Format: Eight weeks.

Course ID: PMIN 3533

Course Title: Pastoral Theology

College: College of Unrestricted Education

Prerequisites: None

Credit Hours: 3

Instructor: See the online course in MyFIRE for instructor contact information and availability.

Course Description

This course provides an overview of pastoral theology, calling, principles of decision making, and various pastoral functions including weddings, funerals, baptism, communion, infant dedication, pastoral care, conducting worship services, etc.

Course Overview

This course will equip you to deal with the personal and professional aspects of a ministry career, including relationships, expectations, time management, denominations, conflict, and many others. You will gain biblically founded, yet practical, skills and techniques for dealing with the most common challenges ministers face. You will reflect often on your own ministry call and explore a variety of ways a ministerial career can unfold. You will also receive basic instruction on common ministry functions such as facilitating worship services, Holy Communion, water baptism, weddings, and funerals.

Course Workload

Time spent on course assignments will vary by student depending on familiarity with course content, reading rate of speed, writing rate of speed, and other individual factors. Based on averages for most students, it is estimated that the course workload estimate for this course is 15 hours per week.

Course Materials

1. Ehler, Alan. How to Make Big Decisions Wisely. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2020.
2. Malphurs, Aubrey, and Keith Willhite. A Contemporary Handbook for Weddings & Funerals and Other Occasions. Grand Rapids: Kregel, 2003.
3. Yang-Tan, Siang. Shepherding God's People: A Guide to Faithful and Fruitful Pastoral Ministry. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2019.

Required and optional textbooks are accessed and ordered through [SEU's bookstore](#).

Disclaimer: The resources utilized in this course provide information, thoughts and

insights that should encourage critical thinking on the part of the student. Please note

as well that as an Assembly of God institution, Southeastern University does not necessarily endorse specific personal, religious, philosophical, or political positions found in these resources.

Course Topics

The purpose of this course is to introduce, reinforce, and measure learning on the following topics:

1. The ministry call
2. The role of the pastor
3. Serving on a ministry staff
4. Leading a ministry staff and volunteers
5. Practical theology and its function in ministry
6. Decision making
7. Spiritual direction
8. Resolving conflict
9. Dealing with tough issues
10. Weddings
11. Funerals
12. Water baptism
13. Holy Communion
14. Worship services

Intended Learning Outcomes

As a result of reading, study, and assessments in this course, the student should be able to:

1. Examine the principles of pastoral theology
2. Apply effective methods of decision making
3. Evaluate methods of congregational care
4. Articulate the theological foundations for ordinances, sacraments, and practices of the church
5. Explore components of corporate worship
6. Demonstrate the ability to perform pastoral functions

Late Work

Late work is accepted for one week after the assignment due date with a 10% grade deduction.

Extra Credit

None Accepted

SECTION 2: SOUTHEASTERN POLICIES

Academic Policies

View this link to see Southeastern's Policies regarding SEU's Mission and Vision Statements, Title IX Statement, Student Services, Class Participation, Official Email, MyFIRE Use, Technical Difficulties, Technical Support, Disability Statement, Academic Honesty, Course Evaluation, Official Withdrawal, Grading Scale, and Netiquette.

SECTION 3: COURSE SCHEDULE

The **Course Schedule** provides a listing of your work in this course. The assessments are listed by Module and include the due dates and point values.

Note: Assignments are due by 11:59 p.m. EST on the due date, unless otherwise noted.

AIM, LEARN, AND APPLY DESCRIPTIONS

Aim



When you see the Aim icon, you will be introduced to topics and ideas that will be covered throughout this module. The AIM will also provide you with a glimpse into your learning objectives and an introduction to this module.

Learn



When you see the Learn icon, all of your reading assignments will be listed and may include additional resources that your instructor is providing to help you complete the activities and assessments for the module.

Apply



When you see the Apply Icon, it will be time to demonstrate your learning for the module. The items here are those in which you'll be graded and may include discussions, activities, assignments, quizzes, exams, and projects.

MODULE 1

XX/XX/XX – XX/XX/XX



- Recognize the biblical basis of the vocational ministry call.
- Articulate and discuss one's own ministry call.
- Write a two-to-three page essay describing what the call of God is like.
- Explain how the resources and readings for the week have impacted you.



- Read: Tan, Chapters 1-3; Genesis 12:1-7, Exodus 3:1-4:17, Joshua 1:1-9, Judges 6:1-24, I Samuel 3:1-21, I Samuel 16:1-13, I Kings 19:9-21, Luke 5:1-11 and 27-32, Luke 9:1-6, Acts 20:28 and 26:1-23, and Titus 1:5-11. View videos (provided in the course)



- Module 1 Discussion Forum
 - ILOs: 1 and 6
 - Due: Saturday for initial post, Tuesday for replies
 - Points: 25
- Module 1 Assignment: The Ministry Call
 - ILOs: 1 and 6
 - Due: Tuesday

- Points: 150

Module 1 Journal
Entry



- ILOs: 1 and 6
- Due: Tuesday
- Points: 25

MODULE 2:
XX/XX/XX – XX/XX/XX



- Explain principles of serving on a ministry staff.
- Discuss a leader you have served under or observed who demonstrates one or more of the principles Tan identifies in his book.
- Distinguish between typical expectations and experiences of ministry staff people and those serving in secular career.
- Recognize the basic principles of practical theology.
- Discuss the type of role you would like to have after graduation.



- Read: Tan, Chapters 9 and 10; Ehler,
- Chapters 1-4 View video (provided in the course)



- Module 2 Discussion Forum
 - ILOs: 1 and 6
 - Due: Saturday for initial post, Tuesday for replies
 - Points: 25
- Module 2 Journal Entry
 - ILOs: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6
 - Due: Tuesday
 - Points: 25

MODULE 3:
XX/XX/XX – XX/XX/XX



- Use and discuss practical theology in decision making.
- Recognize principles of effective ministry to people's needs.
- Identify compassionate and helpful congregational care techniques.
- Discuss how you might practice congregational care as Tan describes it



- Read: Ehler, Chapters 5-10
- Read: Tan, Chapter 11
- View video (provided in the course)



- Module 3 Discussion Forum
 - ILOs: 1,2, and 6
 - Due: Saturday for initial post, Tuesday for replies
 - Points: 25
- Module 3 Journal Entry
 - ILOs: 3 and 6
 - Due: Tuesday
 - Points: 25

MODULE 4:
XX/XX/XX – XX/XX/XX



- Comprehend biblical principles of conflict resolution.
- Use Story Shaping to resolve conflicts.
- Discuss a tough situation in your life (or a friend or family member's) you are aware of and how you could use the process Dr. Ehler laid out to navigate it.
- Articulate and defend biblical standards for common, yet difficult, issues in today's world.
- Use Ehler's Story Shaping approach to attempt to resolve a disagreement or conflict in your life or between people you know.



- Read: Ehler, Chapters 11-12
- View videos (provided in the course)



- Module 4 Discussion Forum
 - ILOs: 1 and 2
 - Due: Saturday for initial post, Tuesday for replies
 - Points: 25
- Module 4 Journal Entry
 - ILOs: 1 and 2
 - Due: Tuesday
 - Points: 25

MODULE 5:
XX/XX/XX – XX/XX/XX



- Explain biblical principles of marriage.
- Describe the minister's role in conducting a wedding.
- Discuss techniques for effective wedding ceremonies. Create a script an appropriate wedding ceremony.
- Discuss premarital counseling and wedding ceremony strategies.



- Read: Tan, Chapters 4 and 13; Malphurs and Wilhite,
- Part One View videos (provided in the course)



- Module 5 Discussion Forum
 - ILOs:3, 4, and 6
 - Due: Saturday for initial post, Tuesday for replies
 - Points: 25
- Module 5 Journal Entry
 - ILOs: 3, 4, and 6
 - Due: Tuesday
 - Points: 25
- Wedding Script
 - ILOs: 3, 4, and 6
 - Due: Tuesday

- Points: 150

MODULE 6:

XX/XX/XX – XX/XX/XX



- Recognize how to provide godly comfort to the dying and their loved ones. Create a script for moving and comforting funerals and memorial services. Discuss a funeral service you found most moving.
- Discuss strategies for empathetic ministry during funerals and memorial services.



- Read: Tan, Chapters 14 and 15; Malphurs and Wilhite,
- Part Two View videos (provided in the course)



- Module 6 Discussion Forum
 - ILOs: 3, 4, and 6
 - Due: Saturday for initial post, Tuesday for replies
 - Points: 25
- *Module 6 Journal Entry*
 - ILOs: 3, 4, and 6
 - *Due: Tuesday*
 - *Points: 25*
- *Funeral Script*
 - ILOs: 3, 4, and 6
 - *Due: Tuesday*
 - Points: 150

**MODULE 7:
XX/XX/XX – XX/XX/XX**



- Explain the theological issues and basis for water baptism and infant dedication.
- Recognize the biblical and theological principles of Holy Communion.
- Create a script for conducting services including water baptism, baby dedication, and Holy Communion.
- Discuss an effective water baptism service.
- Write your reflections on the importance and meaning of Holy Communion.



- Read: Tan, Chapters 5-8; Malphurs and Wilhite, Part Three; Matthew 26:17-35, Mark 14:12- 31, Luke 22:7-38, and I Corinthians 10:14-17 and 11:17-24
- View videos (provided in the course)



- Module 7 Discussion Forum
 - ILOs: 4, 5, and 6
 - Due: Saturday for initial post, Tuesday for replies
 - Points: 25
- Module 7 Journal Entry
 - ILOs: 4, 5, and 6
 - Due: Tuesday
 - Points: 25

MODULE 8:

XX/XX/XX – XX/XX/XX



- Explain theological and practical factors in Christian worship services.
- Create a script to plan and lead effective worship services.
- Discuss what you found most insightful and helpful in Tan's book.
- Discuss an impactful worship service you have attended and reflect on the elements that made it so powerful.



- Read: Tan, Chapters 12 and
- 16 View video (provided in the course)



- Module 8 Discussion Forum
 - ILOs: 3, 4, 5, and 6
 - Due: Saturday for initial post, Tuesday for replies
 - Points: 25
- Module 8 Journal Entry
 - ILOs: 4, 5, and 6
 - Due: Tuesday
 - Points: 25
- Worship Service Script

- ILOs: 4, 5, and 6
- Due: Tuesday
- Points: 150

SECTION 4: ASSESSMENTS

Discussion Forums

Description

Each week, students will post a response to a specific question on the MyFIRE course discussion forum by Saturday of that week of 100-300 words. Each student should make a specific, salient reply to at least two other students by 11:59 PM the following Tuesday. Each primary post will be awarded up to fifteen points and the best two timely responses will be scored up to five points each according to the Forum Post Rubric.

Total Possible Points

200

Grade Weight

20%

Writing Assignments

Description

There are four writing assignments for the course. The first is a paper on the ministry call:

Read these Bible passages: Genesis 12:1-7, Exodus 3:1-4:17, Joshua 1:1-9, Judges 6:1-24, I Samuel 3:1-21, I Samuel 16:1-13, I Kings 19:9-21, Luke 5:1-11 and 27-32, Luke 9:1-6, Acts 20:28 and 26:1-23, Titus 1:5-11. Write a two to three page essay describing what the call of God is like. Make sure you interact with several of the Bible texts to prove your points and cite your sources with book, chapter, and verse. (Example: Gen 12.1) Please include at least two paragraphs discussing whether or not you feel you have a call to ministry and how you know (or would know) that you are called.

The final three writing assignments are manuscripts that can be used for different types of services:

Students will write three word-for-word manuscripts that could be used in actual services. The first shall be a wedding manuscript including introductory material, a brief message, vows, and pronouncement of 3-6 pages total. The second shall be a brief funeral manuscript including introductory material, scripture readings, a short meditation, and a prayer of committal of 2-6 pages total. The third shall be an order of service for a worship service including ceremonies for communion and water baptism of

4-8 pages total. The location of the sermon, announcements, and songs sung should be identified in the script but not written out word for word. Other elements, including a welcome/call to worship, corporate prayer, communion, and water baptism segments should be written out verbatim. Up to 70% of the content of each script may be adapted from other sources (including Malphurs and Willhite), but no more than 50% may come from a single source, and at least 30% must be the student's original work.

Total Possible Points

600

Grade Weight

60%

SECTION 4: ASSESSMENTS

Journal Entries

Description

Students will maintain a journal throughout the course and answer specific questions each week. A paper journal may be used but pages must be scanned and uploaded if so. Electronic journals are preferred. Grammar will not be graded for these, but the depth of reflection will be graded. Weekly entries may range from a few sentences to a page.

Total Possible Points

200

Grade Weight

20%
