

Pastoral Ministry

Meeting Information

Wednesdays, 8:30-10:30am (August 19–November 18)

Contact Information

Dr. Kevin DeYoung (kdeyoung@christcovenant.org)

My assistant at Christ Covenant is Caleb Johnson (calebjohnson@christcovenant.org). He will serve as the TA for this class.

Course Description

This course will help to answer the who, what, why, and how of pastoral ministry. Who are we as pastors? What do we do? Why do we minister? And how are we to conduct ourselves and lead the church in the twenty-first century? Roughly half of the lectures will focus on the biblical and theological underpinnings for pastoral ministry, while the other half will show how these principles are played out in the nitty-gritty details of church life. In other words, the class is part theological reflection, part personal soul work, and part how-to operational manual.

Course Requirements

In addition to attending the class faithfully and being a joyful and active participant in discussion, there are five requirements.

1. Reflection Papers (25%) – You will write a *brief* reflection paper (400–450 words each) on the following books: *Memoirs of an Ordinary Pastor* (Carson) is **due September 16**, *The Book of Pastoral Rule* (Gregory the Great) is **due October 21**.
2. Memorization (15%) – Students will memorize 2 Timothy 1-2 OR 2 Timothy 3-4. You will be called upon to write (or recite) one of those chapters on **the last day of class, November 18**.
3. Required Reading (30%) – Reading is an important part of the class. Students are expected to read all the assigned material *with reasonable care*. This means skimming does not count. Audio recordings do not count either. These books were chosen with your pastoral identity and effectiveness in mind, so read them well, digest them, and enjoy them! All the required reading must be **completed by December 3**.
4. Final Paper (30%) – Students will write a final paper (2,300–2,700 words). This paper should describe and evaluate two persons—one that you know personally and one that you know from history—whose ministries are worth emulating and provide a model for your own. You may have to do some basic research for the historical model, but I am not looking for an academic paper. Please interact with Scripture and with what you have learned from the class. Do not use material you produced for another class. As always, give proper

attribution and use footnotes if necessary. Scripture texts and confessional texts (i.e., Westminster Standards) can be cited parenthetically. The paper is **due December 3**.

Required Reading

D.A. Carson. *Memoirs of an Ordinary Pastor: The Life and Reflections of Tom Carson*. Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2008. (160 pages)

St. Gregory the Great. *The Book of Pastoral Rule*. Yonkers, NY: St Vladimir's Seminary Press, 2007. (212 pages)

Charles Spurgeon. *Lectures to My Students*. Edinburgh, UK: Banner of Truth, 2008. (First Series Chapters 1-5, 8-13, Second Series Chapters 1-2, 6-10) (around 300 pages)
Other editions are available as well.

The Pastor: His Call, Character, and Work by Faculty and Friends of Old Princeton. Edinburgh, UK: Banner of Truth, 2020. (255 pages)

Grading

Faithful attendance is required throughout the class. If you are going to miss more than one class, you should seek permission from the professor.

Reflection Papers – 25%

Scripture Memory – 15%

Required Reading – 30%

Final Paper – 30%

Other Class Rules

Computers and tablets are not allowed in class. Unless there is an emergency, cell phones are not allowed either. Even with the godliest, most focused student, screens are almost always a distraction. Recent articles have suggested that students learn better when taking notes by hand.

Papers should be 1.5 spaced, full justified, Times New Roman, 12pt font, with name and date in the upper right-hand corner. Include the word count at the end of the paper. Stay within the assigned word count. *Do not go over the word count (inclusive of all headings and footnotes)*. No need for bibliography. Do provide subheadings as necessary.

The use of AI is not permitted.

Assignments turn in late will be marked down one point for every day late (i.e. if one paper is one day late, the highest grade you can get in the class is a 99).

Extensions Policy for Assignments: In extenuating circumstances, a deadline extension of up to one week may be granted at the discretion of the professor. Requests for extensions of more than one week must be submitted to the Registrar for consideration by the Academic Dean in consultation with the professor. Extensions are granted only for significant emergencies or

unforeseen circumstances, and a grade penalty may be applied. All extension requests must be made prior to the assignment deadline. No retrospective extensions will be granted.



Course Objectives Related to MDiv* Student Learning Outcomes

Course: Pastoral Ministry
 Professor: Dr. Kevin DeYoung
 Campus: Charlotte
 Date: Fall 2026

MDiv* Student Learning Outcomes <i>In order to measure the success of the MDiv curriculum, RTS has defined the following as the intended outcomes of the student learning process. Each course contributes to these overall outcomes. This rubric shows the contribution of this course to the MDiv outcomes.</i> <i>*As the MDiv is the core degree at RTS, the MDiv rubric will be used in this syllabus.</i>		Rubric • Strong • Moderate • Minimal • None	Mini-Justification
Articulation (oral & written)	Broadly understands and articulates knowledge, both oral and written, of essential biblical, theological, historical, and cultural/global information, including details, concepts, and frameworks. Also includes ability to preach and teach the meaning of Scripture to both heart and mind with clarity and enthusiasm.	Strong	Reflection papers and final paper will force students to work through these issues.
Scripture	Significant knowledge of the original meaning of Scripture. Also, the concepts for and skill to research further into the original meaning of Scripture and to apply Scripture to a variety of modern circumstances. (Includes appropriate use of original languages and hermeneutics; and integrates theological, historical, and cultural/global perspectives.)	Strong	Significant study in the scriptural paradigm for shepherding.
Reformed Theology	Significant knowledge of Reformed theology and practice, with emphasis on the Westminster Standards.	Moderate	Reformed tradition mined for resources for today's pastoral ministry.
Sanctification	Demonstrates a love for the Triune God that aids the student's sanctification.	Strong	Emphasis on the pastor's soul throughout the course.
Worldview	Burning desire to conform all of life to the Word of God. Includes ability to interact within a denominational context, within the broader worldwide church, and with significant public issues.	Strong	Requirement to memorize significant portion of Scripture.
Winsomely Reformed	Embraces a winsomely Reformed ethos. (Includes an appropriate ecumenical spirit with other Christians, especially Evangelicals; a concern to present the Gospel in a God-honoring manner to non-Christians; and a truth-in-love attitude in disagreements.)	Moderate	We will talk through conflict resolution and working with others.

Pastoral Ministry	Ability to minister the Word of God to hearts and lives of both church and unchurched, to include preaching, teaching, leading in worship, leading and shepherding the local congregation, aiding in spiritual maturity, concern for non-Christians.	Strong	Lectures include discussions on mission of the church, developing skill as preacher, leading in worship and conducting services, as well as other facets of local church ministry.
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