

**Pastoral Theology
Concordia Seminary
Professor Robert W. Weise**

Course Description

The theology and practice of the church in her Word-Sacrament ministry, with biblical and confessional principles identified and applied for evangelical pastoral practice. A variety of pastoral care areas are considered to demonstrate the ministry of addressing and administering Word and Sacraments to God's people, individually and corporately, in their human situation. Lectures, written projects, case studies, and discussions form the core of the course, along with pertinent readings in each area.

Pastoral Formation Outcomes

1. The Student Exhibits a Life Shaped by the Centrality of the Gospel.
2. The Student Interprets Reality Theologically.
3. The Student Aspires to Life-Long Growth in Theological Understanding, Spiritual Formation, and Vocational Skills.

Goals

After completing this course the seminarian will:

Articulate a personal pastoral theology that comprises a way-of-being in the world.

Possess the necessary skills needed to perform the basic day-to-day functions of the pastoral ministry in accordance with the embodied pastoral theology.

Be prepared to live the life of Christ as pastor and teacher within the Office of the Public Ministry

Syllabus Revision Statement

The course instructor may modify the standards and requirements set forth in the syllabus at any time. Notice of such changes will be by announcement in class.

Required Textbooks

Aging, The Fulfillment of Life, H. Nouwen, Image Books, Doubleday, 1990, ISBN# 978-0385009188

God and the Gay Christian, Matthew Vines, Convergent, 2014, ISBN# 9781601425164

Homosexuality and the Christian: A Guide for Parents, Pastors, and Friends, Mark Yarhouse, Bethany House, 2010, ISBN# 978-0764207310

Pastoral Care Companion, The Commission on Worship Both The Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod, CPH, 2007, 0758612257

Pastoral Theology, Norbert H. Mueller and George Kraus, CPH, 1990, 978-0570042495

The Ministry, Offices, Procedures and Nomenclature, A Report of the CTCR, The LC—MS, September 1981, #9-2424 {or find it on www.lcms.org/CTCR}

The Wounded Healer, Ministry in Contemporary Society, Henri J. M. Nouwen, Image Doubleday, 1972, ISBN3# 978-0385148030

Submission Policy and Deadlines

All Work Needs to Be Submitted In Microsoft Word Format to weiser@csl.edu from your official CSL e-mail account unless otherwise specified in this syllabus. Font style: 12-point font Times New Roman with 1-inch margins and double-spaced. **Include your last name at the top of each page (upper right) and number each page in the lower right (when applicable).**

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Each Reading Assignment for the specific week is MTRF unless otherwise specified. If there is no reading assigned for a given day have a Lutheran Beverage (after class, as some of you will, regardless). For each reading, you are expected to find the corresponding reading, when applicable, in the Pastoral Care Companion and be prepared to use it for class discussion! **You are EXPECTED to come to class prepared to discuss each assignment.**

THINKING THEOLOCIALLY (that is, why do you think the way you think OR, why did you answer the way you THOUGHTFULLY answered?) AND APPLYING YOUR SEMINARY FORMATION AND EDUCATION AS YOU HAVE COME TO LEARN ABOUT PASTORAL CARE ON VICARAGE/FIELD WORK AND, IN GENERAL, LIVING THE LIFE OF CHRIST IN THIS WORLD.

Blackboard: numbers in () refer to the chronological order of the material listed on a weekly basis. There may be some modifications and/or additions as the class proceeds. I'll keep 'you all' informed.

Week One: Sept 8-12 (Introduction of class syllabus: and pastoral case studies de jour)

1. Monday, 8th: Course Introduction/ Case Study (Q/A): Weise

2. Tuesday, 9th: A series of Case studies to introduce the course from A to Z. [thinking theologically and then, why do you respond theologically the way that you do? [Weise}]
3. Thursday, 11th: Continuation of Case studies [Weise]
4. Friday, 12th: Your turn: bring a case with you or a concern regarding 'the pastoral office' or 'pastoral care'. I will call on either you or one of your colleagues. **Be prepared for this one**. I will ask you turn in your case study at the end of class. These will be used throughout the term of this class without naming source(s).

Week Two: Sept 15-19 (The Nature of the Church; Church and Ministry)

1. Monday, 15th: Locating the Nature of the Church, ppt (2); plus notes (3)
2. Tuesday, 16th: Complete discussion on the Nature of the Church
3. Thursday, 18: Mueller/Kraus pp. 11-28 (The Office of the Holy Ministry); Church, Ministry and the Pastoral Office pptx (4)
4. Friday, 19th: Scriptural and Confessional Notes on Church, Ministry, Public Office (5). Summary notes on Call, Ordination and Installation (6)

Week Three: Sept 22-26: NO CLASS ON 23RD, SYMPOSIUM TO ATTEND (Office of the Holy Ministry continued; the Call, Ordination/Installation)

1. Monday, 22nd: Mueller/Kraus, pp. 19-54
2. Thursday, 25th: Mueller/Kraus, pp. 111-113 (through the paragraph ending on top of page 113)
3. Friday, 26th: The Ministry, Offices, Procedures and Nomenclature, CTCR Supplement to the Diploma of Vocation (7); Weise's Comments on the Office and Luther on Vocation, Part I (8); Luther on Vocation, Part II (9)

Week Four: Sept 29-30—Oct 2-3 (Call, Ordination/Installation; the Day After; Pastor: the Teacher of Distinctions [doctrinal judgments by laity]); worship and the Means of Grace (especially Baptism and the Holy Communion).

1. Monday, 29th: Finish any 'stuff' on the Call, Ordination/Installation; the Day After (10): Mueller/Kraus pp. 240-252 (Administration: day and non-day school); 55-60 relating to the pastor; Judging Doctrine: Pastor and Laity, ppt (11) and notes (12)
2. Tuesday, 30th: Continuation of Monday's material.
3. Thursday, **Oct 2nd**: Leftovers from Monday and Tuesday; worship: Mueller/Kraus, pp. 71-79.

4. Friday, 3rd: Mueller/Kraus, pp. 118-124 [Confession/Absolution]; pp. 86-107 [Baptism, including emergency baptism and public recognition of Holy Baptism, LSB Agenda pp17-18/ Lord's Supper, Eucharist.

Week Five: Oct 6-10: Close(d) Communion, Dr. Gibbs Paper, Summary Notes and Communion Statement from 1999 CTCR Document on Admission to the Lord's Supper

1. Monday, 6th: Close(d) Communion paper, Dr. Gibbs, CJ 1995, pdf (13)
2. Tuesday, 7th: Dr. Gibbs' paper on Close(d) Communion continued,
3. Thursday, 9th: Summary notes (14), LCMS summary notes (15) and Communion statement from CTCR, Admissions to the Lord's Supper, Nov 1999 (16): What about weddings and L.S.?
4. Friday, 10th: Summary Outline on Lord's Supper for Class discussion (17)

Week Six: Oct 13-17: October 14-18: Matthew 18, Church Discipline paper, Drs. Gibbs and Kloha [we will view the iTunes U video of their discussion on this topic

1. Oct 13th: Church Discipline, Mueller/Kraus pp. 179-184; Excommunication paper, Drs. Gibbs and Kloha, CJ 2003, pdf (18). iTunes U presentation by Drs. Gibbs and Kloha (~19minutes, in class viewing); LSB Agenda, p. 35-37
2. Oct 14th: Gibbs and Kloha paper discussion continued.
3. Oct 16th: Catch up day! Q/A over any previous material covered or anything on your mind!
4. Oct 17th: Catch up day with Case Studies ppt

Week Seven: October 20-24: Catch up week with Q/A on any topic for clarification and information; Dying Well In Christ; Funerals; Euthanasia/Physician Assisted Suicide.

1. Oct 20th: Dying Well IN Christ, pptx (19)—If a man dies, will he live again [Job 14:14].
2. Oct 21st: Dying Well IN Christ, continued/Euthanasia/Physician Assisted Suicide/Health Care Directives/Suicide by practicing Christian summary notes (20)
3. Oct 23rd: Mueller/Kraus pp. 111-117, pp. 141-148
4. Catch up day with Case Study(ies)

Week Eight: October 27-31:

1. Oct 27th: Funeral/Funeral form (21) with Weise's additional comments (22)

Mueller/Kraus pp. 151-157 (Pastoral Care and the Christian Funeral)

2. Oct 28th: Catch up day with case Study(ies)
3. Oct 30th: Lecture from Christina Ruzicka, Adjunct Professor in Applied Behavior Analysis, St. Louis, MO. This will focus on working with God's people of all ages who have specific disabilities (Christina is completing her Ph.D. from Southern Illinois University, Carbondale, IL. She is Dr. Weise's youngest of five daughters, married to St. Louis practicing Attorney, with one 2 year old daughter)
4. Catch up day with Case Study(ies)

Week Nine: November 3-7: The Wounded Healer [Nouwen]; Marriage, Divorce, Remarriage, 'Out-of-wedlock pregnancy and marriage: rural, inner city and suburban cultural influences] and Same Sex Attractions (including Same-Sex Unions—spouses for life)

1. Nov 3rd: **The Wounded Healer** discussion as it relates to pastoral life and care
2. Nov 4th: Introductory Outline on Marriage, divorce, remarriage by the Bible (23); **God and the Gay Christian**
3. Nov 5th: Biblical Marriage: Part I and II pptx (24-25); **Homosexuality and the Christian: A Guide for Parents, Pastors, and Friends**
4. Nov 6th: Biblical Marriage: Part III pptx (26); Mueller/Kraus pp. 187-215; BSA and Church Constitution/Bylaws relating to Same-sex unions/partnerships, etc. (27)

Week Ten: November 10-14: Aging IN Christ; Confirmation [adult and junior]; Early communion instruction. Youth Ministry

1. Nov. 10th: Aging and congregational Care Giving, pptx. (28); Nouwen's book: Aging and the Fulfillment of Life
2. Nov. 11th: Aging and congregational Care Giving, continued; Mueller/Kraus pp. 134-140;
Weise's paper from CJ [Winter 2014] **Marriage: The Divine and Blessed Walk of Life** (29)
3. Nov. 13th: Confirmation [junior and adult]
Secrete societies—Mueller/ Kraus, pp. 61-68
4. Nov. 14th: Final, in house exam 200 points (must receive

Final Exam, Book Reviews and Individual Project progressive grading scale

Final Exam: Take the final and pass for a minimum of a C, final grade (November 14th) = Passing is equivalent to a 70% or higher. If you receive below 70%, you will have one additional opportunity to pass the course with a C. If this should occur along with the Book Reviews or Individual Project, the highest grade that you can attain is a B-, regardless of the extra work.

Book Reviews and Analysis: pass final exam, plus complete book reviews with a passing grade of B, for a final course grade of B. If you do a lousy job with these book reviews, i.e. don't follow the directions and write a very sloppy review with insights that shows little work and thought, you will receive a C or C- for the Course Grade.

Student is required to write a two part brief paper for each of following 3 books: Matthew Vines' and Nouwen's books that are required reading. You are to write a brief (I.) Summary; and (II.) Share your Theological Insights. These parts must be subtitled in your book reviews. Each paper is 3-5 pages. No more than 5 pages or you will be docked one letter grade for each page over. These reports are due November 3rd, class-time.

Research Paper/Project. Pass final exam, plus complete book reviews with a minimum of a B- or A- as well as complete the research assignment that demonstrates that you have met your thesis statement, connected your slides so that the presentation can be followed and understood by the laity, then you will receive an A or A- as final course grade.

If you choose:

You are to prepare a presentation for an **Adult or High School Bible Class** on a topic covered in this course. Your topic should be divided into TWO PARTS, that is, **2 Sessions at about 45 minutes each, with time for Q/A. [This assignment should reflect your perspective on pastoral ministry as Vocation as well as a way-of-being in the world and the impact that this has on your approach to your topic]**

This presentation must be PowerPoint ready. You must include a **handout** for each PowerPoint session (Usually no more than 10-15 slides/session will cover the time, hence **more pictures and fewer words** on each slide). The handout should not exceed two pages. I am not interested in a copy of your answers to any questions that may be included in each session. Notes for each slide should be included in the bottom section of each slide under the heading: **click to add notes.**

TOPIC CHOICE: This is your call. Email you topic and thesis sentence to me by October 17th. I'll email you with my response and comments. You may chat with me personally after class, no problem.

This assignment is for your future parish work in assisting those whom you serve in structuring their thinking regarding their service to God, His church and neighbor.

This will be due on Thursday, November 13th by 5 pm. Your presentation and handout should be copied on a CD. Make sure that the CD has your name printed on it and its cover. If the server will take your ppt and handout, you may email both to me.