1. COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course will examine the area of pastoral ministry (either as pastor or staff member) as it relates to the local church. The primary focus of the study will relate directly to the office of pastor; however, staff members will also benefit from the overall approach to pastoral ministry. This study will include a description of biblical pastoral ministry including the pastoral role, relationships, and tasks. Included will be a brief survey of church organization, administrative tasks, and leadership.

2. COURSE OBJECTIVES:

(1) To help the student to develop a biblical understanding of pastoral ministry.
(2) To help the student understand and implement a methodology of biblical pastoral ministry.
(3) To develop a philosophy of biblical pastoral ministry.
(4) To help the student understand the importance of leadership as it relates to different aspects of ministry.

3. TEXTBOOK:

Pastoral Ministry: How to Shepherd Biblically by John MacArthur. It can be purchased from Christian Book Distributors and Amazon at reasonable prices.

4. COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

(1) Prepare a written philosophy of pastoral ministry. The paper should be approximately four to five (4-5) double spaced, typewritten pages. The philosophy should clearly begin to articulate the student’s position on what constitutes biblical pastoral ministry. Consider the following topics as elements of your philosophy: character and conduct of the pastor (or staff member); a brief statement of biblical leadership; a description of pastoral tasks related to pastoral ministry. You are not limited to these ideas; however, they are representative of what constitutes a philosophy. Due the last day of class. Worth 20% of grade.

(2) Read five (5) journal articles related to pastoral ministry; prepare abstracts on each article. Due October 6. Worth 20% of grade. The following format should be used for preparation of abstracts (taken from APA):

i. **ACCURATE**: ensure that an abstract correctly reflects the purpose and content of an article. Do not include any information that does not appear in the body of the paper.

ii. **CONCISE AND SPECIFIC**: make each sentence maximally informative, especially the lead sentence. Be as brief as possible.
iii. **NONEVALUATIVE**: report rather than evaluate; do not add to or comment on what is in the body of the manuscript.

iv. **COHERENT AND READABLE**: write in clear prose. Use verbs rather than noun equivalents and the active rather than the passive voice.

Remember, an abstract is a brief, comprehensive summary of the contents of an article; it allows the reader to survey the contents of an article quickly. An abstract should describe in 150-200 words:
- The topic, in one sentence if possible.
- The purpose, thesis, or organizing construct and the scope of the article.
- The conclusions and the implications or applications.

**ALL ABSTRACTS SHOULD BE TYPED AND DOUBLE SPACED.**

(3) Prepare a critical book review (book of your choice related to pastoral ministry but approved by the professor). The review should reflect that you have carefully read and evaluated the book. There should be three parts to your review:

i. **Thesis**: In one paragraph, give a brief statement of the main idea of the book.

ii. **Summary**: Write at least two sentences for each chapter; this may be in paragraph form.

iii. **Evaluation**: Most Important! (2 page minimum). Comment on the success of the author in achieving his/her purpose; analyze the strengths and weaknesses; give your personal opinion of the book. What was outstanding or interesting about it? Was it creative? Would you recommend the book to others? Why? Why not? How has the book contributed to your understanding of this course? *Due November 3*. *Worth 20% of grade.*

(4) Prepare assignments as assigned by the professor. *Worth 20% of grade.*

(5) Final Exam. *Worth 20% of grade.*