



Pastoral Ethics 411.42

Syllabus (Tentative)

Fall 2011

Professor: Randall Holm

Time: TBD

I. Course Description: 411.42

This course will examine ethical, moral, and pastoral issues that pastors and others in positions of pastoral responsibility need to be aware of. These are intended to teach students the unique moral and ethical responsibility of those who have a pastoral vocation. The course will also provide a clear statement of the ethical obligations that those in pastoral positions should assume in their persona and professional life.

II. Course Objectives

At the end of the course students should be able to:

- A. identify the ethical responsibilities of the pastoral vocation.
- B. identify the unique moral role of those in pastoral positions.
- C. provide a clear statement of the ethical responsibilities that people in pastoral positions should assume in their personal and professional life.
- D. provide a working template to assist clergy in working through dilemmas related to pastoral ministry.
- E. construct preventative measures designed to help clergy maintain their own personal and professional integrity.

III. Course Text:

Lebacqz, Karen. *Ethics and Spiritual Care*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2000.

Swetland, Kenneth. *The Hidden World of the Pastor*. Eugene: Wipf & Stock, 1995.

IV. Course Requirements

A. Survey (10%)

Choose the Canadian city of your choice and using revenue Canada's web site located at <http://www.cra-arc.gc.ca/ebsci/haip/srch/advancedsearch-eng.action> survey the giving practices of at least 10 churches in that area. Then in table form weigh information such as income, salaries, giving, assets and liabilities, number of employees and so forth. Include a two page summary of tendencies suggesting what signs to look for in a healthy church.

B. Project:

C. Research Project 40%

An integration project in three parts

i. Interview two clergy, one of whom is not in your denomination about ethical issues in the practice of ministry. Be sure to address several of the topics mentioned in class. What have been some of the specific issues the clergyperson has struggled in his or her ministry? How were they handled? Provide a transcript of the salient parts of your interview. (15%)

ii. In light of your clergy consultations construct a case study describing an ethical issue or dilemma in the practice of ministry. Then in 5-6 pages provide a written critical analysis of the case in which you draw on (a) your consultations with clergy, (b) any readings from the course, (c) and directions from your own denomination's code of ministerial ethics. Please provide text references for sources used. (10%)

iii. Present your case study to class. (5%)

C. Research Paper 30%

C. Research Paper

Students shall choose a topic dealing with a specific ethical issue in pastoral ministry and write a research paper on this topic. Be sure to include recent material. This paper should be 10 -12 pages in length. Be sure to confirm the topic with the professor. Turabian, APA or MLA style. 30%

D. The Think Tank

D. Class Participation 10%

On a regular basis students will be given a case study with often a particular point of view which they will debate with others in the class.

The grade will be based on being prepared, and one's participation.
30%

E. Grading

A+	Awarded Exceptional	C+	65-69
A	85-100	C	60-64
B+	80-84	D+	55-59
B	75-79	D	50-54
B-	70-74	F	0-49

V. COURSE OUTLINE

Forthcoming

VI. SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

Campbell, Charles. *The Word Before the Powers: An Ethic of Preaching*. Louisville: John Knox Press, 2002.

Chaffee, Paul. *Accountable Leadership: A Resource Guide for Sustaining Legal, Financial and Ethical Integrity in Today's Congregation*. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass Inc., 1997.

Davis, J. J. *Evangelical Ethics*, Phillipsburg, Pa: Presbyterian and Reformed, 1985.

Dawn, Marva. *A Royal Waste of Time: The Splendour of Worshiping God and Being Church for the World*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1999.

Drucker, Peter. *Managing the Nonprofit Organization: Principles and Practices*. San Francisco: Harper San Francisco, 1990.

Hahn, Celia Allison. *Growing in Authority, Relinquishing control: A New Approach to Faithful Leadership*, The Alban Institute, 1998.

Hands, Donald R., and Wayne Fehr. *Spiritual Wholeness for Clergy: A New Psychology of Intimacy with God, Self, and Others*. Bethesda, Md.: Alban Institute, 1993.

Hopkins, Nancy Myer. *The Congregation is Also a Victim: Sexual Abuse and Violation of Pastoral Trust*. Bethesda, Md.: Alban Institute, 1992.

Fortune, Marie. *Is Nothing Sacred? When Sex invades the Pastoral Relationship*. San Francisco: Harper San Francisco, 1989.

Luecke, David. *Pastoral Administration: Integrating Ministry and Management in the Church*. Irving Tex.: Word, 1986.

- Milco, Michael R. *Ethical Dilemmas In Church Leadership*. Grand Rapids: Kregel, 1997.
- Mueller, F. *Ethical Dilemma of Ministers*. London: C. Scribner & Sons, 1937.
- Noyce, G. *Pastoral Ethics*. Nashville: Abingdon, 1988.
- Shelley, M. *Well-Interntioned Dragons*. Waco: Word, 1985.
- Smedes, L. *Choices: Making right Decisions in a Complex World*. San Francisco: Harper & Row, 1986.
- Thompson, Robert and Gerald Thompson. *Organizing for Accountability: How to Avoid Crisis in Your Nonprofit Ministry*. Wheaton, Ill: Shaw, 1991.
- Tracey, Denise D. *Healing the Congregation: A Resource*. Bethesda, Md.: Alban Institute, 1995.
- Trull, J.E. and J. E. Carter. *Ministerial Ethics*. Nashville: Broadman and Holman, 1993.
- Warlick, Harold C. *How to be a Minister and a Human Being*. Valley Forge: Judson, 1982.
- Weist, Walter E., and Elan Smith. *Ethics in Ministry: A Guide for the Professional*. Minneapolis: Augsburg Fortress, 1990.

VII. EXPECTATIONS

Students: Students are expected to attend class having completed the necessary readings for that day and be prepared to engage the material. While laptop computers are a helpful tool, in class they are to be used for class purposes. Games, surfing the internet and other like activities during class time is inappropriate and disruptive to other students.

Professor: Students can expect the professor to grade and return assignments completed on time within a two-week window.

VIII. LATE ASSIGNMENT POLICY

Late written assignments with a note of explanation will be graded accordingly but will not receive a greater higher than B.

They will also forfeit the courtesy of maximum two-week turn around as indicated in VII: Expectations.

Note: Last day for voluntary withdrawal Nov. 13th

