

Pastoral Theology

Academic credits

2 KP (3 ECTS)

Prerequisites

None

Approved by

Methodological Commission (October 2021)

Course author and Lecturer

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Content (Course Annotation)

The course looks at theological guidelines and principles for spiritual office and ministry, based on Scripture, Lutheran confessions and the LELB rules on the service of pastors. Students shall obtain an idea of the specific nature of the clergy position and the various fields of ministry, as well as the basic principles and basic tasks of pastoral ministry. The various aspects and areas of ministry are considered, as well as the risks of a pastoral position. The course looks at both the clergyman's serving in the congregation and beyond that.

Aims

- Introducing students to the scope of pastoral theology;
- to give an idea of its biblical and ecclesiastic historical roots;
- to introduce terminology for pastoral theology;
- provide basic knowledge in pastoral theology;
- developing a biblical and confessional understanding of the position and service of the pastor;
- offer guidelines for forming the personality of the minister.

Learning Outcomes

Knowledge

The students will know:

- the Lutheran concept of pastoral theology and how it is founded in Scripture and confessional documents;
- LELB rules for pastoral ministry.

Assessment

Report
Final test

Skills

The students will be able to:

- apply the knowledge and skills acquired in the course;
- serve according to theological beliefs and values of the Church.

Final test

Competencies

The students will be able to:

- defend and justify the guidelines for Lutheran pastoral ministry;
- purposefully develop and form the personality of a serving cleric.
- theological reflections on personal faith, service and everyday situations in the field of pastoral theology.

Report
Final test

Assessment

	Learning Outcomes			% of the final score
	Knowledge	Skills	Competencies	
Report	+		+	50
Final test	+	+	+	50

FULL-TIME STUDIES

Lesson Plan

<i>Subject</i>	<i>Academic hours (45 min)</i>
1. Introduction to the course. Definition and subject matter of pastoral theology.	2
2. Call and ordination. The office of pastor. Dismissal from service, from office.	2
3. Beginning ministry and moving to another congregation, emeritus.	2
4. The personality of the pastor, spiritual life, family. Risk factors for pastoral ministry.	2
5. Pastor's theological ministry.	2
6. Principles of the liturgical ministry of the pastor.	2
7. Administrative service of the pastor.	2
8. Theological principles of the spiritual welfare.	2
9. Serving as a spiritual father.	2
10. Basic principles for special occasions. Baptism.	2
11. Confessional (general and private) and Absolution.	2
12. Holy Eucharist	2
13. Home visit.	2
14. Special Occasions. Confirmation. Marriage. Funeral.	2
15. Principles of serving as chaplain. Serving as hospital chaplain.	2
16. Serving as prison chaplain and an army chaplain.	2
TOTAL	32

Individual study plan

Individual studies	Number of hours
1. Study the sources specified by the lecturer.	24
2. Preparing a report	24
	48

Readings

Mandatory Readings

1. *Vienprātības Grāmata/ Liber Concordiae: Luterāņu ticības apliecības*. Rīga: AI, 2001.
2. Māsmans D. Red. *Augsburgas ticības apliecība šodien*. Rīga: LMF, 2001.
3. Plāte, N. *Confessio Augustana tulkojums un iztirzājums*. Rīga: Teoloģijas Seminārs, 1981.
4. Plāte, N. *Lekcijas poimēnikā*. Rīga: Teoloģijas Seminārs, 1982/83.
5. Klerijs, Donalds R. *Mērķi: kristīgā padomdevēja rokasgrāmata*. Rīga: Kristīgā ģimenes dzīve, 1990.
6. Hemnics, M. *Enbiridions*. Rīga: LMF, 2000.
7. Zasse, H. *Kas ir Luterisms?* Rīga: LMF, 1995.
8. Sanness K.O. *Luteriskā ticība: Augsburgas ticības apliecības skaidrojums draudžu cilvēkiem* — Rīga: LMF, 1995.

Additional Readings

1. Luksis, Jānis. *Dvēseļu kopšana*. Rīga: Teoloģijas Seminārs, 1979.
2. *Lutheran Service Book*. Saint Louis: CPH, 2006.
3. Senkbeil, Harold L. *The Care of Souls: Cultivating a Pastor's Heart*. Lexham Press, 2019. Accessed 16 September 2021 at the Logos Online Library.
4. Walther, C.F.W. *Pastoral Theology*. Saint Louis: CPH, 2017.
5. Warneck, Richard H. *Pastoral Ministry: Theology and Practice*. Saint Louis: CPH, 2018.