COURSE DESCRIPTION

Pastoral care is the art of ministry as it relates to the psychological and theological needs of persons and faith communities. In this course we will consider both theories of pastoral care and specific interventions for predictable human needs including death, illness, trauma, birth, marriage, divorce, life passage celebrations, etc. Modern understandings of pastoral care are necessarily rooted in biblical and cultural faith traditions that include the pastoral roles of wise guide, prophet and priest (Gerkin, 1997). In addition to basic pastoral care and brief counseling for individuals, couples, families and communities, we will consider the ethical context of pastoral care, the healing functions of ritual, and theological responses to the question of theodicy: “Why do bad things happen to good people?”

Course participants will be asked to draw on their own experience in ministry and in life to role play pastoral care dialogues and to study specific cases. We will seek to balance the rich data contained in the “here and now” of pastoral interactions with the frameworks of faith, ethics and theological reflection that inform our pastoral service. We will give attention to the pastor’s own need for care in relation to the varied demands of care giving.

While a formal consideration of pastoral care traditions outside the Christian faith is beyond the scope of this course, examples of pastoral care from other faith traditions are welcome. Considering other faiths can lead to a deeper appreciation of both the strengths and relative weaknesses of Christianity as a contemporary way of life. It is possible to be centered in Christ while remaining open to the world views of other faiths. Such openness is essential when dealing with secular culture, unchurched seekers, religious diversity, and the shortcomings we find in ourselves and others. Chaplains and many pastors will find themselves called to minister in interfaith contexts.
OBJECTIVES

This course is intended as a theoretical and experiential introduction to the contexts of pastoral care. You will be expected not only to retain facts and absorb concepts, but also to develop your "observing ego" in relation to self and others. In general, you are asked to maintain a curious, non-judgmental stance to the best of your ability. A rigid, reactive stance (ex: "I'm right, you're wrong") is unlikely to be conducive to your learning. You are encouraged to express your likes and dislikes, your beliefs and convictions in relation to course material, the instructor and your peers. Course evaluations will receive careful attention after grades have been submitted.

If you leave this class with an enhanced ability to be attentive and curious about your own experience and that of others, you will have fulfilled the primary objective of the course. You will find the open attitude thus developed to be a substantial asset in ministry, be it congregational leadership, chaplaincy, counseling or other forms of service. Openness must of course be balanced with clear commitments based on your own experience of faith and sense of self. The course may be used to clarify your own commitments as well.

Class process:

First hour – 2:15-3:10 - Meet together in main classroom (room 166) for group presentations, as scheduled, or for lecture and discussion of assigned readings.
Second hour – 3:20-4 - Role plays in small groups.
Third hour – 4:10-5 - Lecture and discussion, experiential exercises and/or video illustrations of course material.

REQUIRED TEXTS

(Available at CTS bookstore and on library reserve)


Bibliography for Suggested Readings

(Available on library reserve, as marked *, see below)
COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Requirements and Evaluation:

Your final evaluation for the course will be based on class participation (10%), a group presentation and annotated bibliography on a pastoral care topic of your choice (20%), a verbatim paper of 5-7 pages (20%), a case study paper of 7-10 pages (20%), participation in two role plays (5% x 2 = 10%) and a final exam including multiple choice and short essays based on course material (20%). The average preparation time to complete all assignments is between 6-9 hours per week or 1-1.5 hours a day. The expectations for each requirement are as follows:

1) Class participation will be evaluated based on your punctual, consistent, attentive presence in class. Verbal participation should give evidence of receptivity to the questions and ideas of others as well as effective articulation of one's own reflections. Completing assigned readings before class is essential to effective participation. (10% of grade).

2) Group presentation: The class will be divided into groups of 3-5 based on your learning objectives for the course. Each group will sign up for a presentation date based either on the theme for the week, one of the sample topics listed below, or another topic relevant to pastoral care to be chosen in consultation with the instructor. You will need to meet with your co-presenters at least once to plan your presentation.

   Each presentation should include 1) a 5-10 page reading to be distributed the week BEFORE your presentation as orientation to your topic, 2) a one page handout outlining your topic and offering relevant resources for congregations (self-help books, web addresses, phone numbers for self-help groups, etc.) and an annotated bibliography for further study. Your bibliography should include both books and articles from pastoral care journals. Books should be primarily recent and scholarly but can include some excellent popular sources you recommend and some “classics” as well. Your bibliography should be in APA format. Please annotate the bibliography with two or three sentences that indicate what the book or article is about and why you have chosen it. Suggested length: 10-12 entries.

   Every member of your group should have a role in the presentation. You will have about 20-30 minutes to present followed by 10-20 minutes of questions and discussion with the class (40 minutes total allotted time). At the end of your presentation time everyone in the class (including you) will be asked to fill out a brief evaluation. These will be reviewed by the instructor and handed back the following week. Every member of the group will receive the same grade. (20% of grade).

   Successful presentations will meet all of the above criteria AND be focused on best practices for dealing with a specific pastoral care concern as it relates to the minister’s role. See sample presentation topics listed below.

3) Role plays: There are 3 basic roles – the care seeker(s), the care giver(s) and the observer(s). Care seekers will receive a brief scenario the week before to prepare. Care givers and observers do their work “live”, while observed by the larger group in a “fish bowl.” Everyone is expected to take one turn as a care giver and a second turn in one of the other roles. Role plays will be allowed 15 minutes followed by 15 minutes of evaluation and discussion by the observers. (10% of grade). Role plays generally take place in small groups.
4) **Paper One: Verbatim reflection:** – Describe a pastoral care situation in which you were either the care giver or the care seeker. What did you learn about yourself in this situation? How were your responses to the situation conditioned by your own life experience? Did you give and/or receive effective care? How do you know? Use the CPE model as described by Doehring, exercise 1 page 33 and as illustrated by David in *Healing Wisdom.* The paper should include the following sections: 1) Introduction of the context, 2) numbered verbatim of a conversation between careseeker and caregiver, 3) self-reflection, 4) theological reflection. Suggested length: 5-7 pages. **Due dates: 2/14 or 2/21.** (20% of grade).

5) **Paper Two: Case presentation:** – Describe a pastoral care case based on Capps and Fowlers guidelines. Assess the actual outcome and provide alternate outcomes for the case. Feel free to cite sources in addition to course texts. Please include *bibliography in APA format* (see Capps and Fowler bibliography for examples) and be sure to include a title page, headings, and page numbers. Suggested length: 7-10 pages. **Due dates: 3/20 or 3/27.** (20% of grade)

6) **Final exam based on course material:** This is a two hour, closed book, take home exam. Practice questions for the exam will be given out no later than Week 12 (4/17). The questions will be based on course reading and class lectures. The exam will be handed out **Tuesday 4/24** at the end of class and will be due **Monday April 30th by NOON.** Hard copy is preferred but you may also submit your exam as a document attached to e-mail PROVIDED you send the attachment in a Microsoft Word format. (15% of grade). The class WILL meet at its scheduled time during exam week for a final wrap up session.

**Sample Presentation/Bibliography Topics:**

- **Grief work, bereavement and loss:** Responding effectively to loss in its many forms: death of a loved one, divorce, perinatal loss, loss of a child, loss of health, loss of job;
- **Small group ministry issues:** Benefits and pitfalls of small groups for bible study, peer support, spiritual growth, social service. Pitfalls include gossip, lack of confidentiality, dual relationships, boundary issues etc.;
- **Diversity issues** in pastoral care: Pick a specific topic such as ethnicity, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, religious differences etc.;
- **Women’s issues** in pastoral care: Choose a developmental issue by age, or specific concern such as being single, becoming a widow, divorce, infertility, lack of self care, family vs. career, or traumas such as rape, domestic violence, etc.;
- **Care for the caregiver:** How to stay sane and centered in the midst of a busy, demanding ministry, via prayer disciplines, peer support, play, exercise, etc.;
- **Men’s issues** in pastoral care: Unmet dependency needs, emotional isolation, lack of mentors, frozen emotions, lack of self care, divorce, career problems, trauma, etc.;
- **Healing through ritual:** Specific rituals for specific needs and occasions – how to design a useful ritual for healing, drawing on both tradition and the specific needs of the present circumstance;
- **Premarital counseling:** Resources for premarital counseling, what works well, what doesn’t, the importance effective premarital counseling, etc.;
- **Brief counseling and pastoral care:** The limits of counseling in a given pastoral care setting, effective tools for brief counseling, initial assessment, when and where to refer persons for whom further counseling is indicated, the need for counseling supervision;
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- Spiritual direction and pastoral care: The pastor’s role as spiritual guide to meet the need for spiritual healing, traditions, support networks, the need for one’s own grounding in spiritual direction and supervision;
- Self supervision in pastoral care: How to recognize when supervision is needed and where to get it;
- Ethical issues in pastoral care: Specific instances of ethical problems or violations, how to prevent them and how healing can occur after the fact;
- Youth ministry issues: How to organize an effective youth ministry, issues specific to youth such as identity crises, suicide, peer pressure, risks from sex or drugs, etc.
- Children’s ministries (birth to pre-teen): Helping children feel welcome and valued. Children’s needs surrounding death, illness, divorce, adoption, problems at home or at school.
- Addictions: How to recognize addicted individuals and families struggling with addictions in many forms – alcohol, illegal or prescription drugs, gambling, pornography, etc. How to set up interventions for persons who are not ready to seek help on their own.

Criteria for grading:

Written work will be evaluated for 1) clarity of expression – please proofread! (this includes sentence structure, paragraph structure, spelling, punctuation), 2) acuity of observation (whether of oneself or others), 3) accurate use of theory (appropriate theorists, accurate and relevant citations, etc.), 4) creativity and originality, including thoughtful dialogue between the perspectives of psychology, theology, faith, ethics and spirituality. Be sure to include name, date, title, headings and page numbers on all papers.

The oral component of presentations and class participation will be evaluated based on your consistent ability to ask thoughtful questions, contribute to class and group discussion, and demonstrate thorough appropriation of course material. Please avoid the extremes of either never speaking or dominating the airwaves.

We will be using an Inside CTS site for this course. Thoughtful questions contributed to the site will be weighted the same as questions asked in class in evaluating your overall class participation. Students are encouraged to dialogue on the site. Questions will be addressed by the instructor in class.
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COURSE OUTLINE

Introduction: The Nature of Pastoral Care

Week 1: 1/17  Introductions to the course and each other  
(turn in learning goals questionnaire, sign up for presentations)
- Defining pastoral care
- Learning through case presentations
- Learning through role plays
- Individual and group learning objectives for this course

Week 2: 1/24  What is pastoral care? What faith commitments inform our ministries?
Class readings: Healing wisdom, pp. 3-33 (Hunter, Davis) (30pp)  
Butler, Chs. 1 & 2 (19pp.)  
Cooper-White, introduction and Ch. 1 (25pp)  
Richardson, Intro and Ch. 1 (20pp)
Sign up for presentations and paper due dates

Suggested readings:
Gerkin, part one – History of contexts of pastoral care (114pp)  
Soelle, Ch. 1 – Christian masochism (32pp)  
Armistead, Chs. 1 and 2 (57pp)

Week 3: 1/31  The role of faith communities in care giving and formation
Class readings: Healing wisdom, pp. 34-54 (Lee) (20)
Doehring, Introduction, Chs. 1 & 2 (34pp)  
Butler, Ch. 3 (27)  
Cooper-White, Ch. 2 (8)  
Richardson, Chs. 2 & 3 (12)

Suggested readings:
Gerkin, part two – Caring for Christian community (35pp)  
Soelle, Ch. 2 – Critique of Christian apathy (27pp)  
Wimberly, Chs. 1 and 2 – Male hierarchy and human wholeness (African-American context) (24pp)  
Armistead, Chs. 3 & 4 (56pp)  
Kornfeld, Chs. 2, 4 or 5

Part One: Ministry through the life cycle

Week 4: 2/7  Marriage and birth: care for couples and young families
Class readings: Savage, Ch. 1 (20)  
Cooper-White, Ch. 3 (25)  
Butler, Ch. 4 (26)  
Richardson, Chs. 4 & 5 (24)  
Mitchell & Anderson, Chs. 1 & 2 (15)  
Doehring, Chs. 3 & 4 (28)
Suggested readings:

*Human Development and Faith*, Introduction through Ch. 4
Gerkin, Ch. 7 (16pp)
Wimberly, Chs. 3 and 4 (25pp)
Armistead, Ch. 5 through bibliography (19pp)

**Week 5: 2/14  Care for children: ministry through faith formation**

**Class readings:** *Healing wisdom*, Rizzuto chapter, pp. 57-71 (14pp)
Savage, Chs. 2 & 3 (19)
Butler, Ch. 5 (22)
Cooper-White, Ch. 4 (24)
Fowler, Ch. 1 (28)

**Suggested readings:**
HD&F Chs. 5, 6, 7
Wimberly, Ch. 5 (13pp)
Glaz and Stevenson Moessner, Ch. 1 (32pp)
Mitchell and Anderson, Chs. 1 and 2 (34pp)

**Reading week: no class on Tuesday 2/28**

**Week 6: 2/21  Care for youth: ministry through mentoring**

**Class readings:** Savage, Chs. 4-6 (19pp)
Capps and Fowler, Ch. 2 (32pp)
Butler, Ch. 6 (26)
Cooper-White, Ch. 5 (44)

**Suggested readings:**
HD&F, Chs. 8 or 9
Gerkin, Ch. 8 (18pp)

**Reading week: no class on Tuesday 2/28**

**Week 7: 3/6  Care for young adults (20-40) & middle adults (40-60): ministry for vocation**

**Class readings:** *Healing wisdom*, Jones chapter, pp.109-121 (12 pages)
Butler, Ch. 7 (16)
Savage, Chs. 7-9 (44)
Capps and Fowler, Chs. 3 & 4 (50)

**Suggested readings:**
HD&F Ch. 10 or 11
Harville Hendrix, *Getting the Love You Want*, Ch. 7 or 8
Gerkin, Ch. 9 (17pp)
Wimberly, Chs. 7 and 8 (30pp)
Glaz and Stevenson Moessner, Chs. 2 and 3 (52pp)
Neuger and Poling, Ch. 3 (21pp)
Week 8: 3/13 Care for older adults (60+); ministry for generativity and redemption
Class readings: Capps and Fowler, Chs. 5, 6 & epilogue (56pp)
Mitchell and Anderson, Chs. 3 and 4 (50pp)

Suggested readings:
HD&F, Chs. 12 and 13
Gerkin, Ch. 10 (22pp)
Soelle, Ch. 4 (34pp)

Week 9: 3/20 Care in times of illness, loss, dying and death
Paper Two – due date one
Class readings: Doehring, Chs. 7 & 8 (31)
Richardson, Chs. 6-10 (4)
Mitchell and Anderson, Chs. 5 and 6 (17pp)

Suggested readings:
HD&F, Ch. 14
Gerkin, Ch. 11 (13pp)
Neuger and Poling, Ch. 10 (24pp)
Glaz and Stevenson Moessner, Ch. 7 (15pp)

Part Two: Ministry for specific contexts of care

Week 10: 3/27 Dealing with disempowerment due to class, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, abuse, addictions, disability, mental illness
Paper Two – due date two
Class readings: Healing wisdom, Johnson chapter, pp. 157-177 (20pp.)
Richardson, Chs. 11-14 (33)
Doehring, Chs. 5 & 6 (45)

Suggested readings:
Neuger and Poling, Ch. 4 or 5
Wimberly, Ch. 9 (15pp)
Soelle, Ch. 3 (25pp)
Glaz and Stevenson Moessners, Chs. 5 and 6 (36pp)
Neuger and Poling, Chs. 7 and 8 (45pp)

14th annual Spirituality & Psychotherapy lectures
Friday March 30th & Saturday March 31st
Drs. Edward and Ann Wimberly
The Role of Narrative and Story in Pastoral Counseling
(E-mail LifeEd@cts.edu to register –free to CTS students)

Easter Recess: no class Tuesday 4/3
Week 11: 4/10 Ethical boundaries, spiritual direction, healing through ritual

Class readings: Doehring, Ch. 9 and conclusion (27)
    Cooper-White, Chs. 6 & 7 (62)
    Savage, Chs. 10 & 11 (32)
    Mitchell and Anderson, Ch. 7 (23pp)

AND: Please bring a copy of your denomination’s statement of ethics in ministry to share with the class (if more than one page, please bring a one page summary as well)

Suggested readings:
    TBA re: topics for this week
    Neuger and Poling, Chs. 1, 6 and 9 (45pp.)

Week 12: 4/17 Brief counseling and referral for men’s and women’s issues

Class readings: Wimberly, Ch. 6 (16pp)
    Savage, Chs. 10 and 11 (32pp)
    Glaz and Moessner, Chs. 4 and 9 (32pp)
    Neuger and Poling, Chs. 2 (24pp)

Suggested readings:
    Kornfeld, Ch. 6 (Solution-focused counseling)
    Armistead

Practice exam questions handed out

Week 13: 4/24 Facing conflict in faith communities

Class readings: Healing wisdom, Lyon chapter, pp. 141-156 (15pp)
    Ramsay, Chs. 6 & 7 (43)
    Mitchell and Anderson, Ch. 8 (12pp)

Suggested readings:
    Augsburger
    Soelle, Ch. 5 (29pp)
    Glaz and Stevenson Moessner, Ch. 8 (27pp)

Take home exam given out at the end of class

(April 30 - May 4 - Exam Week)

Week 14: 5/1 Care for the caregiver

Take home exam due Monday 5/3 (see instructions above)

Suggested readings: TBA on theme of self-care
    Glaz and Moessner, Ch. 10 (27pp)
    Soelle, Ch. 6 (27pp)

Course evaluations (submit online to receive course grades, due 5/7 or 21)
Bibliography for Presentation Readings (priorities for reserve shelf as highlighted)

Women in travail and transition / Glaz and Stevenson-Moessner.
An introduction to pastoral care / Gerkin.
Suffering / Soelle
The care of men / Neuger and Poling
Counseling African American marriages and families / Wimberly

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<td>All our Losses, All our Griefs</td>
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<td>Interfaith Spiritual Care</td>
<td>Schipani/Bueckert, eds.</td>
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<td>Listening and Caring Skills In Ministry</td>
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<td>BV 4012.2.C66 2004</td>
<td>Shared Wisdom</td>
<td>Cooper-White</td>
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- Foster, Charles. (1996). We are the church together: Cultural diversity in congregational life. Valley Forge: Trinity Press.

NB: the Kelcourse articles below should be available on the CTS faculty web page.

- ________.”The role of pastoral counseling in the life of the church” Encounter 63: 1&2, Spring, 2002.
- ________ “Wise as serpents…or, what I needed to learn in seminary but was too naïve to ask”. Encounter 61:4, 449-464, 2000.
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With every blessing for your present and future ministry

Felicity Kelcourse

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