

Taylor Seminary

PC 531 Essentials of Pastoral Care

January Intersession 2012 (part of Fall Semester 2011)

Taylor Seminary's Mission:

To develop Christ-minded leaders who make a difference in the world

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SCHEDULE: Jan 2-6 8:00a.m. – noon. 1:00p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

CREDITS: 3

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

A practicum course facilitating the understanding and acquiring of basic pastoral care skills for the Christian ministry. Attention will be given to the learning of active listening skills as well as to the practical involvement of students in doing pastoral care in a ministry setting. The combination of classroom interaction, the pastoral care experiences and the interaction with a mentoring pastor or supervisor will enable students to grow in the integration of the theological and behavioural aspects of pastoral care. Three credits.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

By the end of the course the student should be able to:

1. Engage in theological reflection on experiences of giving and receiving pastoral care.
2. Empathetically and skilfully dialogue with people and demonstrate redemptive presence regardless of external circumstances.
3. Develop an approach that is systematic and practical to pastoral care considering all of the other demands within a ministry context.
4. Understand the basic skills for providing pastoral care to people in need.
5. Articulate a biblical theology of pastoral care.
6. Appreciate and utilize the spiritual resources available in Jesus Christ for embodying pastoral care.

REQUIRED TEXTS:

Nouwen, Henri J.M., Donald P. McNeill, and Douglas A. Morrison. *Compassion: A Reflection on the Christian Life*. New York: Doubleday, 1983. (160 pages)

Purves, Andrew. *Pastoral Theology in the Classical Tradition*. Louisville, Ken.: Westminster/John Knox Press, 2001 (125 pages)

Patton, John. *Pastoral Care: An Essential Guide*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2005. (120 pages)

Stairs, Jean. *Listening for the Soul: Pastoral Care and Spiritual direction*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2000. (213 pages)

Stone, Howard. *Crisis Counselling (3rd Edition)*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2009 (128 pages)

Thompson, Leonard. *Developing the Spiritual Life*. Edmonton: Urban Centre for Evangelical Spiritual Formation, 2010.

_____. *Strengthening Spiritual Relationships*. Edmonton: Urban Centre for Evangelical Spiritual Formation, 2010.

_____. *Conquering the Flesh Nature*. Edmonton: Urban Centre for Evangelical Spiritual Formation, 2010.

_____. *Discerning a Deeper Sense of Calling*. Edmonton: Urban Centre for Evangelical Spiritual Formation, 2010.

REQUIREMENTS:

1. Pre-Reading

In order to maximize the classroom discussion and learning students should read the texts written by Andrew Purves and Jean Stairs prior to the first day of classes and submit the following assignment on the first day of class (**January 2**)

1. Soul Care Class Exercises and Critiques (10%)

- Write a two page theological critique of *Listening for the Soul*, written according to the standards of the *Guide for Research and Writing (SBL style)*, (5%)
- Write a two page theological critique of *Pastoral Theology in the Classical Tradition*, written according to the standards of the *Guide for Research and Writing (SBL style)* 5%

2. Quizzes on Assigned Readings (30%):

- Students should be prepared to answer a short reading quiz on the following books on the days specified.
- Jan 3 – Howard Stone
- Jan 5 – John Patton
- On Line Quiz – Jan13 - Nouwen
- Estimated time to read all of the assigned reading in assignments 1 and 2 – 50 hours

3. Participate in the on-line discussion on the topic of spiritual maturity - 15%
 - Each student will be required to respond to four on-line forum presentations and question with a 200 word response and at least 3 interactions with other students in the forum for each presentation. Each Forum will be only open until 12 am on each of the due dates.
 - Forum 2 – Jan 27 – 5%
 - Forum 3 – Feb 3 – 5%
 - Forum 4 - Feb 10 – 5%
 - Estimated time to complete your responses and discussion – 10 hours

4. Journal Assignment – 15%

Hand in answers to the questions at the end of each chapter of the books, *Strengthening Spiritual Relationships*, and *Conquering the Flesh Nature*, **Due Jan 20th, midnight**

 - Estimated time to complete this assignment - 10 hours

5. Position Paper – in lieu of a Final Exam (30%): **due Feb 10, midnight**
 - Estimated time to finish assignment; 16 hours to research and write position paper.
 - a. Based on class lectures, reading materials, your experiences in pastoral care, and your research, compose an outline of your theology of pastoral care: **due Jan 31, midnight.**
 - b. Then, write a 2000 word Theology of Pastoral Care position paper, done in research style and should also reference other resources with proper footnoting that addresses the following issues:
 - i. A biblical and theological basis for pastoral care.
 - ii. A projection describing how pastoral care will be incorporated into your ministry.
 - iii. An assessment of specific personal strengths, weaknesses, and limitations that you bring to the caring situation.
 - iv. A plan you will utilize to improve your ministry as a pastoral care provider.
 - c. Students will receive up to 5% for the outline and up to 25% for the Theology of Pastoral Care position paper.
 - d. Estimated time to finish assignment; 16 hours to research and write paper

PENALTIES:

1. All written assignments are to be submitted at the beginning of class on the day they are due.
2. A **10% reduction** in the grade will be assessed for **each day** that the assignment is late.
3. Assignments submitted after 5 days will not be marked by the Instructor. The student will receive an automatic “0%” grade. The only exceptions are as follows:
 - a. A written request for an extension must be submitted to the Instructor prior to the due date of the assignment, adequately describing the highly unusual circumstances that warrant an extension.
 - b. Authentic last-minute emergencies will be dealt with on a case-by-case basis.
4. Attendance at all classes is mandatory. A **5% reduction** in the grade will be assessed for **each** unexcused absence.

EVALUATION:

- Assignment 1 - Critique – 10%**
- Assignment 2 - Quizzes - 30%**
- Assignment 3 – On-Line Discussion – 15%**
- Assignment 4 – Journal – 15%**
- Assignment 5 - Position Paper – 30%**

COURSE OUTLINE

Topics and Reading Assignments

January 2 Morning Topic - Introduction to each other, instructor and course.

Lecture: Pastoral Identity in the Classical Tradition with particular attention to Richard Baxter’s *The Reformed Pastor*. Who is a pastor?

January 2 Afternoon Lecture: Pastoral Responsibility - What does God expect of pastors?

January 3 Morning Lecture: Pastoral Qualities and Skills – How do pastors tend to people’s souls?

January 3 Afternoon – The Marks of a Healthy Congregation – What measuring sticks are valid?

January 4 Soul Care – This day will be an in-class demonstration of soul care and spiritual direction through interaction between the students and the instructor.

January 5th Morning Lecture – Pastoral Care in Emergency Situations

January 5th Afternoon Lecture – Pastoral Care and Worship through Administering Ordinances

January 6th Morning Lecture – Worship in times of Celebration and Grief

January 6th Afternoon Lecture – Spiritual Development and Life Stages

Bibliography

- Benner, David G., Hill, Peter C. Baker Encyclopedia of Psychology & Counseling. Second Edition. Baker, 1999.
- _____. Strategic Pastoral Counseling: A Short-Term Structure Model. Second Ed. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2003.
- Burck, Russell. "Pastoral Care and the People of God." Pastoral Psychology, Vol. 30 (Summer 1982): 139-52.
- Clinebell, Howard. Basic Types of Pastoral Care and Counseling: Resources for the Ministry of Healing and Growth. Revised Edition. Nashville: Abingdon, 1984.
- Crabb, Larry. The Safest Place on Earth: Where People Connect and Are Forever Changed. W. Publishing Group, 1999.
- Gibson, Scott M. *Preaching for Special Services*. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 2001
- Kopp, Herb. Soul Care: Caregiving in the Church. Kindred Press, 2001.
- Lewis, C.S. The Problem of Pain. New York: Macmillan.
- _____. A Grief Observed. New York: Bantam Books, 1961.
- Malphurs, Aubrey and Keith Willhite, eds. *A Contemporary Handbook for Weddings and Funerals and Other Occasions*. Grand Rapids: Kregel, 2003.
- Martens, Larry, et al. Direction (Spring, 1992): Vol. 21, No. 1, (pp. 1-51).
- Patton, John. Pastoral Care in Context: An Introduction to Pastoral Care. Louisville, Ken.: Westminster/John Knox Press, 1993.
- Schmitt, Abraham & Dorothy. When a Congregation Cares. Herald Press, 1984.
- Switzer, David K. *Pastoral Care Emergencies: Ministering to People in Crisis*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2000.
- Vaughan, Richard P. Basic Skills for Christian Counselors. New York: Paulist Press, 1987.
- Wilson, Earl & Sandy, et al. Restoring the Fallen: A Team Approach to Caring, Confronting & Reconciling. Intervarsity, 1997.
- Wolterstorff, Nicholas. *Lament for a Son*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1987.
- Yancey, Philip. Where is God When it Hurts? Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1997.
- Zonnebelt-Smeenge, Susan J., & De Vries, Robert C. Getting to the Other Side of Grief. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 1998.