

PTPC 60003: Pastoral Care in a Complex World

Instructor: Barbara J. McClure, Ph.D.

Prerequisites: none

Description of Content:

This course introduces students to basic theories, theologies and methods of pastoral care, especially in the ecclesial context. This course assumes that care is mediated through acts of pastoral leadership, liturgy, preaching and the forming of congregational life and programming as well as through specific individual conversations. Special attention is paid to the *person* of the pastor as caregiver and leader of a community of faith and care. Theories and methods of care are related to real and practical problems a pastor faces in a congregation including illness and death, grief and loss, marriage and family issues, domestic violence and abuse. Skills learned will include listening, analysis of systems, and diagnosis and referral.

Class Procedures:

Class time will include lecture, discussion of assigned texts, role plays, case studies and reflection, papers, and weekly reading prompts. Classes will typically include a reading prompt, lecture and discussion of texts, as well as practical application through the use of case studies, role plays, a variety of exercises to practice care, and analysis and discussion of these.

Requirements:

Class participation:

Attendance: On-time attendance is required for this course. For every missed class and for every late attendance after the second, you will receive a grade reduction of 2 points from your final grade. You will not pass the course if you miss more than three classes or are late more than four times. *You are responsible to get any materials from missed classes from a fellow student.*

Reading Prompts ("RP's"): RP's will be given each class to test your understanding of the readings and to give you ongoing feedback on your strengths and weaknesses regarding the readings. They are also intended to give persons who find it difficult to speak in class to demonstrate their preparation through reading and understanding the material for the week. These prompts will be used by you during discussion and handed in to the professor at the end of class. They will be graded as follows: ___=95; ___ = 85 ___=75; ___=35. At the end of the semester your grade will be averaged and factored into your final grade.

Discussion participation: Class participation is critical in this course. One cannot learn the arts of pastoral care without engagement and practice. This course is geared toward helping students gain confidence and proficiency at providing pastoral care in various settings. Careful preparation of readings, plus consistent, worthwhile participation in class sessions is expected. Class participation will be graded on thoughtfulness of questions and comments, evidence of preparation and knowledge base, and general willingness to participate in a community of learners.

You cannot fully participate in class and surf the web/FaceBook/blog or watch your cell phone at the same time. Cell phones must be off and away during class (you will have a break during each class to check it). If you choose to have your computer in class to take notes, you must send a copy of your notes at the end of each day to the professor. If you fail to do so, or if your notes do not demonstrate full participation, this will be reflected in your participation grade. If you are on your phone during class, I will ask you to step out of the room, and if you fall asleep, I will wake you.

The standard grade for average participation is an 85. Outstanding participation will raise this grade, poor participation will lower it.

Assignments:

There are three 10-12pp graded papers in the course.

Texts:

Twelve texts are required for this course, and one (*) is on reserve:

Gunderson, Gary. *Deeply Woven Roots: Improving the Quality of Life in Your Community* (Augsburg Fortress Press, 1997)

Kornfeld, Margaret. *Cultivating Wholeness: A Guide to Care and Counseling in Faith Communities* (New York: Continuum, 2002) [out of print; order used online]

Kujawa-Holbrook, S. and Montagno, K. *Injustice and the Care of Souls: Taking Oppression Seriously in Pastoral Care* (Augsburg Fortress, 2009)

Lartey, Emmanuel. *In Living Color: An Intercultural Approach to Pastoral Care and Counseling*, 2nd edition (Jessica Kingsley, 2003)

McGoldrick, Monica. *The Genogram Journey: Reconnecting with your Family* (W.W. Norton, 2011)

Mitchell, K. and Anderson, H. *All Our Losses, All Our Grievs: Resources for Pastoral Care* (Philadelphia: Westminster Press, 1983)

Richardson, Ronald. *Creating a Healthier Church* (Augsburg Fortress Press, 1996)

Savage, John. *Listening and Caring Skills* (Abingdon, 1996)

Scheib, Karen. *Pastoral Care: Telling the Stories of Our Lives* (Abingdon Press, 2016)

Spickard, A. and Thompson, B. *Dying for a Drink: What you and Your Family Should Know About Alcoholism* (T. Nelson, 2005)

Wilson, K.J. *When Violence Begins at Home* 2nd edition (Hunter House, 2005)

Wimberly, Edward. *Counseling African American Marriages and Families* (Westminster John Knox Press, 1997)

*Hunter, Rodney, ed. *Dictionary of Pastoral Care and Counseling* (DPCC) (Abingdon, 1990)

All books will be on reserve in the library. There will be additional articles on TCU Online. (See reading assignments in the syllabus).

Grading and Evaluation

Grading assessments are made according to the official definition of letter grades in the Divinity School. Letter grades are defined numerically according to the following formula: A = 94-100 (90-93 = A-, etc.), B = 84-86 (87-89 = B+, 80-83 B-, etc.) The lowest passing grade for the course = 60. Work not submitted will receive a "0". By BDS policy, incomplete grades are given only for genuine, unforeseeable emergencies such as accident or illness. They require application through the Registrar's office.

Course grades will be determined as follows:

Receiving Care paper	15%
Family of Origin paper/Genogram	20%
Act of Giving Care paper	25%
Class Participation	20%
RP cumulative score	20%