

PTPC 75970/85970/95970 section 002
Special Topics in Pastoral Care – Pastoral Responses to Experiences of Aging
(3 Semester Hours)
Fall 2019

Instructor: Nancy Ramsay

Prerequisites: PTPC 60003

Description of Content:

In this seminar we will develop a theology of aging shaped by interdisciplinary study of processes of aging that informs ministry with persons across the lifespan. We will address the implications for ministry practice of an aging society and denominations. We will address issues that predictably arise in ministry with those who are older and elderly and their families. We will explore individual, systemic, and congregational perspectives on ministry in response to experiences of aging across the lifespan.

Class Procedures:

1. Lectures
2. Experiential exercises
3. Class discussion

Requirements for Masters' Students

1. Attendance and informed participation in the class sessions
2. Participation in weekly threaded discussions of reading
3. Participation in two experiential opportunities related to care for persons affected by Alzheimer's disease and their families
4. Development of a Psycho-Theological-educational presentation or pastoral care educational program for a congregational setting
5. Development of a proposal for ritual care in response to an experience of aging

Requirements for DMin Students

1. Requirements 1-5 above
2. A critical reflection essay (8 pages) that reviews current congregational ministry practices related to the focus of this course with proposals for improving congregational practices related to experiences of aging across the lifespan

Requirements for PhD Students

1. Requirements 1-5 in Masters' students
2. A 20-25 page paper that articulates a constructive, pastoral theological engagement with a topic related to aging chosen in consultation with the instructor

Texts:

Anderson, Herbert and Edward Foley. *Mighty Stories, Dangerous Rituals: Weaving together the Human and the Divine*. San Francisco: Jossey Bass, 1998. ISBN 0-7879-5648-1. \$12.72 new / \$1.50 used

Boss, Pauline. *Ambiguous Loss: Learning to Live with Unresolved Grief*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 2000. ISBN 0-674-00381-0. \$22.65 new / \$13.95 used

Gawande, Atul. *Being Mortal: Medicine and What Happens in the End*. Holt: 2014. ISBN 978-1-62779-055-0. \$10 new \$7 used.

Kimble, Melvin and Susan McFadden, eds. *Aging, Spirituality, and Religion: A Handbook*. Vol. 2. Fortress, 2003. ISBN 0-8006-2667-2, \$59.44 new / \$13.37 used

L' Engle, Madeleine. *The Summer of the Great Grandmother*. New York: Harper and Row, 1974. ISBN 0-06-254506-5. \$8.80 new / \$1.00 used

McFadden, Susan and John McFadden. *Aging Together: Dementia, Friendship, and Flourishing Communities*. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2011. ISBN 978-0-8018-9986-7. \$29.95 new / \$3.24 used

Scheib, Karen. *Pastoral Care*. Foreword by Thomas Long. Nashville: Abingdon, 2016

Scheib, Karen. *Challenging Invisibility: Practices of Care with Older Women*. Chalice Press, 2004. ISBN 0827204949. \$13.99 new / \$1.42 used

Wimberly, Anne. ed. *Honoring African American Elders: A Ministry in the Soul community*. Jossey Bass, 1997. ISBN 0-7879-0351-5. \$15.60 new / \$2.60 used

Grading Procedures MDiv:

Class Participation: 20%

Participation in Threaded Discussion: 20%

Reflections on Experiential Assignments 20%

Congregational Resource Project: 40%

Grading Procedures DMIN:

Class Participation and Threaded Discussion: 20%

Reflections on Experiential Assignment 20%

Congregational Resource Project 30%

Congregational Ministry Review and Proposals 30%

Grading Procedures PhD:

Class Participation and Threaded Discussion: 20%

Reflections on Experiential Assignment 20%

Congregational Resource Project 30%

Constructive Pastoral Theological Paper 30%