

PTPC 75970
Special Topics in Pastoral Care: Practices for Spiritual Care
(3 Semester hours)

Brite Divinity School
Spring 2022

Instructor: Barbara McClure, MDiv., Ph.D.
Associate Professor: Pastoral Theology and Practice
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Prerequisites: This course is intended as an elective for Masters students. PTPC 60003 "Pastoral Care in a Complex World" is a pre-requisite.

Course Description: This course provides a general introduction to perspectives on and practices for spiritual care. Special attention will be paid to developing the knowing of self, other, and the Divine. Skills for understanding, engaging, and responding to will be practiced each week.

Course Objectives:

- Students will deepen their reflection on the meanings in human life
- Students will understand aspects of spiritual engagement, discernment, and growth
- Students will understand the interplay of self, other, and the divine in the pursuit of wholeness
- Students will develop their skills for caring for self, others, and world in relation to the perceived intentions of God

Class Procedures:

- Each class will consist of lectures, discussion, and student presentations, and in-class practices with feedback
- Students will be strongly encouraged to undergo their own spiritual direction during the course of the semester.

Texts:

*If you want to begin reading before the semester begins, start with Wendy Farley**

David G. Benner, *Soulful Spirituality: Becoming Fully Alive and Deeply Human* (Grand Rapids, MI: Brazos Press, 2011) 978-1587432972 \$10

Duane Bidwell, *Short-Term Spiritual Guidance* (Minneapolis, MN: Fortress Press, 2004) 978-0800636586 \$16

Duane Bidwell, *When One Religion is Not Enough* (Boston, MA: Beacon Press, 2019) 978-0807039885 \$15

Bruce Epperly, *A Center in the Cyclone: Twenty-first Century Clergy Care* (Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield, 2014) 978-1-56699-757-7 \$15

*Wendy Farley, *The Wounding and Healing of Desire* (Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox, 2005) 978-0664229764 \$20

Roger S. Gottlieb, *Spirituality: What it is and Why it Matters* (New York, NY: Oxford University Press, 2013) 978-0199738755 \$15

Barbara Holmes, *Joy Unspeakable: Contemplative Practices of the Black Church*, 2nd ed., (Minneapolis, MN: Fortress Press, 2017) 978-1506421612 \$20

C. Robert Mesle, *Process Theology: A Basic Introduction* (St. Louis, MO: Chalice Press, 1993) 978-0310716297 \$10

Karen Scheib, *Pastoral Care: Telling the Stories of Our Lives* (Abingdon Press, 2016) 978-4267-6647-3 \$21

Possible final group projects:

Spiritual care in Crisis

Spiritual care for African American persons and communities

Spiritual care for Latino/a persons and communities

Spiritual care for LGBTQIA+ persons and communities

Trauma-sensitive Spiritual care

Spiritual Care for Children

Spiritual Care for the Elderly

Course Requirements:

Careful reading of assigned materials and attendance at all class meetings. Lateness to class and absences will count against one's final grade. Missing more than three classes will result in a failing grade for the course.

Each week some students will take special responsibility for presenting case studies, giving and getting feedback, and for briefly presenting an outline of the week's readings. Participation in role-plays and other forms of collaborative practice will be a regular part of the course.

Each student will construct a reading outline and reflections on the class readings week to week. Students will determine a final project that will maximize their learning over the course of the semester, and its application to a particular demographic.

Emailing, visiting Facebook and surfing the web make it difficult for you to be fully present in class and are highly distracting to your colleagues. You will be expected to refrain from using your computer for anything but notetaking during class.

Grading procedures:

Evidence of thorough reading with weekly reading outline 50%

Participation in weekly discussion, practices, and case study presentation 25%

Final group project 25% (Due date TBD)