TITLE: Introduction to Caring Ministry
TERM: Fall 2021-2022

PROFESSOR: Susan Dunlap
CREDIT HOURS: 3

REGISTRATION: LIMITED TO: ________ UNLIMITED ________ X
# AUDITORS: 5 (permission of instructor required) NO AUDITORS ________

COURSE DESCRIPTION:
In this course, students will be introduced to the theology and practice of caring ministry, with special attention to pastoral self-awareness and key relational skills. The course will help students develop their capacity to understand and discern the needs of persons and communities and to determine appropriate responses. Students will also explore the intersection of leadership and care through the study of organizational dynamics and group processes.

CLASS OBJECTIVES:
This course will enable students to
(1) develop an understanding of pastoral theology and pastoral care, and their relationship;
(2) explore and reflect on their Christian identity as caregivers;
(3) learn basic principles, theologies, and theories that ground pastoral care and use them to guide and critique their own ministry; and
(4) begin developing a practical expertise in the art of pastoral care through skill-building and reflection.

PREREQUISITES: None.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS/READING:
Marvin A. McMickle, Caring Pastors, Caring People: Equipping Your Church for Pastoral Care (Judson Press, 2011); ISBN: 978-0817017002; $15.99
Barbara Crafton, Jesus Wept: When Faith and Depression Meet (San Francisco: Jossey-Bass Press, 2009); ISBN: 978-0470371954
Other articles as assigned by the instructor.

ASSIGNMENTS & GRADING:
Written assignments will include short reflection papers, case study responses, and a final integrative project. Grading will be based on attendance, participation, and performance on written assignments.

ATTENDANCE: Required.