

THE CONTENT OF THIS DESCRIPTION IS NOT A LEARNING CONTRACT AND THE INSTRUCTOR IS NOT BOUND TO IT. IT IS OFFERED IN GOOD FAITH AND INTENDED AS A HELPFUL GUIDE TO THE STUDENT.

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:

Sheryl A. Kujawa-Holbrook and Karen B. Montagno, Editors, *Injustice and the Care of Souls: Taking Oppression Seriously in Pastoral Care* (Fortress Press, 2009); ISBN: 978-0800662356; \$22.99

Marvin A. McMickle, *Caring Pastors, Caring People: Equipping Your Church for Pastoral Care* (Judson Press, 2011); ISBN: 978-0817017002; \$15.99

Chanequa Walker-Barnes, *Too Heavy a Yoke: Black Women and the Burden of Strength* (Eugene, OR: Cascade, 2014); ISBN: 9781620320662.

Pamela R. McCarroll. *The End of Hope—The Beginning: Narratives of Hope in the Face of Death and Trauma* (Minneapolis, MN: Fortress Press, 2014); ISBN: 978-0800699666.

Carrie Doehring, *The Practice of Pastoral Care: A Postmodern Approach* (Louisville: Westminster/John Knox Press, 2015); ISBN: 978-0664238407.

Barbara Crafton, *Jesus Wept: When Faith and Depression Meet* (San Francisco: Jossey-Bass Press, 2009); ISBN: 978-0470371954

Jane Williams, *Mysterious Moments: Thoughts That Transform Grief* (Library Partners Press, 2017); ISBN: 978-1618460295.

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.