TITLE: Introduction to Caring Ministry
TERM: Fall 2019-2020

PROFESSOR: Carol Schweitzer
CREDIT HOURS: 3

REGISTRATION: LIMITED TO: UNLIMITED
# AUDITORS: 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 to one another;
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:


ASSIGNMENTS & GRADING:
There will be five short reflection papers (8 options for writing; each is worth 10% of the final grade)
One verbatim report (information will be presented in class; 25% of final grade). All students will be expected to be engaged in some form of a ministry of care each week during the term. The verbatim report will present a case from one’s experiences. These will be shared with your small group during the last three weeks of the term on Thursdays.
A brief paper outlining one’s theology of care (25% of final grade).

ATTENDANCE: Required.
The format of this class will be a hybrid format. Dr. Schweitzer will be on campus the first week of each month during the fall term and will be available for appointments outside of class time during those weeks. The remainder of the class will take place on Zoom. Tuesdays will be lecture focused and Thursdays will be small group focused to provide time for in class exercises that are related to the lecture material from Tuesday. Dr. Schweitzer will provide more information about the Thursday class times on September 5th.