

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 (In Person/Hybrid) **TERM:** Fall 2025-2026

PROFESSOR: Leanna Fuller **CREDIT HOURS:** 3

REGISTRATION: LIMITED TO: _____ UNLIMITED X
AUDITORS: 2 (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. articulate an understanding of pastoral care as a practice that involves attentive presence, theological reflection, and informed action;
2. describe basic principles, theologies, and theories that ground pastoral care;
3. evaluate caregiving practices, including their own personal strengths and limitations as caregivers;
4. demonstrate a growing competence 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, Second Edition* (Fortress Press, 2023); ISBN: 978-1506482477; \$28.48
- Emmanuel Lartey, *In Living Color: An Intercultural Approach to Pastoral Care and Counseling* (Jessica Kingsley Publishers, 2003); ISBN: 978-1843107507; \$21.38
- Marvin A. McMickle, *Caring Pastors, Caring People: Equipping Your Church for Pastoral Care* (Judson Press, 2011); ISBN: 978-0817017002; \$15.99
- Ronald W. Richardson, *Creating a Healthier Church: Family Systems Theory, Leadership, and Congregational Life* (Fortress Press, 1996); ISBN: 978-0800629557; \$19.99
- Sanders, Cody J., *Spiritual Care First Aid: An All-Hands Approach for Church and Community* (Fortress Press, 2025); ISBN: 978-8889834007, \$35.00
- Other articles as assigned by the instructor.

ASSIGNMENTS & GRADING:

Written assignments will include short reflection papers, a case study response, an interview assignment, and a final integrative paper. Grading will be based on attendance, participation, and performance on written assignments.

ATTENDANCE: Required.