

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.

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TITLE: Loss, Transition, & Transformation

TERM: Spring 2025-2026

PROFESSOR: Leanna Fuller

CREDIT HOURS: 3

REGISTRATION: LIMITED TO: 12

UNLIMITED _____

AUDITORS: 3 (permission of instructor required)

NO AUDITORS _____

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course explores theories and practices related to providing pastoral care to persons coping with death, loss, grief, and transition. Students will also engage biblical, theological, and spiritual resources as frameworks for understanding the nature and role of transformation within experiences of transition and loss.

CLASS OBJECTIVES:

By the end of this course students will be able to:

1. Articulate an understanding of pastoral care that addresses issues of death, loss, grief, and transition as parts of the human experience.
2. Describe and evaluate various theological and pastoral approaches to loss and grief.
3. Narrate the roles of loss and transition in one's own life and how they have shaped one's identity as a caregiver.
4. Demonstrate familiarity with the pastoral skills and practices that help to facilitate transformation in moments of loss or transition.

PREREQUISITES: PC 210 strongly recommended

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS/READING:

- *African American Grief (Classic Edition)*, Paul C. Rosenblatt and Beverly R. Wallace, Routledge, 2021, ISBN: 978-0367764159, \$30.50 - (**Note:** Students are encouraged to purchase the 2021 edition of this text, but the 2005 edition is also acceptable)
- *Everything Happens for a Reason and Other Lies I've Loved*, Kate Bowler, Random House, 2019, ISBN: 987-0399592089, \$9.99
- *Grief: Contemporary Theory and the Practice of Ministry*, Melissa M. Kelley, Fortress Press, 2010, ISBN: 978-0800696610, \$18.62
- *Lament for a Son*, Nicholas Wolterstorff, William B. Eerdmans, 1987, ISBN: 978-0802802941, \$11.99
- *Tell Me How It Ends: An Essay in Forty Questions*, Valeria Luiselli, Coffee House Press, 2017, ISBN: 978-1566894956, \$7.47
- *The End of Hope—The Beginning: Narratives of Hope in the Face of Death and Trauma*, Pamela R. McCarroll, Fortress Press, 2014, ISBN: 978-0800699666, \$20.75

ASSIGNMENTS & GRADING:

Short reflection papers, class leadership, oral presentation, final integrative paper/project

ATTENDANCE: Required.