

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: Justice and Pastoral Care

YEAR: Spring 2025-2026

PROFESSOR: Leanna Fuller

CREDIT HOURS: 3

REGISTRATION: LIMITED TO: 12
AUDITORS: 2 (permission of instructor required)

UNLIMITED _____
NO AUDITORS _____

NOTE: This course is an approved elective for the Graduate Certificate in Urban Ministry.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course explores the communal, intercultural, and systemic contexts of caring practices and the links between justice-making and pastoral care. In this course students will consider the ways in which communal dynamics such as injustice, exclusion, and conflict may shape individual experiences of suffering, both in congregations and in the communities of which they are a part.

CLASS OBJECTIVES:

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

- Articulate an understanding of pastoral care as a form of ministry that is situated within complex organizational and cultural systems;
- Narrate how this understanding challenges, supplements, or transforms students' ideas about the nature of pastoral care;
- Integrate insights from the course material with reflections on students' own pastoral care experiences in ministry, with particular attention to the various *contexts* in which such experiences are taking place; and
- Describe their own emerging understanding of the proper relationship between practices of justice-making and practices of pastoral care.

PREREQUISITES: PC210 strongly recommended, but not required

READING ASSIGNMENTS/BIBLIOGRAPHY:

- M. Jan Holton, *Longing for Home: Forced Displacement and Postures of Hospitality* (Yale, 2016), ISBN: 978-0300207620, \$9.25
- Sheryl A. Kujawa-Holbrook and Karen B. Montagno, Eds., *Injustice and the Care of Souls: Taking Oppression Seriously in Pastoral Care* (Fortress, 2023), ISBN: 978-1506482477, \$28.48
- Howard Thurman, *Jesus and the Disinherited* (Beacon Press, 1996), ISBN: 978-0807010297, \$9.30
- Isaac Samuel Villegas, *Migrant God: A Christian Vision for Immigrant Justice* (Eerdmans, 2025), ISBN: 978-0802884435, \$10.95
- Chanequa Walker-Barnes, *Too Heavy a Yoke: Black Women and the Burden of Strength* (Cascade, 2014), ISBN: 978-1620320662, \$24.46
- Other articles as assigned by instructor
- Recommended, but not required: Emmanuel Y. Lartey, *In Living Color: An Intercultural Approach to Pastoral Care and Counseling* (Jessica Kingsley Publishers, 2003), ISBN: 978-1843107507, \$26.12

ASSIGNMENTS & GRADING

Grading will be based on attendance, participation, and written assignments. Written assignments will include (but are not limited to) reflection papers, blog posts, a public theology project, and a final integrative assignment.

ATTENDANCE: Required.