

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:** Pastoral Ministry & Healthcare

**TERM:** Fall 2019-2020

**PROFESSOR:** Ron Cole-Turner

**CREDIT HOURS:** 3

**REGISTRATION:** LIMITED TO: \_\_\_\_\_  
# AUDITORS: \_\_\_\_\_

UNLIMITED \_\_\_\_\_ \*  
NO AUDITORS \_\_\_\_\_ \*

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:** This course will explore pastoral ministry in relation to the physical health and medical care of parishioners. Students will be introduced to biblical and historical perspectives on medicine, secular understandings of medical ethics, and to the pastoral needs that may arise at key transitions in human health, including pregnancy, childbirth, childhood, disabilities, aging, dementia, dying, as well as reasons for distrust of medicine and neglect of healthy habits.

**SPECIAL NOTE:** Most class session will meet at the seminary. Two to three sessions, however, will be held off-site, probably in Homewood. The dates and exact location of these sessions will be announced later.

**CLASS OBJECTIVES:**

1. Be able to articulate a biblical/theological understanding of ministry in relation to human health over the lifespan in a way that integrates scripture, theology, ethics, and the contemporary context of healthcare (MDiv 2, 3; MAPS 1, 2).
2. Be able to identify how the socio-cultural context of concern for health and encounters with healthcare providers shapes interpretations of tradition, thought, and practice (MDiv 4; MAPS 2, 3).
3. Be able to envision themselves as ministering to Christians discerning how to live in light of their health situation, that of their families, or their encounters with healthcare providers (MDiv 5, 6; MAPS 4).
4. Be able to imagine themselves as part of wider team that includes healthcare providers who have their own spiritual needs for which ministry may be provided (MDiv 6; MAPS 4).

**PREREQUISITES:** Course prerequisites. None.

**REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS/READING:**

Sondra Wheeler, *Stewards of Life: Bioethics and Pastoral Care* (Abingdon). ISBN 978-0687020874. \$12.61.

**ASSIGNMENTS & GRADING:** Readings, class participation, and various writing assignments. Grades will be based on the instructor's assessment of written work.

**ATTENDANCE:** Required.