PURPOSE: This course will explore biblical and theological themes of aging as well as dimensions of spirituality in the lives of older adults. We will address ministry approaches in congregations and clinical settings that respond to the spiritual needs of people who live with dementia. We will share creative program ideas and worship considerations for older adults as well as best practices in pastoral care.

EXPECTATIONS AND COMPETENCE OBJECTIVES:
Students will:
- Identify and discuss spiritual needs of older adults.
- Integrate biblical and theological themes of aging into worship experiences, programs and pastoral care in congregations and continuing care contexts of ministry.
- Learn pastoral care strategies for people living with dementia.
- Apply principles of ministry practice with older adults.
- Share ideas and experience in older adult ministry in faith communities.

REQUIRED READINGS:
Required readings should be completed before the course. All are available on Amazon.


And one of the following:

Swinton, J. Dementia: Living in the Memories of God (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans), 2012.


ASSIGMENTS
1. Reading and class participation: All Students including auditors are expected to do all the required readings and participate in class discussions. 100% attendance is required of Certificate and Degree students.
2. Certificate students: Certificate students are required to hand in 5-6 pages of writing that demonstrates the ability to thoughtfully engage the material and reading for the class and gives a personal reflection on the reading and material covered.
3. Basic degree students (Diploma; MA; M.Div): are required to do any required oral assignments during the course itself and submit any combination of written assignments totaling approximately 1500-1875 words/6-8 pages.

Further details about assignments will be provided on the course syllabus.
SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY


