

PT 551 Pastoral/Spiritual Care and Practice Spring 2019

INSTRUCTOR

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PURPOSE

To be a caregiver of another psyche or soul in times of everyday discernment, life transitions, trauma or crisis is a sacred and privileged call. As human beings our first instinct is to “fix” what is wrong and restore the comfort of the other and of ourselves. To be present with another’s suffering without imposing our own opinions, prejudices or agenda is a critical skill. The goal of this course is:

- to facilitate a level of self awareness conducive to caring without harm to the other
- to develop skills in the practice of pastoral/spiritual care
- to clarify the similarities and the differences in pastoral care, pastoral counselling and spiritual direction
- to learn the importance of a personal spiritual practice as self care

COMPETENCE OBJECTIVES

- Demonstrate awareness of self - personally, theologically and spiritually - in the pastoral/spiritual caring relationship
- Develop a clear sense of the scope of practice in the pastoral/spiritual professional role and its limitations
 - articulate an understanding of pastoral counselling and spiritual direction
 - demonstrate skills in active/embodied listening
 - develop awareness of and sensitivity to the dynamics of power and authority within a pastoral/spiritual care relationship
 - develop comprehension of and sensitivity to personal and professional boundaries
- Demonstrate knowledge of different approaches to Christian spirituality and practices
 - articulate an approach that facilitates student’s personal spiritual growth and development

FORMAT

This course is designed to include discussion of assigned reading and lectures, in-class experiential practice, student presentations and pastoral/spiritual care practice in the community. Assignments will be due throughout the semester as outlined in the syllabus (available the first day of class).

The PT551 class is scheduled for Monday mornings 9am -12 pm on Jan 21, Feb 4, Mar 11, Mar 25, Apr 8 and the Spring On Site Intensive weekend Feb 21-25. Due to the experiential nature of the course content, distance students must connect simultaneously with Monday morning class meeting times and must be present in person during the long weekend intensive classes.

TEXTS

Doehring, Carrie, *The Practice of Pastoral Care: A Postmodern Approach*, Revised and Expanded Edition, Westminster John Knox, 2015.

Clark-King, Ellen, *The Path To Your Door: Approaches to Christian Spirituality*, Continuum, 2011.

Available at UBC Bookstore

EXPECTATIONS AND EVALUATIONS

1. All students in this course must have a current Police Record check on file with the Theological Field Education office at VST to take this course. It is your responsibility to bring or send evidence of that to the first class.
2. Attendance as specified by VST requirements: reading all required assignments before class, preparation of in-class reflections, presentations and discussions, and participation in in-class discussions, experiential practices and group reflections. In the small group, confidentiality and respect for differences will be two of the norms.
3. Beginning the week of January 28 each student will be expected to do a minimum of one hour of pastoral/spiritual conversation or visit each week; a minimum of 6 hours for the course. Guidelines will be provided about how to set up the required of pastoral/spiritual conversations or visits.
4. Students will submit 2 written verbatim reports to their small groups during the course.
5. Submit 2 brief journal reflections on personal insights gained through their experience in the course; due March 7 and April 4.
6. Students will collaborate with at least one other student to present one of the approaches to Christian spirituality to the class.
7. Each student will write an 8-10 page reflection paper in which they evaluate their ability to engage this learning process and their progress in developing the course competencies.
8. Evaluation is based on participation in class discussion and assignments, and on the final written assignment as outlined above. Guidelines will be given in class for all assignments.

SELECT BIBLIOGRAPHY

Collicutt, Joanna, ***Thinking of You: A Resource for the Spiritual Care of People with Dementia***, BRF (Bible Reading Fellowship), 2017

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Driskill, Joseph D., ***Protestant Spiritual Exercises: Theology, History and Practice***, Morehouse 1999

Empereur, James L., SJ, ***Spiritual Direction and the Gay Person***, Continuum, 2002

Evans, Abigail Rian, ***Is God Still at the Bedside?: The Medical, Ethical, and Pastoral Issues of Death and Dying***, Eerdmans, 2010

Fischer, Kathleen, ***Women at the Well: Feminist Perspectives on Spiritual Direction***, Paulist, 1988

Fowler, James W., ***Stages of Faith: the Psychology of Human Development and the Quest for Meaning***, HarperOne; Rev. ed. 1995

Gawande, Atul, ***Being Mortal: Medicine and What Matters in the End***, Doubleday, 2014

James, Carolyn Custis, ***Malestrom: Manhood Swept Into the Currents of a Changing World***, Zondervan, 2015

Jones, Serene, ***Trauma and Grace: Theology in a Ruptured World***, Presbyterian Publishing, 2009

Lebacqz, Karen and Driskill, Joseph D., ***Ethics and Spiritual Care: A Guide for Pastors, Chaplains, and Spiritual Directors***, Abingdon, 2000

Mabry, John R., ***Faith Styles: Ways People Believe***, Morehouse, 2006

Merritt, Carol Howard, ***Healing Spiritual Wounds: Reconnecting with a Loving God After Experiencing a Hurtful Church***, HarperOne, 2017

Moon, Gary W. and Benner, David G., ed, ***Spiritual Direction and the Care of Souls: A Guide to Christian Approaches and Practices***, InterVarsity, 2004

Muller, Wayne, ***Legacy of the Heart: The Spiritual Advantages of a Painful Childhood***, Fireside, 2002

Nakken, Craig, ***The Addictive Personality: Understanding the Addictive Process and Compulsive Behaviour***, 2nd Ed., Hazelden, 1996

Roos, Susan, ***Chronic Sorrow: A Living Loss***, 2nd. Ed., Routledge, 2018.

Ruffing, Janet K., ***Spiritual Direction: Beyond the Beginnings***, Paulist, 2000

Singh, Kathleen Dowling, ***The Grace in Dying: A Message of Hope, Comfort, and Spiritual Transformation***, HarperOne, 1998

... ***The Grace in Aging: Awaken as You Grow Older***, Wisdom Publications, 2014

Vest, Noreen, ed., ***Tending the Holy: Spiritual Direction Across Traditions***, Morehouse, 2003

Weller, Francis, ***The Wild Edge of Sorrow: Rituals of Renewal and the Sacred Work of Grief***, North Atlantic Books, 2015

Yarhouse, Mark A., ***Understanding Gender Dysphoria: Navigating Transgender Issues in a Changing Culture***, IVP Academic, 2015