Course Profile

Course # and Title: ML 400 Level Pastoral Care and the Life Cycle
Instructor: Brooke Petersen Semester/Year: Spring 2021

Short Description (1-2 Sentences):
This course introduces students to theories, models, and approaches to skilled pastoral care. Use the life-cycle as a basis for exploration, this course helps to equip students with the skills needed to deepen their capacity to understand themselves, support others, and continue their development as pastoral caregivers.

Delivery Mode: Partially Asynchronous with Weekly Zoom Meetings for 2 hours

Course Rationale and Description
(Why do we offer this course? Which of LSTC’s degree program learning outcomes does it address?):

Pastoral Care and the Life Cycle is one of the pathway courses in ministerial leadership that enables assessment of competency in pastoral care. It is designed to contribute to capacity and skill-building at every level of competency described in the pastoral care section of the “Learning Competency 4, by Ministry Areas” rubric found the in the Masters Programs Manual.

- For learners with limited experience in pastoral ministry, this course will help prepare seminarians for Clinical Pastoral Education by giving opportunities to further deepen the capacity to listen with understanding; identify and discuss the cultural, psychological, and theological contexts that shape their responses to loss and death and other “moments” that require care in the life-cycle; and engage in the action/reflection model of learning that is core to the CPE experience, including giving skilled feedback to the work of peers.

- For learners with more experience in pastoral care, the course provides an opportunity to further develop their own pastoral care skills and to create projects that demonstrate a creative interface between pastoral care and other aspects of ministry (e.g., rituals, preaching) in anticipation of internship or first call.

- All learners will have the opportunity to develop and converse about their own capacities as a ministerial leader.

Course Learning Outcomes (Learners will be able to):
(What difference will this course make to students’ knowledge, skills, attitudes, and practices?)
By the end of the course learners will be able to:

- Describe and assess biblical and theological foundations in pastoral care that influence their own theology of care.
- Implement effective and helpful listening skills in pastoral care situations.
- Identify and discuss the cultural, psychological, and theological contexts that shape their responses to loss and death and other “moments” that require care in the life-cycle.
- Engage in the action/reflection model of learning that is core to the CPE experience, including giving skilled feedback to the work of peers.

**Strategies for Learning:**
(How shall we go about achieving these outcomes?)

This course will use small and large group discussions, online discussion boards, verbatims, and a final paper to achieve course goals.

**Assessment:**
(How shall we know if we—students and instructors—have been successful in achieving the outcomes?)

Students will be assessed through written work (conversation paper, annotated bibliography and final paper) as well discussion and participation grades. Students will also provide written feedback assessing the achievement of course outcomes.

**Bibliography:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Text Title</th>
<th>Author</th>
<th>ISBN# (Required)</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cultivating Wholeness: A Guide to Care and Counseling in Faith Communities</td>
<td>Margaret Kornfeld</td>
<td>978-0-8264-1232-4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Practice of Pastoral Care: A Postmodern Approach</td>
<td>Carrie Doehring</td>
<td>978-0-664-22684-8</td>
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Additional information:
Articles, Chapters and other resources will be available on the course page in Brightspace.