

Course ID:	Course Title:	Fall 2018
SC 615	Spiritual Care of the Dying	Prerequisite:
		Credits: 3

Class Information		Instructor Information		Important Dates	
Days:	Wed	Instructor:	The Rev. Dr. Jean Morris BA MDiv ThM DD	First day of classes:	Wed., Sept 5
Time:	2:30-5:15	Email:	jeanm@gracecalgary.org	Last day to add/drop, or change to audit:	Sun, Sept 16
Room:		Phone:	403-614-6494	Last day to request revised exam:	Mon, Oct 22
Lab/ Tutorial:	# of hrs/wk	Office:		Last day to withdraw from course:	Mon, Nov 12
	times	Office Hours:		Last day to apply for coursework extension:	Mon, Nov 19
Final Exam:				Last day of classes:	Tue, Dec 11

Course Description

This course will address the theological issues and pastoral challenges presented in the care of dying persons and will provide useful clinical constructs to enhance the practice of spiritual care. It will explore suffering and death, the place of hope and faith, contemporary palliative care, ethical issues, the assessment of spiritual and religious needs models of pastoral intervention, the use of prayer and ceremony, and planning for bereavement care.

Expected Learning Outcomes

Describe and integrate in practice, pastoral responses for the spiritual care of the dying person

In reflection on assigned readings, articulate biblical and theological themes that inform pastoral practice

Understand the pastoral issues related to Medical Assistance in Dying in conversation with denominational documents

Explore the significance of rituals including funerals

Textbooks

Speaking of Dying: Recovering the Church's Voice in the Face of Death Craddock, Goldsmith and Goldsmith, Brazos Press. 2012

Our Greatest Gift: A Meditation on Dying and Caring Henri Nouwen, Harper One. 1994

Living Well and Dying Faithfully John Swinton and Richard Payne, editors. Eerdmans, 2009

Course Schedule

This schedule is a guide.

In consultation with the class, adjustments may be made in order to meet learning goals of students.

September 5	Introduction, Overview of Syllabus, Learning Goals
September 12	Biblical and Theological Themes - Chap 1-4: Craddock Chap 2 – Swinton
September 19	Biblical and Theological Themes - Our Greatest Gift – Nouwen Chap 5, 8 Craddock
September 26	No class – All Seminary Retreat
October 3	Pastoral Presence: Suffering and Lament - Chap 4 -7 Swinton
October 10	Pastoral Presence: Hope and Healing - Chap 8-12 Swinton
October 17	Physical Realities of Dying - Conversation with a Medical Practitioner
October 24	WIT - Reflections and responses to the film
October 31	Pastoral Care and Palliative Care
November 7	No Class – Reading week
November 14	Funerals and other rituals
November 21	Visit to a funeral home and conversation with a funeral director
November 28	Perspectives on MAID Share the theological and pastoral statements of your church
December 5	Final class

Requirements:

I.

Henri Nouwen – Our Greatest Gift 10 %

DUE AT THE BEGINNING OF CLASS SEPTEMBER 19 – please bring a hard copy to submit to Instructor

In not more than 4 pages double spaced, highlight the key insights you have gained about death and dying from the book and provide a brief overview of your most personal experience of death.

Grading Criteria:

Clearly expressed ideas 3/10

Insightful reflection of the book 4/10

Personal reflection 3/10

II.

Book Review – 25%

Provide a review of one of the books listed. The review is not to exceed 6 double spaced pages and should include a summary of the salient points of the author and your personal response. It should also include your response to one theological theme raised in the book and be in conversation with relevant points from Living Well and Dying Faithfully and /or Speaking of Dying

Grading criteria

Clearly expressed ideas 5/25

Summary of books major points 8/25

Insightful personal response 6/25

Articulation and reflection of theological theme 6/25

Sacred Dying: Creating Rituals for Embracing the End of Life – Megory Anderson. Marlowe & Company, 2003.

Being Mortal – Atul Gawande

What Dying People Want: Practical Wisdom for the End of Life – David Kuhl. Anchor Canada, 2003

Accompany them with Singing: The Christian Funeral – Thomas Long. Westminster John Knox, 2009

Due: November 2 to jeanm@gracecalgary.org

III. Pastoral Practice – 40%

Option A: Pastoral Conversation Assignment

Write a reflective paper based on a pastoral conversation. The scenario and intended conversation must be discussed with the instructor prior to beginning the assignment. With care and sensitivity asking permission and getting consent, have a pastoral encounter with a grieving or dying person.

- a) Contact the individual and explain the assignment and the context of the conversation you seek. Provide at least a week for the person to consider your request.
- b) Once permission has been granted, meet with the person at least once to have the pastoral visit(s).
- c) The paper should include: your approach and framework for the conversation; the questions and focus for the conversation; a summary of the responses; biblical and theological reflection on the conversation; discussion of how the preparation, conversation and reflection has influenced your pastoral practice.

Option B: Specific Spiritual Care Scenario

Write a paper that focuses on a specific situation of spiritual care with a dying person or a family member. (The Scenario must be approved by the Instructor in advance). Interact with a variety of materials and discuss how and why you would provide spiritual care in this situation. The paper should include biblical and theological rationale for the interventions and the assumed outcomes, research-based clinical practice, as well as possible ethical and pastoral challenges you might experience and how you would address them.

Grading Criteria:

Clearly expressed ideas 10/40

Insightful reflection, depth of thought and analysis 20/40

Use of resources and references 10/40

Due by December 8 to jeanm@gracecalgary.org

Attendance and class participation: 25%

It is expected that students will attend all classes and participate in discussions. Students will be called on to make summary comments on the assigned readings. Active participation includes attentive listening, sharing with others and presenting your faith tradition's perspective on the Medical Assistance in Dying legislation in class on November 28.

Grading Criteria:

Active participation and evidence of completing reading assignments 15/25

MAID assignment 10/25

Confidentiality: It is expected that all names, stories, and situations shared within class will be kept in the strictest confidence.

Grade Summary:

Letter Grade	Percentage Equivalent
A+	100
A	98-99
A-	95-97
B+	90-94
B	85-89
B-	80-84
C+	75-79
C	70-74
C-	65-69
D+	60-64
D	55-59
F	50-54

Because of the nature of the Alpha 4.00 system, there can be no uniform University-wide conversion scale. The relationship between raw scores (e.g. percentages) and the resultant letter grade will depend on the nature of the course and the instructor's assessment of the level of each class, compared to similar classes taught previously.

Please note that final grades will be available on student registration system. Printed grade sheets are not mailed out.

Ambrose University Academic Policies:

Communication

All students have received an Ambrose e-mail account upon registration. It is the student's responsibility to check this account regularly as the Ambrose email system will be the professor's instrument for notifying students of important matters (cancelled class sessions, extensions, requested appointments, etc.) between class sessions. If students do not wish to use their Ambrose accounts, they will need to forward all messages from the Ambrose account to another personal account.

Registration

During the **Registration Revision Period** students may enter a course without permission, change the designation of any class from credit to audit and /or voluntary withdraw from a course without financial or academic penalty or record. Courses should be added or dropped on the student portal by the deadline date; please consult the List of Important Dates. After that date, the original status remains and the student is responsible for related fees.

Students intending to withdraw from a course after the Registration Revision Period must apply to the Office of the Registrar by submitting a "Request to Withdraw from a Course" form or by sending an email to the Registrar's Office by the **Withdrawal Deadline**; please consult the List of Important Dates on the my.ambrose.edu website. Students will not receive a tuition refund for courses from which they withdraw after the Registration Revision period. A grade of "W" will appear on their transcript.

Students wishing to withdraw from a course, but who fail to do so by the applicable date, will receive the grade earned in accordance with the course syllabus. A student obliged to withdraw from a course after the Withdrawal Deadline because of health or other reasons may apply to the Registrar for special consideration.

Exam Scheduling

Students, who find a conflict in their exam schedule must submit a Revised Examination Request form to the Registrar's Office by the deadline date; please consult the List of Important Dates. Requests will be considered for the following reasons only: 1) the scheduled final examination slot conflicts with another exam; 2) the student has three final exams within three consecutive exam time blocks; 3) the scheduled final exam slot conflicts with an exam at another institution; 4) extenuating circumstances. Travel is not considered a valid excuse for re-scheduling or missing a final exam.

Electronic Etiquette

Students are expected to treat their instructor, guest speakers, and fellow students with respect. It is disruptive to the learning goals of a course or seminar and disrespectful to fellow students and the instructor to use electronics for purposes unrelated to the course during a class session. Turn off all cell phones and other electronic devices during class. Laptops should be used for class-related purposes only. Do not use iPods, MP3 players, or headphones. Do not text, read, or send personal emails, go on Facebook or other social

networks, search the internet, or play computer games during class. Some professors will not allow the use of any electronic devices in class. The professor has the right to disallow the student to use a laptop in future lectures and/or to ask a student to withdraw from the session if s/he does not comply with this policy. Repeat offenders will be directed to the Dean. If you are expecting communication due to an emergency, please speak with the professor before the class begins.

Academic Policies

It is the responsibility of all students to become familiar with and adhere to academic policies as stated in the Academic Calendar. Personal information (information about an individual that may be used to identify that individual) may be required as part of taking this class. Any information collected will only be used and disclosed for the purpose for which the collection was intended. For further information contact the Privacy Compliance Officer at privacy@ambrose.edu.

Extensions

Although extensions to coursework in the semester are at the discretion of the instructor, students may not turn in coursework for evaluation after the last day of the scheduled final examination period unless they have received permission for a course Extension from the Registrar's Office. Requests for course extensions or alternative examination time must be submitted to the Registrar's Office by the deadline date; please consult the List of Important Dates. Course extensions are only granted for serious issues that arise "due to circumstances beyond the student's control."

Appeal of Grade

An appeal for change of grade on any course work must be made to the course instructor within one week of receiving notification of the grade. An appeal for change of final grade must be submitted to the Registrar's Office in writing and providing the basis for appeal within 30 days of receiving notification of the final grade, providing the basis for appeal. A review fee of \$50.00 must accompany the appeal. If the appeal is sustained, the fee will be refunded.

Academic Integrity

We are committed to fostering personal integrity and will not overlook breaches of integrity such as plagiarism and cheating. Academic dishonesty is taken seriously at Ambrose University as it undermines our academic standards and affects the integrity of each member of our learning community. Any attempt to obtain credit for academic work through fraudulent, deceptive, or dishonest means is academic dishonesty. Plagiarism involves presenting someone else's ideas, words, or work as one's own. Plagiarism is fraud and theft, but plagiarism can also occur by accident when a student fails or forgets to acknowledge to another person's ideas or words. Plagiarism and cheating can result in a failing grade for an assignment, for the course, or immediate dismissal from the university. Students are expected to be familiar with the policies in the current Academic Calendar that

deal with plagiarism, cheating, and the penalties and procedures for dealing with these matters. All cases of academic dishonesty are reported to the Academic Dean and become part of the student's permanent record.

Note: Students are strongly advised to retain this syllabus for their records.