

PT610 Theology and Practice of Spiritual Care  
Ambrose Theological Seminary  
Fall 2011, Sept.31, Oct.1; Oct.21,22; Nov.18,19.  
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## **I. DESCRIPTION**

Various aspects of spiritual care giving in the context of the local church and beyond will be examined. This course will help the student develop a theology of spiritual care and introduce care giving skills through class discussions, role-play assignments and the study of scripture.

## **II. OBJECTIVES**

- A. To understand the theology of spiritual care as represented in the Bible.
- B. To understand skills in primary spiritual care functions.
- C. To explore the character traits and skills appropriate to spiritual care giving.
- D. To develop a contemporary perspective of spiritual care ministry, in the context of the local church and beyond.

## **III. REQUIRED TEXT**

Swinton, John. *Raging With Compassion*

### **RECOMMENDED TEXTS**

Shawchuck, Norman, and Roger Heuser. *Leading the Congregation: Caring for Yourself While Serving the People.*

Baxter, Richard. *The Reformed Pastor.*

Gregory the Great. *Pastoral Care.*

Muse, J. Stephen. *Beside Still Waters.*

Peel, Donald. *The Ministry of Listening.*

Peterson, Eugene. *The Contemplative Pastor.*

Peterson, Eugene. *Five Smooth Stones For Pastoral Work.*

Peterson, Eugene. *Working the Angles.*

Wright, H. Norman. *New Guide to Crisis and Trauma Counseling.*

A bibliography file placed in the library will provide many more resources that are useful from the standpoint of spiritual care giving.

## **IV. REQUIREMENTS**

- A. Attendance is required at all class sessions.
- B. A written assessment of a spiritual care giving experience, given and received, will be prepared for sharing and submission at the start of the second week of class. This paper will follow guidelines presented in class.

**Due: start of weekend two**

- C. The class text will be read and reviewed in writing in two segments, one for start of the second and one for the third weekend. Students will come to class prepared to participate in small group interactions dealing with responses to the text.

**Due: start of weekend two and three**

- D. One of the following projects will be completed by the student:

1. A **handbook** on pastoral care will be developed from sources other than lecture notes or materials from current or previous courses or experience. These materials may be copied, bibliographic, special interest, etc. The handbook should cover a broad range of topics (seven or more) and should be substantial in each topic (at least five items per topic). The material should be new to the student and should reflect a familiarity with major sources of practical help found in journals and magazines. Possible topics include: weddings, funerals, baptism, deliverance, worship, preaching, discipline, addictions, homelessness, violence in its various forms, sexual disorders, mental disorders, institutionalization, immigration, etc. as each bears on spiritual care giving. The more successful project will include a wide variety of sources and media, including paper and electronic files on books, journals, pamphlets, and websites. The more successful project will also give strong attention to processing, evaluating and annotating the sources, and to packaging, indexing, referencing, and to ease of use.
2. A **major paper** of 15-20 pages which integrates biblical, theological, class, and reference material in developing the student's personal philosophy and theology of spiritual care. This paper is to deal with relevant biblical material, and theological as well as contemporary issues. It will reflect detailed research and personal reflection. It will conclude with two pages, which describe how the student's philosophy will be put into practice in ministry.
3. A **reading log** of sections in books and articles in journals pertaining to any of the topics covered in class. The student will be expected to read not less than 2000 pages, and to choose material broadly. A list of suggested material is available on request. A report of reading will be submitted on the due date, with a one page per book or journal section review of the respective reading and its value for and impact on the student.
4. A description and assessment of the spiritual care ministry of a local church or care giving ministry. This project will follow guidelines presented in class.

**Due: not later than eight weeks following the final weekend.**

Text Book reflection papers	40%	
Spiritual care giving experience reflection	10%	
Project		60%