



AMBROSE
SEMINARY

**PT 610 Theology & Practice of Spiritual Care (3)
Winter 2014**

Instructor: Mark Buchanan

Class Schedules:

Wednesday 2:30-5:15 PM
Room: L3133

Instructor Information:

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Office hours: Monday & Tuesday, 2:00-4:00 PM; Wednesday, Noon-2:00 PM; or by appointment.

Course Description:

This course will probe the theology and practice of spiritual care in the context of Christian community, especially the church. We will explore what it means to be made in the image of the Triune God, in whom we live and move and have our being, and yet also what it means to be fallen but redeemed people living in a fallen but grace-soaked world. We will delve into what it means to be, in Henri Nouwen's arresting phrase, "wounded healers," and, in the Apostle Peter's evocative language, "a royal priesthood" (2 Peter 2:9). And we will inquire into what is involved in our church communities becoming, in Larry Crabb's hopeful vision, "the safest place on earth." The student, by the end of the course, should be able to know the theology undergirding spiritual care as well as have a grasp of the best ways to practice and receive such care, and to help others do so as well.

Course Objectives:

The engaged and attentive student should come away from the course with the following:

- A theology of spiritual care that is rooted in both Scripture and best practices.
- An appreciation and understanding of the role of spiritual care in the history, mission and identity of the Church.

- A sense of the wealth and breadth of spiritual care practices, especially as they relate to our current place and time.
- A deepened capacity to both receive and extend spiritual care.
- A growing sense of how to build and sustain spiritual care within Christian community.

Books:

Required:

- Crabb, Larry. *Becoming a True Spiritual Community: A Profound Vision of What the Church Can Be.* (Also published as *The Safest Place on Earth: Where People Connect & are Forever Changed*). Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson, 2007.
- Nouwen, Henri. *The Wounded Healer: Ministry in Contemporary Society.* New York, NY: Image, 1979.
- Swinton, John. *Raging with Compassion: Pastoral Responses to the Problem of Evil.* Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2007.

Strongly Recommended:

- Dietrich Bonhoeffer. *Life Together: The Classic Exploration of Christian Community.* San Francisco, CA: HarperOne, 1978 (O. 1945).

Recommended:

- Bell, Roy. *The Five-Minute Conversation: Encouraging & Empowering through Brief Encounters.* Vancouver, BC: Regent College Publishing, 2003.
- Benner, David G. *Sacred Companions: The Gift of Spiritual Friendship & Direction.* Downers Grove, IL: IVP Books, 2002.
- Bernanos, Georges. *The Diary of a Country Priest: A Novel.* Philadelphia, PA: De Capo Press, 2002 (O. 1937).
- Buchanan, Mark. *Spiritual Rhythm: Being with Jesus Every Season of Your Soul.* Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2009.
- Things Unseen: Living in Light of Forever.* Colorado Springs, CO: Multnomah, 2002.
- Cook, Jerry. *Love, Acceptance & Forgiveness: Being Christian in a Non-Christian World.* Ventura, CA: Regal, 2009.
- Crabb, Larry. *Connecting: A Radical New Vision.* Nashville, TN: Word Publishing, 1997.
- De Vinck, Christopher. *The Power of the Powerless.* Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1988.
- Dobson, James. *When God Doesn't Make Sense.* Wheaton, IL: Tyndale House, 1993.

- Ecloy, Lee. *Pastoral Graces: Reflection on the Care of Souls*. Chicago, IL: Moody publishers, 2012.
- Hanson, David. *The Art of Pastoring: Ministry Without All the Answers*, Rev. Ed.. Downers Grove, IL: IVP Books, 2012.
- The Power of Loving Your Church: Leading through Acceptance & Grace*. Minneapolis, MN: Bethany House, 1998.
- Keller, Timothy. *The Meaning of Marriage: Facing the Complexities of Marriage with the Wisdom of God*. New York, NY: Dutton, 2011.
- Larkin, Nate. *Samson & The Pirate Monks: Calling Men to Authentic Brotherhood*. Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson, 2006.
- Lawrenz, Mel. *Whole Church: Leading from Fragmentation to Engagement*. San Francisco, CA: Jossey-Bass, 2009.
- Lewis, C.S. *A Grief Observed*. New York, NY: Faber & Faber, 2012 (O. 1961).
- The Problem of Pain*. San Francisco, CA: HarperCollins, 2009 (O. 1940).
- Macchia, Stephen A. *Becoming a Healthy Church: Traits of a Vital Ministry*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 1999.
- MacDonald, Gordon. *A Resilient Life: You Can Move Ahead No Matter What*. Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson, 2004.
- Manning, Brennan. *The Ragamuffin Gospel: Good News for the Bedraggled, Beat-Up & Burnt-Out*. Colorado Springs, CO: Multnomah, 2005.
- Martin, Jim. *The Just Church: Becoming a Risk-Taking, Justice-Seeking, Disciple-Making Congregation*. Nashville, TN: Tyndale Momentum, 2012.
- Mason, Mike. *The Mystery of Marriage: Meditations on the Miracle*. Colorado Springs, CO: Multnomah, 2010.
- Nouwen, Henri. *In the Name of Jesus: Reflections on Christian Leadership*. New York, NY: Crossroad, 1999.
- Life of the Beloved: Spiritual Living in a Secular World*. New York, NY: Crossroad, 2002.
- Out of Solitude: Three Meditations on the Christian Life*, 2nd Ed. New York, NY: Ave Maria Press, 2004.
- The Return of the Prodigal Son*. New York, NY: Image, 1994.
- Ortberg, John. *Love Beyond Reason: Moving God's Love from Your Head to Your Heart*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1998.
- Peck, M. Scott. *People of the Lie: The Hope for Healing Human Evil*. New York, NY: Simon & Schuster, Inc., 1983.

- Peterson, Eugene H. *The Pastor: A Memoir*. San Francisco, CA: HarperOne, 2011.
- Plantinga, Cornelius, Jr. *Not the Way It's Supposed to Be: A Breviary of Sin*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1995.
- St. John of the Cross. *Dark Night of the Soul*. Trans. by E. Allison Peers. New York, NY: Image, 1959.
- Scazzero, Peter. *The Emotionally Healthy Church: A Strategy for Discipleship that Actually Changes Lives*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2003.
- Emotionally Healthy Spirituality: Unleash a revolution in Your Life in Christ*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2006.
- Smith, James Bryan. *The Good & Beautiful Community: Following the Spirit, Extending Grace, Demonstrating Love*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP Books, 2010.
- Stevens, R. Paul. *Down-to-Earth Spirituality: Encountering God in the Ordinary, Boring Stuff of Life*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP Books, 2003.
- Taylor, Barbara Brown. *An Altar in the World: A Geography of Faith*. San Francisco, CA: HarperOne, 2009.
- Thomas, Gary. *Sacred Marriage: What if God Designed Marriage to Make Us Holy More than Make Us Happy?* Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2000.
- Tournier, Paul. *The Meaning of Persons*. San Francisco, CA: Harper & Row, 1957.
- Vanier, Jean. *Community & Growth*, 2nd Edition. New York, NY: Paulist Press, 1989.
- Vogel, Arthur A. *God, Prayer & Healing: Living with God in a World Like Ours*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1995.
- Voskamp, Ann. *One Thousand Gifts: A Dare to Live Fully Right Where You Are*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2010.
- Williams, Margery. *The Velveteen Rabbit*. New York, NY: Doubleday, 1958.
- Willimon, William H. *Pastor: The Theology & Practice of Ordained Ministry*. Nashville, TN: Abingdon Press, 2002.
- Wolfteich, Claire E. *Lord, Have Mercy: Praying for Justice with Conviction & Humility*. San Francisco, CA: Jossey-Bass, 2006.
- Yaconelli, Michael. *Messy Spirituality: God's Annoying Love for Imperfect People*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2002.
- Yancey, Philip. *Where is God When it Hurts?* Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1997.
- Zacharias, Ravi. *Cries of the Heart: Bringing God Near when He Seems So Far*. Nashville, TN: Word, 1998.

Course Requirements:

1. Write a 1000-word paper on your philosophy of spiritual care.

Due: 5:15 PM, February 12, 2014.

2. Research and write a 1500-word paper reporting and reflecting on a personal interview with a parish nurse, pastor of care ministry, Christian counsellor, or the like, about their work.

Or

Research and write a 1500-word paper describing and reflecting on a first-hand exploration of one church's effective ministry in some area of spiritual care.

Due: 5:15 PM, March 12, 2014.

3. Write a 2000-word paper exploring the theological & practical dimensions of a single aspect of spiritual care (grief & loss, marriage issues, sexual/gender issues, depression, addiction, spiritual direction, hospital visitation, etcetera).

Due: 5:15 PM, April 2, 2014.

4. Select and read from the Recommended Book List enough supplemental reading to total 1000 pages for the entire course.
5. Write a 1-page (1.5 spacing, 12 pt. *New Times Colonist*, *Ariel* or *Garamond*) précis of each book read. This is strictly a summary of the book's contents – not a critique, analysis, or response. Must not exceed 1-page per book.

Crabb book: **5:15 PM, February 12, 2014**

Nouwen book: **5:15 PM, March 12, 2014**

Swinton book & all other reading: **5:15 PM, April 2, 2014.**

Submission Policy: Please submit both a hard copy and an electronic copy on or before the due date (no later than 5:15 PM on due date).

Late Policy: Except under extraordinary circumstances (i.e., a life or family crisis, severe and prolonged illness) will the instructor grant an extension. All requests for extension must be submitted in writing on or before the assignment's due date. Otherwise, any submissions received later than midnight on the due date will be deemed late and penalized at a 5% deduction per day. Any submission later than a week past the due date, unless negotiated with the Registrar, will automatically receive an F.

Course Assessment

Assignment 1: Philosophy of Spiritual Care	20%
Assignment 2: Interview with a Spiritual Care Practitioner or Overview of Spiritual Care Ministry	25%
Assignment 3: Research Paper on One Aspect of Spiritual Care	40%
Assignment 4: Reading Summaries	15%

All papers should all be written as follows:

- Use double-spacing except for reading reports, which can 1.5 spacing.
- Use *Times New Roman*, *Arial* or *Garamond* 12-point font.
- Do NOT use paper clips to fasten the pages of your assignments. Only papers that are stapled together will be accepted.
- All pages are to be numbered.
- Citation of Sources: The student is free to use his/her preferred style (e.g. Kate Turabian's *A Manual for Writers*, or *The Chicago Manual of Style*), but must remain consistent throughout the entire paper.
- Regarding inclusive language: The student is encouraged to avoid the consistent used of masculine terminology in reference to people in the general sense. For example, the terms "humanity" or "people" or "humankind" are to be preferred to terms such as "man" or "mankind" when referring to the human race.
- Please include a title page on both the hard copy and the electronic copy.

Important Notes

It is the responsibility of all students to become familiar with and adhere to academic policies of as are stated in the Student Handbook and Academic Calendar.

Personal information, that is information about an individual that may be used to identify that individual, may be collected as a requirement 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.

The last day to enter a course without permission and/ or withdraw from a course without financial penalty is January 19, 2014.

The last day to change to audit without academic penalty is January 19, 2014.

The last day to withdraw from a course without academic penalty is March 21, 2014.

The last day to apply for a time extension for coursework is March 31, 2014.

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." Requests for course extensions or alternative examination time must be submitted to the Registrar's Office by the appropriate deadline. Course extensions are only granted for serious issues that arise "due to circumstances beyond the student's control."

We are committed to fostering personal integrity and will not overlook breaches of integrity such as plagiarism and cheating. Plagiarism and cheating can result in a failing grade for an assignment, for the course, or immediate dismissal from the university college. Students are expected to be familiar with the policies in the current Academic Calendar and the Student Handbook 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.

How to Write a Good Paper (by Bill McAlpine)

Reading a well-thought and well-written paper is one of the most enjoyable aspects of being a teacher. However, papers that are poorly done are not only unpleasant for you as the learner, but also are tedious for the instructor and have been known to generate major mood swings in professors.

You are being asked to write an academic paper which is not the same as an essay or other forms of writing. Hopefully the following information will help you in completing and enjoying this assignment.

- ✓ Research: Start working on this paper soon. Insight that comes from good research seldom, if ever comes from last minute preparation. Asking God for a miracle when research has been put off until a few days before due date qualifies as presumption, or putting God to the test. Complete most of your research before writing. Try to establish a preliminary outline early in the process as well.
- ✓ Reflection: Prior to writing your final draft you should be able to answer the following questions:
 - What is my central theme in this paper?
 - What are a few questions I am addressing related to this theme?
 - What line of argument am I taking in answering those questions?
- ✓ Thesis: Surprise endings have no place in writing an academic paper like this. The main 'plot' should be evident from the beginning. Therefore consider the following: Your first paragraph should grab the reader's interest and convince him/her that the following pages merit careful attention and reflection. Next, provide a clear purpose statement in which you describe the overall direction of your paper, the conclusions you have developed and how you intend on getting there. In essence, that is your thesis. Conclude well. A summary is not a conclusion. A conclusion demonstrates that you have reflected on and interpreted your research material convincingly.
- ✓ Argumentation, not assertion: The aim of a paper like this is to develop skills in analysis, evaluation and critical thinking. Therefore, a summary of other people's views and ideas is inadequate. Likewise simply stating a personal conviction in the absence of reasonable arguments suggesting why a certain position is held is to be avoided.
- ✓ Style: Academic writing does not have to be boring. Be creative and interesting. Avoid the use of well-worn clichés. Each paragraph should address one idea or concept and each

sentence should be a complete, grammatically correct unit (that is, it should contain a subject and a verb at least.). At this stage in your academic development you should be expanding your vocabulary. However, avoid the use of big words that are awkwardly imposed on a sentence. Words with multiple syllables are impressive only if they clarify or enhance what you are trying to say. Read your paper out loud or have someone else read it. You will be amazed how much sloppy grammar can be purged out of a paper by simply reading it aloud.