



PT 610

The Theology & Practice of Spiritual Care

Number of credits: 3

Prerequisite:
None

Semester: Winter, 2015
Days: Tuesday, 6:30-9:30
Room: TBA
Lab – day: None
Lab–Room: N/A

Instructor: Mark Buchanan
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Office By appointment hours:

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.

Expected Learning Outcomes:

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

Important Dates:

First day of classes: January 7, 2015
Registration revision period: January 18, 2015
Last day to request revised examination: March 2, 2015
Last day to withdraw from course: March 20, 2015
Last day to apply for time extension for coursework: March 30, 2015
Last day of classes: April 10, 2015

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.

Outline:

January	13	<i>Which of These Three Do You Think was a Neighbor?</i> - Introduction & Overview
	20	<i>Do You Want to Get Well?</i> - Our Woundedness & Hidden Wholeness
	27	<i>Do You See this Woman?</i> - Hospitality & Being a Community of Grace
February	3	<i>How Long, O Lord?</i> - Suffering & the Problem of Evil
	10	<i>Godly Men Buried Stephen and Mourned Deeply for Him</i> - Death & Dying
	17	Reading Week - No Class (Ambrose Pastors Conference)
	24	Guest Lecturer - Reverend Ian Trigg
March	3	<i>We Had to Celebrate</i> - Community & the Serious Business of
	10	<i>Special Considerations I</i> - The Fool, the Mule, the Wolf, the Dog Who Returns to His Vomit
	17	<i>Special Considerations II</i> - Mental Illness, Special Needs, the Elderly, the Abused, etc.
	24	<i>Special Considerations III</i> - Spiritual Direction
	31	<i>Special Considerations IV</i> - Speaking & Listening Skills
April	7	<i>Go & Do Likewise</i> - Conclusion

Requirements:

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

Due: Midnight, January 27

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: Midnight, March 10

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: Midnight, April 7

4. Write a 1-page (1.5 spacing, 12 pt. *New Times Colonist*, *Ariel* or *Garamond*) précis of each required textbook (including supplemental books). This is strictly a summary of the book's thesis and how its contents argue the thesis; this is not a critique, an analysis, a reflection, or a response. Must not exceed 1-page per book.

Due:

- Savage Book: Midnight, January 27
- Mitchell Book: Midnight, March 10
- Swinton Book & all other readings: Midnight, April 7

5. Select and read from the Recommended Book List enough supplemental reading to total 1000 pages for the entire course (students, *in consultation with the instructor*, may select other reading material not listed
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in the bibliography but pertinent to the course). Write a summary paragraph for every 100 pages read. See above for format requirements. Final book summaries must include a summary sheet with page tabulations for all course readings (see Moodle for template).

Submission of Assignments:

Please include a paragraph indicating how you wish assignments to be submitted (e.g., Moodle, email, paper copy in class).

Also include a paragraph on Turnitin, if you plan to use this tool.

Attendance:

Please include a paragraph about attendance policy.

Evaluation:

Please provide the weighting of the composite grade.

Grade Summary:

The available letters for course grades are as follows:

<u>Letter Grade</u>	<u>Description</u>
A+	
A	Excellent
A-	
B+	
B	Good
B-	
C+	
C	Satisfactory
C-	
D+	
D	Minimal Pass
F	Failure

If you will be using percentages, please provide a scale which indicates how percentages in your class will be translated to letter grades. These equivalencies are at the discretion of the instructor, but **MUST** be stated in the syllabus.

Because of the nature of the Alpha 4.00 system, there can be no uniform College-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 no longer mailed out.

Textbooks:

XXX

XXX

XXX.

Policies:

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, it is highly recommended that they forward all messages from the Ambrose account to the other account.

During the **Registration Revision Period** students may to 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. These courses will not appear on the student's transcript. 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 by the **Withdrawal Deadline**, please consult the List of Important Dates. Withdrawal from courses after the Registration Revision period will not be eligible for tuition refund. A grade of "W" will appear on the student's 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.

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) 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 engage in electronically-enabled activities unrelated to the class during a class session. Please turn off all cell phones and other electronic devices during class. Laptops should be used for class-related purposes only. Please 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. 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, 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.

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 Office of the Registrar in writing 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 to review final grades. 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 College 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 give credit 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 college. 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.

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

Other

Any added features in the syllabus are optional. You may or may not wish to include elements such as a bibliography, reading list, schedule of lectures/topics, or reporting form.