

MF 4511
Pastoral Care & Counseling

Dr. Kenneth R. Pruitt

Pastoral Care and Counseling represents a fundamental component of every minister's work, and must be practiced in the love of God, the presence of the Spirit, and in the name of Jesus. The effective pastor and minister must become aware of the insights and skills necessary for practically extending hope through pastoral care and counseling. These skills become essential elements in the gospel witness of the church and in the health of congregational life.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Pastoral Care and Counseling – MF 4511, will introduce and explore four pillars of Pastoral Care and Counseling:

- I. The Care of Self: The Pastor as Person.
- II. The Care of Others: The Pastor as Caregiver.
- III. The Care of the Congregation: The Pastor as Spiritual Guide.
- IV. The Care of the Crisis: The Pastor as Counselor.

This course will engage with the theological foundations of pastoral care and counseling in the midst of a broken and hurting world and will offer practical engagements with congregational care for the purpose of healing and restoration. This course will further explore different forms of personal and communal crises ministers are likely to encounter in the care of the church.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

At the conclusion of this course, students will have accomplished the following:

- Rethink the role of Pastor through the ministry of *Care*.
- Articulate a theological foundation for *Pastoral Care and Counseling*.
- Identify spiritual and communal resources for *Pastoral Care*.
- *Identify professional resources for Pastoral Counseling*.
- Demonstrate and apply an understanding of *Soul care*.
- Develop a model of holistic care *personally and congregationally*.

GENERAL COURSE ASSIGNMENTS

- **Class Participation**
Students are expected to attend all sessions as designated for this course. Students are encouraged to participate in class discussions and assignments.

- **Reading Assignments.**
Students will be asked to complete individual reading assignments as designated in the course schedule
- **Interviews of Pastors and Church Leaders.** Each student will interview three pastors/church leaders concerning personal vision and practice of pastoral care and self-care. Each student will form his or her questions for the interview and will write a 1-2 page summary documenting the interviews.
- **Review Assignments.** Students will write 4 weekly 1-2 page reviews of reading assignments and/or class lectures.
- **Reflection Paper**
Each student will submit a reflection paper on their personal understanding of and vision for pastoral care and counseling. Specific emphases and guidelines will be discussed during the semester. The paper should be 10-15 pages in length with cited sources.

REQUIRED COURSE TEXTS

Clinebell, Howard, *Basic Types of Pastoral Care and Counseling: Resources for the Ministry of Healing and Growth*, 3rd edition. Nashville: Abingdon, 2011. (Make sure to get the third edition) ISBN: 978-0687663804

Stairs, Jean. *Listening for the Soul: Pastoral Care and Spiritual Direction*. Minneapolis: Augsburg, 2000. ISBN: 978-0800632397

Willimon, William. , *Pastor: The Theology and Practice of Ordained Ministry* Revised Edition. Abingdon Press; (February 16, 2016) / ISBN 10:1501804901.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Tuesday, July 5

6:00 - 6:50 p.m. Introduction to the Course.

7:00 - 8:00 p.m. Cultivating Wholeness.

Assignment Due: Clinebell, *Basic Types of Pastoral Care & Counseling*, Chapters 1–3

Thursday, July 7

6:00 - 6:50 p.m. The Pastor and the Ministry of Care.

7:00 - 8:00 p.m. The Biblical and Theological Foundations of Pastoral Care and Counseling.

Assignment Due: Clinebell, *Basic Types of Pastoral Care & Counseling*, Chapters 4-5; Chapters 12-13;
Review Assignment #1

Tuesday, July 12

6:00 - 6:50 p.m. Introduction of the Four Pillars of Pastoral Care and Counseling.

7:00 - 8:00 p.m. Discussion of Clinebell, Chapters 1-5 and 12-13.

Assignment Due: Stairs, Chapters 1-3; Review Assignment #2

Thursday, July 14. *Dr. Daniel Carro, Guest Lecturer*

6:00 - 6:50 p.m. Pillar #1 - The Care of Self: *Pastor as Person*.

7:00 - 8:00 p.m. Pillar #1, *Follow-up Discussion*

Assignment Due: Stairs, Chapters 4-5; Review Assignment #3

Tuesday, July 19. *Mary Curby, Guest Lecturer*

6:00 - 6:50 p.m. Listening Well.

7:00 - 8:00 p.m. Listening Well, *Follow-up Discussion* / Discussion of Stairs, Chapters 1-5

Assignment Due: *Interview Reports*

Thursday, July 21.

6:00 - 6:50 p.m. Pillar #2 - The Care of Other: *Pastor as Caregiver*

7:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Assignment Due: Willimon, Chapters 2-4, Review Assignment #4

Tuesday, July 25.

6:00 - 6:50 p.m. Pillar #3 - The Care of the Congregation: *Pastor as Spiritual Guide*

7:00 - 8:00 p.m. Pillar #4 - The Care of the Crisis: *Pastor as Counselor*

Assignment Due: Willimon, Chapters 2-4, Review Assignment

Thursday, July 28:

6:00 - 6:50 p.m. Identifying spiritual and communal resources for *Pastoral Care*.

7:00 - 8:00 p.m. Identifying professional resources for *Pastoral Counseling*.

Assignment Due: Willimon, Chapter 7, 12, 13-14.

Monday, August 1:

Reflection Paper Due