

CS-323: Congregational Care
Wesley Theological Seminary
Course of Study
March 27-28, April 24-25, 2020

UNY Conference Center
7481 Henry Clay Blvd.
Liverpool, NY 13088

Professor:

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Course Description:

This course introduces participants to pastoral methods of religiously-based care in congregational settings and provides a basis for further studies in the area of pastoral care and counseling. Students will explore:

- Care in response to various life events (both positive events and crises)
- Care in various settings (hospital, prison, etc.)
- Care skills and practices for diverse groups
- Professional boundaries for pastors and between pastoral care and dedicated mental health services
- Peacebuilding and conflict resolution skills

Teaching Method:

This is an interactive course that will use a combination of lectures and both instructor- and student-led discussions. Role playing may also be used.

Course Requirements:

-Attendance: Please attend all sessions. This is much more important than any of the other requirements. You can always go back and read something later. Class discussion is the one thing you cannot replace!

-Required Texts:

Larry Webb, *Crisis Counseling in the Congregation* (Abingdon, 2011). ISBN#978-1426726989.
Ed Wimberly, *African American Pastoral Care and Counseling: Oppression and Empowerment* (Pilgrim, 2006). ISBN#978-0829816815.

All other materials are available via Blackboard. **If you have trouble accessing any of the readings, please let the professor know immediately! All readings are required and must be included in the Summary Essays (1&2).**

-Writing Assignments: Students are required to hand in four essays (12 pt. font, 1 inch margins, double spaced; sans serif fonts preferred). Please submit papers via Blackboard or email (no paper copies). Please read all of the assignments before choosing topics; you cannot use the same topic for multiple assignments! Please cite any work you quote or reference appropriately. Remember: page lengths are slightly flexible, but these are short papers. You will need to be brief!

- **Introductory Essay** (2 pages); **Due Wednesday, 18 March**: Briefly answer the following questions: *Other than time constraints, what do you believe is your most significant barrier to offering effective congregational care? What are you doing to work through this challenge? What resources have you found helpful?*
- **Summary Essay 1** (5 pages): **Due Thursday, 26 March** Write a brief essay that summarizes, in 1-2 sentences, the *main point* from each of the readings assignments for this first weekend of class sessions. Show that you have understood the main emphases of each reading, and periodically indicate your own thoughts, as space allows. This is not a bulleted list. It is complete sentences, as if you are in a conversation in which you are briefly describing the readings to someone who has not read them. For example, *“The readings for Session 2 covered Self Care and Mental Health Professional Referrals. Webb (Ch 7) discusses the importance of building a “care support team,” and reminds us that pastors can’t ‘do it all.’ He suggests to make a list of trusted resources, identify the gifts within your congregation, and help train the laity for this team effort. In Chapter 9, Webb...”*
- **Summary Essay 2** (5 pages): **Due Friday, 24 April**: As before, write a brief essay that summarizes, in 1-2 sentences, each of the readings assigned for this second weekend of class sessions. Show that you have understood the main points and emphases of each reading assigned, and periodically indicate your own thoughts, as space allows. **Please include a half page response to the film, “The Mask You Live In.”**
- **Topical Essay** (8 pages): **Due Friday, 1 May**: You have a choice. Identify EITHER: your most challenging or difficult area of pastoral care (topic A), OR, the area of pastoral care you feel most passionate about or invested in (topic B). Very briefly summarize current thought (from the class readings as well as at least 2 additional sources), and discuss your own ideas on EITHER: why topic A is difficult for you, and how you plan to manage this challenge; OR, 2) why you are so interested in topic B, and how you plan to expand or improve your care in this area. Please confirm your topic choice with the professor in advance. Please let the professor know if you need help finding additional resources for your paper.

-Presentations: Please look through the topics for each class sessions below and **choose 3 topics** that you would like to present to the class during the given session time, and let the professor know your choices by **Friday, 31 January**. Please select topics different from the topic that you plan to write about in your Topical Essay. Once the topics are all assigned, the professor will let you know which one(s) you will present. Carefully examine the readings for those session(s) and prepare to present a 10 minute summary of the readings to the class. Finish your presentation with one or two of your own ideas and questions for discussion.

-Grading: Grades will be calculated as follows:

- Introductory Essay: 10%
- Summary Essay 1: 15%
- Summary Essay 2: 15%
- Topical Essay: 15%
- Presentation(s): 30%
- Class Participation: 15%

Course Schedule:

Friday, 27 March:

1 pm: Chapel Service

1:45 pm: Introductions and Greetings

2:00 pm – 5:00 pm: Sessions 1-3

5:00 pm – 6:45 pm: Dinner Break

7:00 pm – 9:00 pm: Sessions 4-5

Session 1: Introduction to Congregational Care

- Webb (Introduction, Ch 1-3, 10)
- Wimberly (Ch 2)

Session 2: Self Care and Mental Health Professional Referrals

- Webb Ch 7, 9
- Wimberly Ch 4, 5
- Henri Nouwen, *The Wounded Healer*, Ch 4: “Ministry by a Lonely Minister” (pp 83-98)

Session 3: Grief and Lament

- Wimberly, Ch 3
- Billman and Migliore, *Rachel’s Cry: Prayer of Lament and Rebirth of Hope*, Introduction, Ch 1 (pp 1-21)
- Grenfell-Lee, *Can Creation Heal Society’s Wounds?*

Session 4: Marriage, Parenting, Birth, and Children

- Webb, Ch 4, pp 90-97 (“Marital Stress”), Ch 6, pp 109-115 (through “Premarital Counseling,” excluding “Adolescents”)
- Orson, *Tears Heal*, Intro (to Kindle Location 348)
- Kohn, *Beyond Discipline* (article)
- Sullivan, “How My Church Became Truly Child Welcoming” (article)

Session 5: Youth, Young Adults, Elders, Ancestors

- Webb, Ch 6, “Adolescents” (pp 111-113)
- Abdallah, “How I Learned to Love My Period” (article)
- Johnson, *The Thundering Years*, Intro and Chapter 1 (pp 1-24)
- UMC.org, “Mission and Aging of the Global Population” (article)
- Grenfell-Lee, “Forgive Me, Mother, For I Have Sinned: Earth, Ancestors, and the Role of Confession” (article)

Saturday, 28 March:

9:00 am SHARP – 12:00 pm: Sessions 6-8

Session 6: Conflict and Peacebuilding

- Webb, Ch 4, pp 76-85 (“The Chronic Dependent” through “Putting Strength...”) and 88-90 (“The Critic”)
- Stone, Patton, and Heen, *Difficult Conversations* (summary article)
- Stone and Heen, *Thanks for the Feedback* (summary article)

Session 7: Crises and Trauma

- Webb, Ch 5, 8, 10
- Rambo, *Spirit and Trauma*, Intro
- Herman, *Trauma and Recovery*: portion of Ch 1 (pp 1-21)
- Kirk-Duggan, *The Sky Is Crying: Race, Class, and Natural Disaster*, Ch 11: Pinn, “Shouting at an Angry Sky: Thoughts on Natural Disaster as Theological Challenge” (pp 98-104)

Session 8: Hospital and Hospice Care

- Webb, Ch 4, pp 61-76 (stop before “The Chronic Dependent”), Ch 6 (115-120: “Death and Funerals,” “Bereavement”)
- Borg, *The Heart of Christianity*, Ch 11 “Heart and Home: Being Christian in an Age of Pluralism”

Friday, 24 April:

1 pm: Chapel Service

1:45 pm: Introduction and Greetings

2:00 pm – 5:00 pm: Sessions 9-11

5:00 pm – 6:45 pm: Dinner Break

7:00 pm – 9:00 pm: Sessions 12-13

Session 9: Public Theology and Ministry

- Wimberly, Ch 1,6,7
- Ives, “When I Was In Prison” (UMC.org article and resources)

Session 10: Race and Congregational Care

- *How Do We Rid Ourselves of Stereotypes?* (article)
- Thurman, *Jesus and the Disinherited*, Ch 5 (“Love”)
- Tinker, *Spirit and Resistance*, pp. 1-6
- Isazi-Diaz, *Mujerista Theology*, Ch 5, “Solidarity” (pp 86-104)
- Tam, “Culture Clash: Asian-Americans Balance Christianity and Culture in Rituals Honoring their Ancestors” (article)

Session 11: Women, Men, and Congregational Care

- Jack, *Silencing the Self*, Ch 1 ('Preparing to Listen')
- Roth, *Women, Food, and God*, Prologue ('The World On Our Plates')
- Murphy, *The Trouble with Choosing Your Choice* (article)
- Film, *The Mask You Live In* (available in some library systems and on iTunes) (IMDB.com has a Parents Guide for the content of this film. Please let the professor know if you have trouble accessing this film!)

Session 12: Sexuality and Congregational Care

- Webb Ch 4, pp 85-7 ("Crisis in the Pew: Sexual Behavior"), Ch 6, pp 120-6 ("Pastoral Care of Gays...")
- Smith, *Preaching As Weeping*, portion of Ch 4, "Heterosexism" (pp 87-97)
- Our Whole Lives (resource overview)
- Heyward, *Touching Our Strength* (pp 100-102)
- Roys, "The Secret Shame of Abortion in the Church" (article)

Session 13: Addiction and Disabilities

- Culture Reframed: The Crisis ("Critical Porn Analysis") (article/resource)
- Abrams, "The Church's Public Witness: Tackling Alcohol and Drug Addiction" (UMCjustice.org article)
- Smith, *Preaching As Weeping*, portion of Ch 1, "Handicappism," (pp 15-31)

Saturday, 25 April:

9:00 am SHARP – 12:00 pm: Sessions 14-16

Session 14: Nature Connection and Congregational Care

- Bloom, *Creating Sanctuary*, pp 9-13, 19-32
- Glave, *To Love the Wind and the Rain*, Ch 1: African American Environmental History (pp. 1-8)
- Olmstead, "Why Christians Should Love Creation, not 'Nature'" (Christianity Today article)
- Wild Church Network (resource: read homepage and 2 church examples of your choice)

Session 15: Climate Resilience and Congregational Care

- Delgado, *Love in a Time of Climate Change*, pp. 110-14, 141-2, 159-90
- Kim, "UMCOR's US Disaster Response" (UMCmission.org article/resource)
- Gottlieb, *A Greener Faith: Religious Environmentalism and Our Planet's Future*, pp 7-12
- Newman, Beatley, and Boyer, *Resilient Cities: Responding to Peak Oil and Climate Change*, Ch 6: "Ten Strategic Steps to a Climate Resilient City"

Session 16: Wrap Up, Discussion, and Course Evaluations

Bibliography and Resources:

Books:

- Billman, Kathleen D., Daniel L. Migliore; *Rachel's Cry: Prayer of Lament and Rebirth of Hope* (1999, United Church Press)
- Bloom, Jessi; *Creating Sanctuary* (2018, Timber Press)
- Borg, Marcus J.; *The Heart of Christianity: Rediscovering A Life of Faith* (2003, HarperCollins)
- Delgado, Sharon; *Love in a Time of Climate Change: Honoring Creation, Establishing Justice* (2017, Fortress Press)
- Glave, Dianne D., Mark Stoll; *To Love the Wind and the Rain: African Americans and Environmental History* (2006, University of Pittsburg Press)
- Gottlieb, Roger; *A Greener Faith: Religious Environmentalism and Our Planet's Future* (2006, Oxford University Press)
- Herman, Judith; *Trauma and Recovery: The Aftermath of Violence – From Domestic Abuse to Political Terror* (1992, Basic Books)
- Heyward, Carter; *Touching Our Strength: The Erotic as Power and the Love of God* (1989, HarperCollins)
- Isasi-Díaz, Ada María; *Mujerista Theology* (1996, Orbis Books)
- Jack, Dana Crowley; *Silencing the Self: Women and Depression* (1991, HarperCollins)
- Johnson, Julie Tallard; *The Thundering Years: Ritual and Sacred Wisdom for Teens* (2001, Bindu Books)
- Kirk-Duggan, Cheryl A.; *The Sky Is Crying: Race, Class, and Natural Disaster* (2006, Abingdon Press)
- Newman, Peter, Timothy Beatley, Heather Boyer; *Resilient Cities: Responding to Peak Oil and Climate Change* (2009, Island Press)
- Nouwen, Henri J.M.; *The Wounded Healer: Ministry in Contemporary Society* (1972, Doubleday)
- Orson, Kate; *Tears Heal: How to Listen to Our Children* (2016, Piatkus)
- Rambo, Shelly; *Spirit and Trauma: A Theology of Remaining* (2010, Westminster John Knox Press)
- Roth, Geneen; *Women, Food, and God: An Unexpected Path to Almost Everything* (2010, Scribner)
- Smith, Christine M.; *Preaching As Weeping, Confession, and Resistance: Radical Responses to Radical Evil* (1992, Westminster/John Knox Press)
- Stone, Douglas, Bruce M. Patton, Sheila Heen; *Difficult Conversations: How to Discuss What Matters Most* (1999, Penguin Books)
- Stone, Douglas, Sheila Heen; *Thanks for the Feedback: The Science and Art of Receiving Feedback Well* (2014, Penguin Books)
- Thurman, Howard; *Jesus and the Disinherited* (1976, Beacon Press)
- Tinker, George E.; *Spirit and Resistance: Political Theology and American Indian Liberation* (2004, Fortress Press)
- Webb, Larry E.; *Crisis Counseling in the Congregation* (2011, Abingdon Press)

- Wimberly, Edward P.; *African American Pastoral Care and Counseling: The Politics of Oppression and Empowerment* (2006, Pilgrim Press)

Articles:

- Abdallah, Amy F. Davis; “How I Learned to Love My Period” (<http://amyfdavisabdallah.com/reverse-the-curse/?fbclid=IwAR0eWc5WjZwlbH7-MnNVULMX2mMwYzfSTDSDFkSwpB7ezNh7XamYCR59F5E>)
- Grenfell-Lee, Tallessyn; “Forgive Me, Mother, For I Have Sinned” (Feminism and Religion: <https://feminismandreligion.com/2018/06/16/forgive-me-mother-for-i-have-sinned-earth-ancestors-and-the-role-of-confession-by-tallessyn-zawn-grenfell-lee/>)
- Grenfell-Lee, Tallessyn; “Can Creation Heal Society’s Wounds?” (http://www.academia.edu/34745187/Can_Creation_Heal_Societys_Wounds)
- Kohn, Alfie; “Beyond Discipline” (<https://www.alfiekohn.org/article/beyond-discipline-article/>)
- Murphy, Meghan; “The Trouble With Choosing Your Choice” (Feminist Current: <https://www.feministcurrent.com/2011/03/11/the-trouble-with-choosing-your-choice/>)
- Olmstead, Gracy; “Why Christians Should Love Creation, Not ‘Nature’” (Christianity Today: <https://www.christianitytoday.com/ct/2015/december/why-christians-should-love-creation-not-nature.html>)
- Roys, Julie; “The Secret Shame of Abortion in the Church” (<http://julieroys.com/the-secret-shame-of-abortion-in-the-church/>)
- Sullivan, Benjamin; “How My Church Became Truly Child Welcoming” (published on Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=784150338590704&id=353900694949006)
- Tam, Ruth; “Culture Clash: Asian Americans Balance Christianity and Culture in Rituals Honoring their Ancestors” (Washington Post: https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/post-nation/wp/2018/04/06/culture-clash-asian-americans-balance-christianity-and-culture-in-rituals-honoring-their-ancestors/?utm_term=.1fa9b8d8980e)

Websites:

- Culture Reframed – Pornography (https://www.culturereframed.org/the_crisis/)
- Hope College – Stereotypes (<https://blogs.hope.edu/getting-race-right/our-context-where-we-are/the-history-we-inhaled/how-do-we-rid-ourselves-of-stereotypes/>)
- Our Whole Lives (UCC) (http://www.ucc.org/justice_sexuality-education_our-whole-lives)
- UMC Discipleship Ministries – Prison (<https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/resources/when-i-was-in-prison>)
- UMC Justice – Addiction (Cynthia J. Abrams: <https://www.umcjustice.org/news-and-stories/the-church-s-public-witness-tackling-alcohol-and-drug-addiction-498>)
- UMC – Mission and Aging of the Global Population (<http://www.umc.org/what-we-believe/mission-and-aging-of-the-global-population>)

- UMCOR's US Disaster Response (<https://www.umcmission.org/Find-Resources/New-World-Outlook-Magazine/New-World-Outlook-Archives/2013/March-April-2013/0508-UMCORs-US-Disaster-Response>)
- Wild Church Network (<https://www.wildchurchnetwork.com/>)

Films:

- The Mask You Live In (The Representation Project (Trailer): <http://therepresentationproject.org/film/the-mask-you-live-in-film/>)