

## **CS-323 Congregational Care**

Weekend COS Online: March/April, 2021

Instructor: Michael Koppel, M.Div., Ph.D.

Professor of Pastoral Theology and Congregational Care

Associate Dean for Academic Affairs

Wesley Theological Seminary

[mkoppel@wesleyseminary.edu](mailto:mkoppel@wesleyseminary.edu)

(202) 885-8610

### **Covid 19 Pandemic Update:**

Our class was originally scheduled to meet in person March 12-13, and April 16-17. We will shift to a virtual teaching and learning format using Zoom and the Blackboard site.

Zoom times: **March 12**, 1-3 pm

**April 16**, 1-3 pm

Link to Join Zoom Meeting

<https://wesleyseminary.zoom.us/j/92751420170>

After each Zoom session, there will be online components to interact with including videos that emphasize caring themes and skills, powerpoint slides, and self care and spiritual care practices. The deadline for posting to the module discussion board will be extended beyond the weekend to give participants sufficient time to interact with the material.

### **Objectives:**

This course introduces participants to practices of congregational care and the pastor's responsibility in caregiving.

Participants will be able to:

- Implement and oversee appropriate types of care in varieties of settings, including homes, hospitals, and nursing facilities.
- Organize and support caring ministries within the congregation.
- Discern and implement appropriate boundaries, including the practices of confidentiality and referral.
- Reflect on and practice care giving skills, using role plays and case studies.

**See the next page for Required Texts and Writing Assignment.**

**Required Texts:**

Dombkowski Hopkins, Denise and Michael S. Koppel, *Grounded in the Living Word: The Old Testament and Pastoral Care Practices* (Wm. B. Eerdmans, 2010); ISBN #: 978-0802863683.

*Justes, Emma, Hearing Beyond the Words: How to Become a Listening Pastor* (Abingdon, 2002); ISBN #: 978-0687494996.

**Supplemental Text:**

Wimberly, Edward, *Recalling Our Own Stories: Spiritual Renewal for Religious Caregivers* (Fortress, 2019); ISBN #: 978-1506454771.

**Reading and Writing Assignment:**

- 1) Please **read and reflect** on assigned course texts.
- 2) Complete the writing assignment described below. **Submit** your paper electronically to **Blackboard by March 12, 2021**. Please use 12 point font and \*.docx, \*.doc, or \*.rtf formats.

**Write an 8 page paper** and upload to Blackboard as **one document**. The paper should be divided as follows:

- In **3 pages**, draw on the course books to identify ideas and practices you will use or that help form a care plan for ministry in your congregation.
- In **4 pages** reflect on effective and ineffective care giving:  
In two pages, describe a situation when you offered effective pastoral care and identify factors that contributed to it being effective care  
In two pages, describe a situation when you offered ineffective pastoral care and identify factors that contributed to it being ineffective
- In **1 page**, describe your primary spiritual practice for cultivating pastoral awareness and self care.

**Course Schedule**

In addition to the 2 hour Zoom session, participants can expect to devote a maximum of 1 hour/day through the following week on course interaction and reflection

March 12 and the following week

**Module 1:** Positive Care Experiences; Hospitality and Care Presence

**Module 2:** Using Ourselves Well in Congregations as Systems of Care

April 16 and the following week

**Module 3:** Negative Care Experiences; Care through Pain, Grief, Suffering

**Module 4:** Care Teams, Referrals, Self Care, and Spiritual Practices

## **Evaluation**

- Class Writing Assignment 50%
- Online Module and Zoom Participation 50%

## **Grade Schema**

93 – 100 = A (Excellent/Outstanding)

90 – 92 = A- (Excellent/Outstanding)

88 – 89 = B+ (Very Good)

83 – 87 = B (Good)

80 – 82 = B- (Adequate)

78 – 79 = C+ (Adequate)

73 – 77 = C (Adequate)

70 – 72 = C- (Substandard)

The instructor assumes that everyone in the class is capable of receiving at minimum a “B” grade for the course.

Final course grades are mailed to the student, GBHEM in Nashville and the participant’s conference representative. Grades are not posted on-line.

## **Class Policies**

Attendance: Please contact the instructor regarding late assignments and anticipated absence from online modules or face to face class time.

Inclusive Language: In oral and written contributions to the course, students are expected to use inclusive language for God and human persons.

Plagiarism: Plagiarism is regarded as a serious offense and will result in substantial penalties, including the possibility of academic dismissal. The faculty regards the following as form of plagiarism or dishonesty: Copying from another students paper; giving or receiving unauthorized assistance to or from another student during an examination; using unauthorized material

during an examination; borrowing or presenting as one's own (i.e. without proper attribution) the composition or ideas of another.

Please refer to your Wesley Student Handbook (on-line) for more information about Wesley's academic policies or contact the Course of Study office 202-885-8688.