

CS-323 Congregational Care

Online Modules: June 1 to 15 (self paced with flexible posting deadlines)

Zoom Class Sessions: July 26-30, daily 1-3 pm

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

(202) 885-8610

June **Online** Modules: Our class will have Blackboard online learning modules during the first two weeks of June (**June 1-15**). Class participants can pace learning, and flexible posting deadlines will be in place to facilitate learning and ease stress during this global pandemic.

July **Zoom** Sessions: Our class will meet **July 26-30** from 1-3 pm each day.

Link to Join Zoom Meeting for our July Sessions:

<https://wesleyseminary.zoom.us/j/96646172756?pwd=b3Z0TStoVkN6SURyS1dzNjE0emsxZz09>

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.

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 July 25, 2021 at 11:59 pm EDT** . Please use 12 point font, double-space, and *.docx, *.doc, or *.rtf formats.

Write a 5 page paper and upload to Blackboard as **one document**. The paper should be divided as follows and draw on course readings as applicable:

- 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

Here is the plan and anticipated topics for our online modules and Zoom class sessions:

June Online Modules open on June 1. Topics include: Qualities of Care; Hospitality and Care Presence; Using Ourselves Well; Congregations as Systems of Care

Please check Blackboard to access the modules and posting expectations.

July Zoom Sessions meet July 26-30 from 1 to 3 pm each day. Topics to be covered: Positive and Negative Care Experiences; Care through Pain, Grief, Suffering; Care Teams and Referrals; Self Care and Spiritual Practice

Evaluation

Class Writing Assignment	40%
Online Module Postings and Zoom Participation	60%

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 (online) for more information about Wesley’s academic policies or contact the Course of Study office 202-885-8688.