



PASTORAL THEOLOGY II (COUNSELING)

Spring 2017 Course Syllabus - 3 Credits

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Pastoral Theology is a branch of Theology. It is not a distinct unit, but rather a formal presentation of the means by which the other theological studies and the regulations concerning the administration of the sacraments may be acted upon in a practical way. Thus, Pastoral Theology takes dogmatic theology, moral theology, ascetical theology, ritual theology and canon law and synthesizes them into processes for practical ministry. It imparts on servants the knowledge behind the administering of the office of teaching, ministering and directing. Pastoral Theology is pastoral because it deals with the roles, tasks, duties, function and work of the pastor (minister). It is theology because it is attentive to the knowledge of God; witnessed to in Scripture and meditated through tradition. Pastoral Theology seeks to point to the life of Christ as the basis of all pastoral (ministerial) activities.

Course Objectives

1. To explore some of the challenges, hurts and crises which God's people face individually, corporally or as a family such as substance abuse, depression, suicide, divorce, death, aging, natural disasters and more.
2. To highlight the role of the pastor/counselor in the ministry of healing and growth within the faith community and how to deal with such crises.
3. To understand one's calling in building deeper relationships to address people's short-term as well as long-term needs.

Course Outline:

Lecture 1: General Introduction: Biblical and theological basis of Pastoral Theology. Human Development Theories.

Lecture 2: Family Systems Theory. Childhood, Adolescence and Family Ministry. Lecture 3: Young Adulthood: Relationships & Intercultural Marriages.

Lecture 4: Illness, hospital emergencies, divorce and our response. Ministering to the family in crisis.

Lecture 5: Addictions: drugs, alcohol, cyberspace, music, pornography.

Lecture 6: Aging, death and dying, euthanasia, suicide, and the right to die.

Textbooks:

1. Clinebell, Howard, Basic Types of Pastoral Care and Counselling, SCM Press, London, 1984.
2. Oden, Thomas C., Classical Pastoral Care (Vol. Four: Crisis Ministries), Baker Publishers, Grand Rapids, MI, 2000.
3. Salama, Fr. Pishoy, Of All Nations: Exploring Intercultural Marriages in the Coptic Orthodox Church of the GTA, University of Toronto Dissertation, 2012.
4. Wilhoit, James C. & John M. Dettoni, Ed., Nurture That is Christian, Baker Publishers, Grand Rapids, MI, 1995.

References:

5. Conway, David, Men in Mid-life Crisis, David Cook Publishing Co, Illinois, 1985.
6. Conway, David and Sally, Women in Mid-life Crisis, Tyndale House Publishing Co, Illinois, 1983.
7. DeVries, Mark, Family-Based Youth Ministry, InterVarsity Press, Illinois, 2004.
8. Herwett, John, After Suicide, Westminster, Philadelphia, 1980.
9. Mueller, Walt, Understanding Today's Youth Culture, Tyndale House Publishers, Illinois, 1999.
10. Switzer, David K., Pastoral Care Emergencies, Paulist Press, New York 1989.
11. Watkins, Derrel R., Practical Theology for Aging, Haworth Press, New York, 2003.
12. Wennberg, Robert, Terminal Choices, William Eldmans Publishing Co. Michigan, 1989.
13. Whitehead, James and Evelyn, Method of Ministry, Seaburg Press, Minnesota, 1980

Grading Scale:

Course Attendance	10%
Major Research Paper*	40%
Four Webinars Participation*	20%
Final Exam*	30%

* Dates to be determined.

Major Research Paper:

Choose one of the topics below and write a 10 – 12 page paper. The paper will quote at least 5 resources (not from the internet) and properly cite all resources using Kate L. Turabian or any other approved style.

1. Being in a position of church leadership is an open invitation to people in the congregation to bring for discussion their hurts, crisis, decisions and difficult experiences which as human beings they so often need to share with someone they trust. As servants of God, we have to suffer with those who suffer, weep with those who weep, and rejoice with those who rejoice. We must share our time, energy, sensitivity, skills and faith. Respond to this and reflect on how this can be achieved successfully.

2. Solomon the King said, “By wisdom a house is built, and by understanding it is established and by knowledge the rooms are filled with all precious and pleasant riches” (Proverbs 24:3-4). As a servant of God, how can we help people in a family crisis to use wisdom to solve their problems?
3. Care for the physically ill requires mental and spiritual preparation for those who are in ministry. As a servant of God, how can you be ready for this important ministry?
4. Edwin Shneidman, foremost American expert on suicide, describes the burden that a suicide places on the surviving family as follows: “I believe that the person who commits suicide puts his psychological skeleton in the survivor’s emotional closet. He sentences the survivor to deal with many negative feelings, and more to become obsessed with thoughts regarding his own actual or possible role in having participated in the suicidal act or having failed to abort it. It can be a heavy load.” As a servant of God, how can you help the surviving family?
5. Nancy Reagan said: “Drug and alcohol abuse touches all Americans in one form or another, yet, it is our children who are most vulnerable to its influence. As parents and teachers, we need to educate ourselves about the dangers of drugs, so that we can then teach our children. And we must go further still by convincing them that drugs are morally wrong.” As a servant of God, what can we do to save our children from the addictions of drugs and alcohol?
6. As a servant of God, how do you feel about Euthanasia and the right to die? Do you believe that it is an act of mercy or is it a breaking of God’s Commandment of “You shall not kill”?
7. Only in recent years has the ‘mid-life crisis’ been identified and addressed by pastors, priests, counselors and doctors. As a servant of God, how can you help women/men experiencing a mid-life crisis?
8. Other. Please email instructor or TA to suggest other research topics and receive approval.

Final Exam:

Choose four of the following cases and write a 3 - 4 page response for each chosen case. Each response will cite at least one external resource (not from the internet) to support your arguments.

(1) Case of drugs and alcohol abuse:

A boy named John nearly died as a result of drugs and alcohol before he was legally old enough to buy a drink. John’s parents are good citizens, hardworking and Church-going but from the time John was thirteen years old, he has been suffering from severe drug addiction.

There are several million adolescents just like John. What can you do to help John and his parents?

(2) Euthanasia Case:

Karen Quinean was delivered to an emergency room of a community hospital by friends. She was unconscious after having taken a combination of alcohol and drugs. She stayed in the hospital, lived in an unconscious limbo between life and death. She lost a great deal of weight, and lay in a fetal position. Expert medical witnesses from various parts of the country said that

she would never recover and that her life was being sustained only by the mechanical respirator which breathed for her. Karen's parents want to "Pull the Plug" on the respirator.

What do you think, and what is your advice to Karen's parents?

(3) Teenager Case:

My spouse and I just have not been able to agree on how to handle the situation with our sixteen year old daughter. She is driving us crazy with her sneaking out and meeting boys we don't even know. We know she drinks with them and Lord knows what else is going on. I have been anxious and mad at her and do not know what to do myself and now she seems to be driving a wedge between my spouse and I.

It's just awful. What can we do?

(4) Intercultural Marriage Case:

One of my spiritual daughters whom I have known since I taught her in Sunday School many years ago told me that she met this amazing man at work who is a protestant American and they were thinking of getting married. It seems that everything is great about him except that he is not sure that he wants to join the Orthodox Church. Also, her parents have some concerns about him because they think that the couple will end up in divorce.

How would you help the girl and her parents? What is the right course of action in this situation?

(5) A Case of Death and Grieving

An excellent film entitled "With His play Clothes on" portrays the situation of a real family whose youngest son, twenty-one months old, suddenly became ill one afternoon. After a few hours, he continued to get worse. His parents rushed him to the emergency room of the closest hospital and the medical team began to work on him as soon as they could get a doctor. After two hours, a young man came out and directed the parents to the family room. Five minutes later the doctor came in: "I'm sorry we did everything... Jerry's gone". Both of the parents just screamed.

If you had been there with the parents as a Christian friend, what would you do to help them?

(6) Child abuse Case:

A nine-year old boy has been beaten mercilessly by his father. His father confessed to his wife and his son that he lost control when he started whipping the boy. They all confessed their faults to each other, father, mother, and son. They prayed together and the father promised God that he would not do it again. Another instance arose a few weeks later, and the father did it again. The boy said that his hopes were crushed. His confidence in his father's relationship with God had been taken away from him.

As counselor, what can you do to help each of the father, the mother, and the son?

(7) Family Crisis Case:

A family in America is having a rough time. On any given night, father sits in front of the TV set, mother is at a committee meeting, adult son is on a date, high school daughter is doing homework with a friend, and the youngest child is listening to a night baseball game with his own radio and ear-set. It is not that these activities are evil in and of themselves, but when they are taken collectively and repeated evening after evening, they affect the very fabric out of which family life is made.

What can you do to help this family?