Introduction: This a beginning foundational course in pastoral theology and psychology for those interested in the work of pastoral ministry in a variety of expressions – the parish pastor, the chaplain, the pastoral counselor. The Society for Pastoral Theology understands pastoral theology as “a constructive practical theological enterprise focused on the religious care of persons, families and communities. As such it draws on interdisciplinary methods growing out of classical and contemporary theological traditions.” (See the Mission Statement for the Society for Pastoral Theology on their website.)

In many ways, a course in pastoral theology should balance the study of systematic theology by taking up the theological enterprise from a new and opposing direction – that is “doing theology” from the engagement in ministry with real people, their networks and contexts, and their pastoral concerns. What we learn from “living human documents” and “human webs” as we provide care does change the way we think and reflect theologically. Pastoral psychology is a closely related field that seeks to “baptize” some of the best wisdom of contemporary psychology for use in pastoral work with individuals, families and communities. Together we will read, discuss and reflect upon some of the current and best scholarship in both areas, in order to begin to build a better foundation for our work as pastors, chaplains and pastoral counselors.

Purpose of the Course: The purpose of this course is to introduce students to the broad fields of pastoral theology and psychology through careful discussion of relevant readings, along with other teaching and learning experiences, including case studies. Students will develop their own creative image for pastoral theology and care, and they will also gain experience in using the Case Study method with colleagues. The first half of the course focuses on various approaches to pastoral theology, while the second half provides an introductory overview of pastoral psychology, with focused attention in two contemporary critical areas: systems theory and its relationship to pastoral work, and pastoral work in relationship to selected aspects of mental health concerns.

Course Outcomes:
Students should be able to –
1. Articulate their understanding of pastoral theology with reference to the work of several key figures in the history of the field (Bosien, Hiltner, Gerkin, Clinebell, Larkey, Patton, Justes, Miller-McLemore)
2. Describe their own creative image for pastoral care succinctly
3. Discuss the perspective of Immanuel Lartey regarding intercultural pastoral theology, with special reference to another cultural context (South Africa, or another context)
4. Prepare and present (in small group) one case study, complete with a carefully written theological reflection.
5. Discuss accurately a beginning understanding of pastoral psychology
6. Describe their own approach to working with their family of origin concerns and its relevance for pastoral care and counseling
7. Describe a pastoral approach to ministry with various mental health concerns.

Course Requirements:
1. A ten-page (double space) essay describing your own creative “image of pastoral care.” Due at beginning of class on Weekend II. (20%)
2. Open Book Mid-term take home exam. Exam will be distributed at the end of class on Weekend II and due one week from that time. (20%)
3. Case Study and Theological Reflection for Class Presentation due in class for Weekend IV. (20%)
4. Open Book Final Take Home Exam. Exam will be distributed at the end of Weekend IV and due one week from that time. (30%)
5. Active engagement with all readings and full participation with discussions in class. (10%)

PLAGIARISM: You are reminded that using others’ words or ideas without attribution and citation constitutes plagiarism, an act of intellectual dishonesty that may result in failing the course. See the Student Guide for a complete description of plagiarism.

Required Readings:
1) **Images of Pastoral Care: Classic Readings** by Robert C. Dykstra. (Chalice Press, 2005) ISBN 0-8272-1624-6 $23.29


4) **No Future without Forgiveness** by Desmond Tutu. (Doubleday, 2000) ISBN 0-3854-9690-7 $10.85


**Grading for the Course:**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Class Participation</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Image of Pastoral Care Essay</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mid-Term Take Home Exam</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Case Study</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Take Home Exam</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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A grade of Incomplete will be given only in unusual circumstances, e.g., illness, death in the family, change in job responsibilities. Procedures outlined in the BTS Student Guide must be followed in order to request an Incomplete Contract. Completion of the course requirements does not assure you of an A in the course. The quality of your work will determine the quality of your grade.

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**Class Calendar:**

**Weekend I: September 7-8, 2012**

**Friday evening**

Opening Prayer by Professor
Introduction to the Course – Pastoral Theology and Psychology – Beginning definitions
Overview of Syllabus, Assign opening prayer leaders
Sharing of Students Concerns and Interests in the Course
Building the Classroom Covenant
Discussion of Case Study Method/Format/Assignment for Weekend IV

**Saturday morning**

Read Dykstra Introduction, Part One (Classical Images of Care) and Part Two (Paradoxical Images of Care)
Opening Prayer
Presentation and Discussion on various “images of care”
Small groups: building beginning creative images of care for pastoral work

**Saturday afternoon**

Read Dykstra, Part Three (Contemporary and Contextual Images of Care)
Opening Prayer
Film and Discussion on “images of care”
- Small groups: continue discussion on contemporary, contextual and creative images for pastoral work
- Assign reading sections for Weekend II

**Weekend II: October 5-6, 2012**

**Friday evening**
Read Stevenson-Moessner and Teresa Snorton. (Assigned sections.)
“Image of Pastoral Care” essay due at beginning of class.

Opening Prayer___________
Brief sharing by students on chosen “images of care”

Presentation and Discussion - Feminist and Womanist Perspectives on Pastoral Theology: Sharing perspectives on feminist and Womanist pastoral theology and ministry in a variety of settings

**Saturday morning**
Read Lartey (Introduction and Chapters 1, 2, 3, 4, 5)
Opening Prayer___________
Presentation and discussion on Lartey's views on “intercultural pastoral theology”
Intercultural Pastoral Theology in the South African context - shifting dynamics, a beginning discussion

**Saturday afternoon**
Read Tutu (Assigned sections.)
Opening Prayer___________
Intercultural Pastoral Theology in the South African Context
   Small Group Discussion on Tutu “No Future without Forgiveness”
   Documentary and discussion: Mandela leadership in South Africa

Distribute Open Book Mid-term Take Home Exam.
(Take Home Mid-term exams are due in one week – October 13, 2012.)

**Weekend III: November 2-3, 2012**

**Friday evening**
Read Jordan  (Entire book)
Opening Prayer___________
Overview of pastoral psychology – historical and contemporary trends, various resources
Discussion on systems theory and its interface with pastoral theology and psychology
Saturday morning
Opening Prayer__________________
Beginning concepts in family systems theory
Family of origin “work” and its influence on effective pastoral ministry

Saturday afternoon
Read Albers (Introduction, Chapters 1, 2, 5, 7 and Conclusion)
Opening Prayer__________________
Small groups: Depression/anxiety/substance abuse/autism
Discussion and theological reflections

-Check in on Case Study Assignment for Weekend IV

Weekend IV: November 30 – December 1, 2012

Friday evening
Read Mackenzie et al (Introduction, Chapters 1-4)
Opening Prayer__________________
Discussion - Interfaith dimensions of pastoral theology and psychology

Saturday morning
Student Case Studies
Opening Prayer__________________
Case Studies will be processed in the small group setting in a confidential manner.
(A format for writing up your case study will be distributed in class.)

Saturday afternoon
Opening Prayer__________________
Review and discussion of major themes of the class
Tying up “loose ends,” course evaluation, group closure.

Distribute Open Book Final Take Home Exam.
(Take Home Final exams are due in one week – December 8, 2012.)

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Recommended Readings: (For the Reserve Shelf in Portland)

Preface to Pastoral Theology by Seward Hiltner. (Abingdon, 1958)
BTS Library Call # 250H562p On Reserve


Deadly Sins and Saving Virtues by Donald Capps. (Fortress Press, 1987)
ISBN 1-5791-0247-6 $20.00


Care of Persons, Care of Worlds: A Psychosystems Approach to Pastoral Care and Counseling (Abingdon Press, 1992) ISBN 978-1606088142 $26.00

Pastoral Care in Context: An Introduction to Pastoral Care by John Patton (Westminster, 1993) ISBN 978-0664229948 $29.95

The Art of Theological Reflection by Patricia Killen and John DeBeer. (Crossroad, 1994) ISBN 978-0824514013 $12.21

Through the Eyes of Women: Insights for Pastoral Care edited by Jeanne Stevenson Moessner (Fortress, 1996) ISBN 978-0800629281 $29.00


Your Brain Goes to Church: Neuroscience and Congregational Life by Bob Sitze (The Alban Institute, 2005) ISBN 978-1566992992 $18.00


Many Forms of Madness: A Family’s Struggle with Mental Illness and the Mental Health System by R.R. Reuther and David Reuther. (Fortress: 2011) ISBN 9780800696511 $22.00


Screening the Afterlife: Theology, Eschatology and Film by Christopher Deacy. (Routledge, 2012) ISBN 978-0415572590 $34.45

(Note: All retail book prices are taken from Amazon.com)