

MN578 Christian Caregiving I: Ministering Wholeness in Christ
University of Dubuque Theological Seminary
Spring, 2021

Instructor:

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Severance 208
563-589-3390

Letter Grade
2 Credits

The residential section for this class will meet in part on Mondays from 1:00-2:40.

An introduction to caring for others, including biblical and theological foundations of care, the development of a caring ministerial identity, various models of care, and varieties of essential communication skills necessary for entering diverse situations of crisis and need.

M.Div. Curricular Goals

This course helps fulfill the following M.Div. curricular goals:

1. Nurture habits and disciplines of study, prayer and reflection that increase love of God and neighbor and shape personal and professional life
2. Be formed by, live in, and minister out of scripture, and the historical and theological tradition of the church
3. Provide pastoral care for individuals and congregations in daily life and moments of transition and crisis
4. Integrate theology and practice in all areas of life and ministry

M.A.M.C. Curricular Goal

This course helps fulfill the following M.A.M.C. curricular goal:

1. Develop skills and capacities for faithful and competent Christian witness.

Class Objectives:

1. to offer an introduction to caregiving ministry
2. to understand and articulate biblical, theological and psychological foundations of care
3. to encourage the development of a healthy and faithful ministerial identity (lay or ordained)
4. to examine primary contexts and general areas of need in caregiving
5. to strengthen essential communication skills

Evaluation:

1. Prepared class participation for either online or classroom discussions – 20%
2. Weekly “Four for Feedback” Reflections or Quizzes (10) – 20%
(Each is usually 4-12 sentences long)
4. Case Study Paper, 6 pp. – 30%
4. Final Exam – 30%

Bibliography

Required Reading; please note that portions of these texts will be used for Caregiving II:

Dykstra, Robert. *Images of Pastoral Care: Classic Readings*. St. Louis, MO: Chalice Press, 2005.

Gilbert, Roberta M. *The Eight Concepts of Bowen Theory*. Leading Systems Press, 2004.

Martin, William, *The Art of Pastoring: Contemplative Reflections* (Vital Faith Resources), selections

McMinn, Mark, and Timothy Phillips, *Care for the Soul*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2001.

Purves, Andrew *The Crucifixion of Ministry*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2007.

Van Deusen Humsinger, Deborah, *Pray Without Ceasing*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2006.

Thomas, Kenneth Wayne. *Thomas-Kilman Conflict Mode Instrument*. CPP Inc, 2002.

Several articles available as pdf's on the course site

Recommended

Franklin, Cynthia and Rowena Fong, *The Church Leader's Counseling Resource Book* (Oxford) (selections; additional selections will be used for Christian Caregiving II)