

DICKERSON-GREEN THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

I. **PT 551: Introduction to Pastoral Care and Theology**

II. Name: Daniel T. Hembree, Ph.D.
Email: dhembree@allenuniversity.edu

Office Location: 200 Waverly Building
Professor's Office Hours: By Appointment
Telephone Number: 376-5718

III. **Course Name and Description**

PT 551: Pastoral Theology and Care

Credit 3 hrs.

The course focuses on practical application in pastoral care ministry based on sound pastoral theological understanding. It explores areas of congregational life and ministry. With this in mind, our course will make use of pastoral case material from both parish and clinical settings to help students develop skills in integrating theological and psychological frames of reference in responding to a variety of pastoral care settings. Additionally, this course will involve both a theoretical and a practical approach. Approximately the first two-thirds of the semester will be spent in reading and discussing models and methods in doing pastoral theology.

IV. **Course Objectives**

The objectives of this course are to enable you to:

- articulate a personal pastoral theology grounded in scripture, theology and the experience of the Church.
- demonstrate a capacity to analyze and evaluate pastoral situations among congregations.
- sharpen listening and pastoral counseling skills for working with others.

V. **Course Policies**

Class Attendance

It is the responsibility of each student to attend all scheduled class meetings in the courses in which he/she is enrolled. Documentation of absences begins on the designated start date for classes. The specific number of absences for each class should not exceed ten percent (10%) of the total number of meeting days established for the course.

VI. Course Units

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this course:

- A. Students will demonstrate the ability to appropriately provide sound Christian guidance and care for church communities.
- B. Students will be able to demonstrate an understanding of spiritual care and pastoral care.
- C. Students will be able to articulate the importance of Intercultural Pastoral Care in a post-modern world.

Weekly Schedule: Chapters, Reading Assignments, and Discussions

PERIOD	Topic	Assessment
Week 1	Course Introduction Pastoral Theology and Care Defined Why an Intercultural Approach?	First Class Meeting
Week 2	Defining Pastoral and Spiritual Care.	Assessment based on class discussions, participation, and attendance.
Week 3	Chapter 1 Intercultural Care: Trust and Theological Accountability	Students are to submit a two-page single spaced reflection paper on Chapter 1 (Intercultural Care).
Week 4	Chapter 1 Continued	Assessment based on Class Lecture, Discussion, and Attendance
Week 5	Chapter 2 Basic Ingredients of Caregiving Relationships	Submit a two-page (single spaced) reflection paper on Chapter 2 .
Week 6	Chapter 2 Continued Pastoral Theology as Contextual Theology.	Class Lecture and Discussion. Assessment based on participation and attendance.

Week 7	Chapter 3 Embodied Listening: Asking Questions Inner Chatter and Over Functioning Use of Space and Time	Assessment based on class discussions, student participation and attendance.
Week 8	Chapter 4 Establishing A Caregiving Relationship: Confidentiality Sexual Misconduct Dual Roles	Class Lecture and discussions. Assessment based on attendance and participation.
Week 9	Chapter 5 Theological Themes and Reflexivity: Meaning Making Integration and Flexibility Beliefs and Spiritual Practices	Submit a two-page (single spaced) reflection paper on Chapter 4 .
Week 10	Chapter 6 Narrative Themes of Loss, Violence, and Coping Trauma, Spiritual Struggle, Acute Stress Response PTSD	Class Lecture and Discussion. Assessment based on student participation and attendance.
Week 11	Chapter 6 Continued Relational Patterns of Violence Substance Abuse Dependence Coping Strategies	Submit a two-page (single spaced) reflection paper on Chapter 6 .
Week 12	Chapter 7 Systemic Assessment Case Study Assessing Local Community Systems Assessing Intimate Partnerships and Friendships	Submit a one-page (single spaced) reflection paper on Chapter 7 . Class Lecture and Discussions
Week 13	Notes and Remarks Towards an Intercultural Approach to Pastoral Theology and Constructing a New Theological Paradigm	Assessment based on class participation, attendance and discussion.
Week 14	FINAL CLASS	Final Research Papers due.

Reflection papers are to be typed single spaced (12 pt.) and are due before the beginning of each class as stated on the course schedule.

All papers are to be submitted before class (**papers are to be emailed to the professor**).

VII. Course Evaluation

Your grade for the course will be based on the assessments listed below.

Assignment	Points
Bi-Weekly Reflection Papers	20 PTS Each (5) 100 Points
Final Research Paper	50 Points
Attendance and Participation	50 Points
Total	160 points/100%

VIII. Course Textbook

Doehring, Carrie. The Practice of Pastoral Care: A Postmodern Approach. WJK Press, 2015. ISBN-13: 978-0-664-23840-7

Suggested Readings

Ali, Carroll A. Watkins. Survival & Liberation: Pastoral Theology in African American Context. Chalice Press, 1999. ISBN 0-8272-3443-0

Ashby, Homer. Our Home is Over Jordan: A Black Pastoral Theology. Chalice Press, 2003. ISBN 0-8272-2718-3

Patton, John. Is Human Forgiveness Possible? A Pastoral Care Perspective. Abingdon Press, 1985. ISBN: 0-687-19704X

Patton, John. Pastoral Care in Context: Introduction to Pastoral Care. WJK Press, 1993. ISBN: 0-664-22034-7

Stone, Howard. Brief Pastoral Counseling. Fortress Press, 1994. ISBN 0-8006-2720-2

Assigned articles and selected readings from the web: *ATLA Religion Database*, *JSTOR*, and other articles which can be accessed through the Allen University Flipper Library (<https://allenuiversity.libguides.com/c.php?g=699146&p=4993491>). Additionally, *The Journal of Pastoral Care and Counseling*, *Psychology of Religion and Spirituality Database*, *Society for Christian Psychology Resource Database*.