

**COURSE SYLLABUS  
MIN 4360  
MINISTRY IN A MEDICAL SETTING  
WINTER, 2009**

Welcome to Min 4360, Ministry in a Medical Setting.

Church members expect their ministers to provide spiritual support to them in times of serious illness and death. Yet many ministers feel ill-prepared to provide such support. Their formal training gives them expertise in Biblical languages, exegesis, church history, systematic theology, and preaching, but in too many cases it provides them little guidance in how to be with a person who has received a cancer diagnosis or a family at the time of death. This course seeks to equip ministers with the skills necessary to come alongside those in their care at such times and provide competent, compassionate pastoral support.

*All praise to the God and Father of our Master, Jesus the Messiah! Father of all mercy! God of all healing counsel! He comes alongside us when we go through hard times, and before you know it, he brings us alongside someone else who is going through hard times so that we can be there for that person just as God was there for us. -- 2 Corinthians 1:3 (The*

**Academic Objectives**

- To gain proficiency in the basic pastoral skills of presence, listening and attending.
- To become familiar with selected written resources within the field of pastoral care.
- To become familiar with hospital culture, practices and protocols (including policies regarding patient privacy) in order to provide appropriate pastoral care to persons in their care who are patients in hospitals or other health care institutions.
- To practice basic pastoral care skills through mentored visitation of hospital patients and their families.

**Formative Objectives**

- To reflect theologically upon the practice of pastoral care.
- To acquire an awareness of one's motivations for ministry and how those motivations can help or hinder one's efforts to provide pastoral care.
- To gain proficiency in identifying and monitoring one's emotional responses in pastoral encounters.
- To refine one's personal theology of suffering and loss.

**Textbook Information**

Doehring, Carrie. *The Practice of Pastoral Care*. Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox Press, 2006. ISBN 0-664-22684-1.

Hughes, Jim. *Making Hospital Visits*. Houston: Difficultseasons.com, 2009 (E-book. Free download available at <http://difficultseasons.com/wp-content/uploads/2009/02/making-hospital-visits-1.pdf>).

Taylor, Jill Bolte. *My Stroke of Insight*. New York: Viking, 2006. ISBN 978-0-670-02074-4

Savage, John. *Listening and Caring Skills*. Nashville: Abingdon, 1996. ISBN 0-687-01716-5.

VanDuivendyk, Tim P. *The Unwanted Gift of Grief*. Binghamton, NY: Haworth, 2006. ISBN 0-7890-2950-2.

### **Evaluation and Grading Policies**

<u>Grading Percentages</u>		<u>Grading Scale</u>	
Participation	40 %	93-100	A
Case Study	20 %	90-92	A-
Book Review	20 %	87-89	B+
Personal Theology of Suffering	20 %	83-86	B
		80-82	B-
		77-79	C+
		73-76	C

#### Participation

The class will meet from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on the following days:

- Week 1: Friday – Saturday, Jan 22-23
- Week 2: Friday – Saturday, Feb 5-6
- Week 3: Friday – Saturday, Feb 19-20

Students are expected to attend all class sessions, to be on time, to come to class prepared, and to participate actively in class discussions and other class activities.

Each student will be assigned a mentor – an experienced pastoral care provider who will serve as the student’s guide in gaining hands-on experience in visiting hospital patients and their families. The student will be expected to spend at least one half day (4 hours) visiting patients under the supervision of his or her mentor. Mentored visitation will take place during the period between Week 1 and Week 2, at a time mutually agreed upon between the mentor and the student. Mentored visitation will take place in a hospital of the mentor’s choosing in the Austin – Central Texas area. The student is responsible for arranging his or her transportation to the hospital for mentored visitation.

Mentored visitation will account for one half of the total participation grade (20 % of the total course grade). The rest of the participation grade will be based on the student’s attendance, preparation, and overall contribution to the learning environment. The instructor reserves the

right to give pop quizzes on assigned readings. Such quizzes, if given, will factor into the participation grade.

### Written Work

For all assignments, use 11-point type, your choice of Arial, Calibri or Times New Roman font, single spacing, and standard 1-inch margins. Writing should be clear and concise, using standard English. Good grammar and spelling are expected.

### Case Study

Each student will submit a written report of a personal experience involving a request for pastoral support or intervention. The case study may be drawn from mentored visitation, or from some other pastoral encounter the student has had. The report is to be no more than two pages, and is to include the context of the request for support, the response the student chose to make, and the outcome of the intervention. Also included will be theological reflection on the encounter: biblical foundation for intervention, personal inner turmoil with the request, student's review of strengths and weaknesses of the chosen response, and lessons gleaned from the encounter. The student will provide copies of the case study to all class participants, so confidentiality is urged in matters of revealing names of individuals or congregations.

### Book Review

Written and oral presentations of one book from the selected bibliography. Those wishing to begin reading before class are asked to check with Dr. Riddle via email or phone, providing the name of the book you wish to review. Both oral and written reviews are to be presented at the same time. The oral presentation including discussion should be about 20-30 minutes in duration.

Form for the book reviews: Maximum length should be three to four typewritten pages single spaced. The book review will consist of three parts:

- a) Full publication data (author, title, place of publication, company, date, # of pages, ISBN #).
- b) Contents. Devote approximately 2/3 of your report to summarize the contents of the book. What is the central idea or thesis? Try to include the most possible information in the least possible words. Write as if you were communicating to another student in the class.
- c) Appraisal. Respond personally, giving your estimate of the reading. Include strengths, weaknesses, author's biases, and theological relevancy.

### Personal Theology of Suffering

An essay of not less than 3 nor more than 5 typewritten pages in which you address the following question: "How does my faith inform the way I view human suffering?" Your essay should be personal, thoughtful, and well-argued, drawing upon your own experiences of suffering and your theological reflection upon those experiences. It should incorporate specific

Biblical texts and other resources of the Christian faith that you find or have found helpful in making meaning of suffering. You will also present your essay orally to the class.

#### Meals and Breaks

Please plan to bring food to class because we will eat together as part of our class sessions.

### **Readings and Assignments**

#### Friday, January 22

Read John Savage, *Listening and Caring Skills* prior to the first class session.

#### Saturday, January 23

Read Jim Hughes, *Making Hospital Visits*

#### Friday, February 5

Complete Mentored Visitation prior to Feb 5.

Write Case Study and be prepared to present it to class on Feb 5.

Read Carrie Doehring, *The Practice of Pastoral Care*, chs 1-3.

#### Saturday, February 6

Read Carrie Doehring, *The Practice of Pastoral Care*, chs 4-8.

#### Friday, February 19

Write Book Review and be prepared to present it to class on Feb 19.

Read Tim VanDuiwendyk, *The Unwanted Gift of Grief*.

#### Saturday, February 19

Write "My Personal Theology of Suffering" and be prepared to present it to class on Feb 19.

Read Jill Bolte Taylor, *My Stroke of Insight*.

## Bibliography for Book Reports

- Friedman, Edwin H. *Generation to Generation: Family Process in Church and Synagogue*. New York: Guilford, 1985. ISBN 0898620597.
- Hall, Douglas John. *God and Human Suffering: An Exercise in the Theology of the Cross*. Minneapolis: Augsburg, 1986. ISBN 0806623144.
- Johnson, Timothy. *Finding God in the Questions: A Personal Journey*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity, 2004. ISBN 0830832149.
- Lester, Andrew D. *Hope in Pastoral Care and Counseling*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox, 1995. ISBN 0664255884.
- Lester, Andrew D. *Pastoral Care with Children in Crisis*. Philadelphia: Westminster, 1985. ISBN 0664245986.
- Lewis, C.S. *A Grief Observed*. New York: HarperCollins, 2001 (originally published 1961). ISBN 0060652381.
- Lewis, C.S. *The Problem of Pain*. New York: HarperCollins, 2001 (Originally published 1940). ISBN 0060652969.
- Mitchell, Kenneth R. and Herbert Anderson. *All Our Losses, All Our Grievs: Resources for Pastoral Care*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox, 1983. ISBN 0664244939.
- Nouwen, Henri J.M. *Our Greatest Gift: A Meditation on Dying and Caring*. San Francisco: Harper, 1985. ISBN 006066355-3.
- Nouwen, Henri J.M. *The Wounded Healer*. New York: Doubleday, 1972. ISBN 0385148038.
- Pipher, Mary. *Another Country: Navigating the Emotional Terrain of our Elders*. New York: Riverhead Books, 1999. ISBN 1573221295.
- Sorajakool, Siroj. *When Sickness Heal: The Place of Religious Belief in Healthcare*. Philadelphia: The Templeton Foundation, 2006. ISBN 159947090X.
- Switzer, David K. *Pastoral Care Emergencies*. Minneapolis: Fortress, 2000. ISBN 0800632281.
- Vanderzee, John T. *Ministry to Persons with Chronic Illness*. Minneapolis: Augsburg, 1993. ISBN 0806626305.
- Yancey, Philip. *Disappointment with God*. New York: Harper, 1998. ISBN 0061040223.

## Class Schedule

	Friday, Jan 22	Saturday, Jan 23	Friday, Feb 5	Saturday, Feb 6	Friday, Feb 19	Saturday, Feb 20
9:00 a.m.	Introductions Course Overview Definition and Theological Framework of Pastoral Care	"Why Me?" / Grief and Grieving  Self-Care for the Pastoral Caregiver	Case Study Student Presentations	Role Clarity, Boundaries and the Covenant of Care Doehring, Ch. 4	Book Review Student Presentations	"My Personal Theology of Suffering" Student Presentations
10:00 a.m.	Basic Listening Skills			Hearing the Careseeker's Story Doehring, Ch. 5		
11:00 a.m.				Understanding the Careseeker's Context Doehring, Ch. 6		
12:00 noon	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch
1:00 p.m.	Life Commandments	Spiritual, Emotional and Practical Preparation for Hospital Visitation	Establishing Pastoral Trust Doehring, Ch. 1	Theological Reflection on Pastoral Encounters Doehring, Ch. 7	"Sojourning" With Those Who Are Bereaved VanDuivendyk	Stroke: An Insider's Perspective The Experience of Jill Bolte Taylor Implications for Pastoral Caregivers
2:00 p.m.	Story Listening	Panel Discussion: The Art of Pastoral Care in Healthcare Institutions	Self-Awareness and Spiritual Care Doehring, Ch. 2	Formulating a Plan of Care Doehring, Ch. 8	Film: "Wit" Class Discussion	
3:00 p.m.	Effective Hospital Ministry		The Ministry of Presence Doehring, Ch. 3	Ministry Case Study Doehring, Ch. 9		Spiritual Health and Pastoral Effectiveness