**MS 455 – Pastoral Care & Counseling**

**Course Syllabus**

**Appalachian School of Theology, Inc.**

**Fall 2021**

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**Class Meeting Place, Dates, and Time**

Meeting Place: This is a hybrid class that will be offered both online and in person. Those joining us online will connect with us weekly utilizing a Zoom link provided by the instructor. Those who choose to meet with us in person will be meeting weekly in the Family Life Center at First Baptist Church in Nickelsville, VA.

Dates: Each Monday Night beginning August 23rd and ending December 13th.

Time: 6:30 – 9:00 PM

**Course Description**

This course is a study of the role of the minister as leader and counselor in the church, with special attention given to the guidelines and techniques for counseling people during important times of life, such as marriage, birth, death, illness, family crisis, etc.

**Course Objectives**

This course is designed to introduce and acquaint participants with *an overview* of the role of the minister in the areas of pastoral care and counseling. As a result of enrollment, and participation, each class member will:

1. Become familiar with the basic goals and processes of competent pastoral care and counseling practices.
2. Understand the types of contemporary situations and issues they will encounter and address as they engage in ministry.
3. Identify resources, both within and beyond the church, that are readily available to help struggling parishioners.
4. Enhance and improve their listening, caring, and leadership skills.
5. Develop greater appreciation and understanding of the developmental issues people encounter and struggle with in life.
6. Sharpen their God-given skills in introducing and implementing positive change in their personal life as well as in the lives of others.
7. Experience and become better acquainted with the life altering Jesus who reveals Himself through Scripture and the power of the Holy Spirit.
8. Enhance and improve their ability to help others mature in the areas of bible study, leadership, care-giving, counseling, and ministry.
9. Cultivate and integrate their learning experiences into the formation of a Christian worldview.

**Required Texts**

1. Bruce L. Peterson, *Foundations of Pastoral Care,* Beacon Hill Press of Kansas City, 2007, ISBN-13: 978-0-8341-2305-2
2. David W. Wiersbe, *The Dynamics of Pastoral Care,* Baker Book House, 2000, ISBN: 0-8010-9094-6
3. The Bible (your choice of a reputable translation)
4. Supplemental Readings: As distributed by the instructor (no purchase of texts required).

**CLASS SCHEDULE**

Week 1 Aug. 23 Course Introduction, Syllabus Overview

Unit 1: Pastoral Care Foundations

Peterson, An Introduction to Pastoral Care, pgs. 11-22

Wiersbe, Introduction & Clarifying the Call, pgs. 13-24

Week 2 Aug. 30 Unit 1: Pastoral Care Foundations

Peterson, Providing Pastoral Soul Care, pgs. 23-36

Week 3 Sept. 6 Labor Day – No Classes

Week 4 Sept. 13 Unit 1: Pastoral Care Foundations

Peterson, Unleashing the Laity, Lay Led Pastoral Care pgs. 37-66

Week 5 Sept. 20 Unit 1: Pastoral Care Foundations

Peterson, Caring Through Small Groups, pgs. 67-80

Wiersbe, Earning Trust, pgs. 42-54

Week 6 Sept. 27 Unit 2: Pastoral Care Roles

Peterson, Pastoral Care as Shepherding, pgs. 83-98

Wiersbe, Shepherding the Flock, pgs. 25-34

Week 7 Oct. 4 Unit 2: Pastoral Care Roles

Peterson, Pastoral Care as Counseling, pgs. 99-112

Week 8 Oct. 11 **READING DAYS – NO CLASS**

Week 9 Oct. 18 Unit 2: Pastoral Care Roles

Peterson, Pastoral Care as Collaboration, pgs. 113-126

Wiersbe, Building Relationships, pgs. 35-41

Week 10 Oct. 25 Unit 2: Pastoral Care Roles

Peterson, Pastoral Care & the Means of Grace, pgs.127-146

Wiersbe, Serving, pgs. 55-63

Week 11 Nov. 1 Unit 3: Pastoral Presence

Peterson, … in Resolving Conflict, pgs. 149-166

Wiersbe, Listening & Loving, pgs. 64-83

Week 12 Nov. 8 Unit 3: Pastoral Presence

Peterson, … in Crisis, pgs. 167-184

Wiersbe, Visiting & Comforting, pgs. 84-106

Week 13 Nov. 15 Unit 3: Pastoral Presence

Peterson, … in Celebration, pgs. 185-206

Wiersbe, Worship & Celebrating, pgs. 107-129

Week 14 Nov. 22 Unit 3: Pastoral Presence

Peterson, … in Human Suffering, Death & Dying, pgs. 207-249

Wiersbe, Interceding, pgs. 130-135

Week 15 Nov. 29 Unit 4: The Pastor is a Person

Peterson, Character & Conduct, pgs. 253-274

Wiersbe, Postscript, pgs. 136-139

Week 16 Dec. 6 Papers presented orally in class

Unit 4: The Pastor is a Person

Peterson, … Personal Life, 275-297

Week 17 Dec. 13 Review & Wrap-up

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

1. Attendance – 10% of final grade. Students are expected to attend all class sessions. If for any reason it is not possible to attend a class, it is common courtesy to inform the instructor beforehand, or in case of an unavoidable emergency, at the earliest opportunity.
2. Reading – 10% of final grade. There will be regular reading assignments from the text, the Bible, and other sources in preparation for the class. Class participants are expected to do all of the assigned readings prior to each session and come to class prepared to critically discuss the main themes covered in their reading assignments.
3. In Class Participation – 10% of final grade.
4. Case Studies – 20% of final grade. Throughout the semester case studies will be distributed by the instructor as take home work. In addition, these case studies will be openly discussed in the class setting.
5. Journals – 25% of final grade. An important on-going assignment for this course is a journal. It is to be used on a regular basis. The facilitator will check the journals periodically. As such, the student’s journal should become one’s friend and treasury of insights, devotions and ideas. In one’s time of journaling the integration of theory and practice occurs. The nature of the journal is one’s spiritual life. As such, one’s journal will act as a safe-guard against mere academia, as you apply the techniques from your studies to your own life and ministry situation. With these thoughts in mind one’s journal is not to be a diary. It is a guided journal wherein one’s educational experiences are integrated into one’s life and reflected on in one’s writing.
6. One final paper – 25% of final grade. Utilizing your reading, your learning from class discussion, and your life experiences, discuss your understanding of pastoral care and counseling. Make sure that you include your theological understandings for your ministry style, and show the relationship between your theology and practice. You should also indicate in which you have grown as well as areas and skills in your life that need more attention. The final paper should be 3 to 5 pages in length, double-spaced, and presented orally in the classroom setting and to be between 10 to 12 minutes in length. **The student is expected to present their final paper orally in class December 6th.**

\*A copy of *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers (6th edition)* by Kate L.

Turabian, University of Chicago Press, Chicago, Ill., 1996 is available for

use by the students in the Nickelsville classroom.

\*All students are expected to familiarize themselves with *the plagiarism*

*statement* on the following page.

**THE SCHOLASTIC GRADING POLICY**

A+ 98 – 100 (4.3) The student has demonstrated the mastery of the

A 95 – 97 (4.0) material and its application.

A- 93 – 94 (3.7)

B+ 90 – 92 (3.3) The student has demonstrated above average

B 87 – 89 (3.0) mastery of the material and its application.

B- 85 – 86 (2.7)

C+ 82 – 84 (2.3) The student has demonstrated the required mastery C 79 – 81 (1.7) of the material and its application.

C- 77 – 78 (1.7)

D+ 74 – 76 (1.3) The student has demonstrated below average D 71 – 73 (1.0) mastery of the material and its application.

D- 69 – 70 (0.7)

F 68 – below (0.0) The student has failed to master the material and its application.

P Passing WP Withdrew Passing

I Incomplete WF Withdrew Failing

**PLAGIARISM**

Academic integrity is an important part of the educational process. As such, honesty and accountability are vital to each student who truly wishes to learn and honor God in the process. With this in mind:

* Students are expected to write their own work. While students are encouraged to study and talk with fellow students and the instructor, each student must write their own assignments.
* If you borrow more than 3 or 4 words in a row from another source, it should be properly referenced using quotation marks and full bibliographic information, including page numbers. When you borrow ideas but not actual words, you may cite the source at your discretion to help your reader follow up on your writing.