**United Methodist Course of Study**

**Wesley Theological Seminary: Buffalo Extension**

**CS 323 - Congregational Care**

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**Course Dates: March 24-25, 2017 and May 5-6, 2017**

**Course Description**

This course introduces students to practices of congregational care and the pastor’s responsibility

in caregiving.

Students will be able to:

1. Develop a personal self-understanding of their pastoral role, function, and goals of caring in the congregation based on their own theological and Biblical grounding.

2. Implement and oversee appropriate types of care in varieties of settings, including

prisons, hospitals, nursing facilities, and homes.

3. Organize caring ministries within the congregation.

4. Discern and implement appropriate boundaries, knowing when and to whom to refer

people, and when and when not to share information.

5. Reflect on and practice skills of sensitive caregiving, using role play and case studies analysis.

**Required Texts by Wesley Theological Seminary**

Larry Webb, Crises Counseling in the Congregation (Abingdon, 2011). ISBN#978-1426726989.

Ed Wimberly, African American Pastoral Care and Counseling:

Oppression and Empowerment (Pilgrim, 2006). ISBN#978-0829816815.

**Expectations- \*\*\*\* note carefully \*\*\***

**All** assigned readings are to be completed by the first class and student is to be prepared for discussion of them. Student will attend all classes, complete all assignments and hand them in at the announced time and method. Students are **expected** to participate in class discussions and activities.

**Assignment Instructions**

Papers are to be typed, double spaced, and written in Times New Roman 12 font with 1” margins and page numbers.

**Please attach a cover page on all papers**. The cover page should include course title, your full name, address, phone number, e-mail address and date submitted. One cover page per paper, please.

**Follow due dates carefully.**

If you desire your written assignments to be returned, give instructor an addressed, stamped manila envelope at the last class.

**Assignments**

1. **Scripture/Text Reflection**

a. **BEFORE** you begin class reading assignments… Using Jesus’ interactions and teachings, choose at least 3 passages that inform your understanding of pastoral care. Explain your choices, including why we do pastoral care, purpose of it and principles of practice. (This is to be personal reflection, rather than exegetical.) 3-4 pages**, Due Feb. 24 via email**.

b. **AFTER** completing class readings, refine earlier reflection referencing each text and telling how each expands your understanding of Pastoral Care and increases your ministry skills. 4-6 pages Reference should be cited parenthetically, for example, (Webb, pg.61),

 **4 -6 pages … Due March 22,** email and hard copy in class March 24.

2. **Self Assessment**….. Include the following parts:

 a. Key events and relationships that have affected the course of your life.

b. Assess your current personal strengths and weaknesses providing pastoral care and counseling.

c. Identify pastoral care/counseling issues you have been involved with and state 1-2 issues you have no experience with.

d. Description of your ministry setting including size, setting, brief history and strengths and weaknesses of ministry.

 **Up to 5 pages**… **Due March 3 via email**, hard copy due first class.

3. **Resources** - Identify and describe 5-7 resources (people, agencies, support groups) in your ministry area that you could refer people to. Include name, contact person, phone # and email, brief description of service and cost. Issues to consider include, but are not limited to, addiction counseling, mental illness, domestic abuse, elder care, child abuse, dying/grief, financial crisis and gay/lesbian. Personally contact 3 of your resources to discuss program…include date of contact, person talked to and their contact info.

**Due April 21** via email, hard copy due May 5, in class.

4. **Verbatim/Case Study** - Identify an actual pastoral care/counseling interaction that can be used for a verbatim, analysis and theological reflection. Further instructions will be given the first class. Study to be presented in final class sessions. Bring enough copies of verbatim section for all class members.

**Minimum 5 pages, not including verbatim section. Due May 4, email and hard copy, May 5.**

5. **Self Evaluation** - Evaluate your performance in the class and share key learnings. Honestly self-grade yourself based on the point system below

**1 page… Due May 6,** hard copy. No papers will be accepted after last day of class.

**Summary of Assignment Dates**

Feb. 24 – Scripture Reflection…email

March 3 – Self Assessment…email

March 22 – Text reviews…email (hard copy March 24)

April 21 – Resource List…email (hard copy May 5)

May 4 – Final Case Study…email (hard copy May 5)

May 6 – Self Evaluation…hard copy

**Grading**

Class Participation - 15 pts.

Self Assessment - 15 pts.

Scriptural Foundation and Text Review - 25 pts.

Resource List - 15 pts.

Case Study - 25 pts.

Self Evaluation - 5 pts.