I. COURSE DESCRIPTION
Informed by theology and focused on skills for practical ministry, this course addresses the need for persons in ministry to see the importance of and learn and teach skills for making visits to those in need.

II. Textbooks:
Required Reading:

Recommended Reading:

III. GOALS:
This course will address competence in the skills and perspectives necessary for leadership in the church and the formation of disciples, particularly in the area of Pastoral Care. It will extend understanding of the Church and its mission by preparing for a ministry of caring visitation including preparation of lay people for contributing to the church’s ministry of visitation.

IV. SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES:
• Students will demonstrate their ability to make pastoral visits through role-play, class discussions and written assignments.
• Students will demonstrate skills in preparing lay people to make different types of visitations through written course work.
• Students will demonstrate an understanding of the biblical and theological foundations for the ministry of pastoral visitation through written work and class discussion.

V. TEACHING STRATEGIES:
The design of this course is based on the conviction that class members learn from their experiences and from one another and not only from the instructor and the assignments given. The instructor believes that she also will be learning in the process of this course. The course includes lecture, discussion, role-play, and possibly small groups and reflection on case materials.

VI. CALENDAR OF TOPICS AND READINGS:
March 25  Introductions:
   Introduction to the Course and Participants
   Understanding the Role of Clergy in Visitation
   Principles for Pastoral Visitation

April 8  Theological Reflections Regarding Visitation:
   Biblical Roots
   Principles Regarding the Use of the Bible and Prayer in Visitation
   Practice in Visitation

April 15  Guidelines for Making Pastoral Visits
   Evaluating Pastoral Visits
   Different Kinds and Purposes of Visitation:
   Preparing Laity to Visit

April 22  Practice in Visitation
   Course Evaluations/Conclusions

VII. SEMINARY STANDARDS:
A. Inclusive language
   United Theological Seminary has an official policy regarding the use of Inclusive Language. The policy may be found in the Seminary Catalog and further explained in the Student Handbook. If you have specific questions, please see me.

B. Academic Integrity
   Student integrity regarding all work assigned in this class is a basic expectation of the Seminary community. A detailed policy regarding what constitutes a violation of academic integrity can be found in the Student Handbook.
VIII. EVALUATION

A. Assignments

Choose one of the following Alternatives:

1. Practice in Visitation Alternative I
   a. Self-select two classmates—**not** your closest friends or spouse.
   b. Meet together and each of you practice making a visit—role-playing.
      • Three visits should be made - one by each person.
      • Each person should act as a person visited one time and an
        observer one time, in addition to acting once as pastoral visitor.
      • The one who acts as pastor should select the visitation type and set
        up the situation that would enable the most learning to take place.
   c. As pastor, do the best you can do in your "visit." As the person being visited
      play the role as honestly as you can—not making it either easier or harder for
      “your pastor.”
   d. Within the group **discuss** the experience and **evaluate** what happened. How
      well did the person visited play the role? How did that person feel about the
      "visit?" How did the pastor feel about her/his role in the "visit?" Again, be
      honest.
   e. The "pastor" should **write down the conversation as remembered** (the high
      points) and include a **description of the situation** and an **evaluation** of what
      took place with **suggestions for improvement** for the next experience.
   f. This can be submitted as meeting the course requirement (approx. **5 to 8**
      pages).

2. Practice in Visitation Alternative II
   a. Choose someone or some family to visit from your place of ministry.
   b. Choose a **situation in which you can gain the most learning** and **not what**
      will be the easiest for you.
   c. Prepare yourself and make the visit doing the best job you can do.
   d. Include a **description of the situation**, **your purpose** for the call, and an
      **evaluation** of what took place along with a brief conversation **verbatim** to
      be submitted as meeting the course requirement (approx. **5 to 8** pages).

3. Develop a Program/Plan for Visitation or for Preparation of Lay Leaders.
   a. This should suit your particular setting for ministry.
   b. You should **design something that you can put into practice**.
   c. Submit this plan or program as a way to meet the requirement of this course.
      Your plan or program should include a **description of the situation in which
      you minister and a rationale for your plan or program**
      (approximately **5 to 8** pages).

4. Develop a Theology of Visitation
   a. Write a paper that develops your **theology of visitation**.
   b. This should be understood to be **appropriate for your ministry setting** and
      should provide a **base for your ministry of visitation**
      (approximately **5 to 8** pages).

Assignment will be due: **TBA**
SPECIFICATIONS FOR WRITING PAPERS:
Read over what is expected for each paper when you are writing on that paper. You are responsible for including all that is expected. In writing papers always type double spaced and proofread. When you quote some author or scripture, be sure to note your source (including page number; or book, chapter, and verses of scripture).

B. Method of Determining Grade:
Class Participation 30%
Selected Paper Assignment 70%

IX. STUDENT COURSE EVALUATIONS
It is very important for students to submit a course evaluation toward the end of the semester. Instructors do not see the student evaluations at all until after the instructors have submitted the students’ final official grades. Students should feel free to evaluate the course without any negative ramifications. Please give written comments. They help me improve my teaching.

X. REFERENCES:
Schroeder, Ray. To Love Is to Listen: Growing Your Church and Your Faith through Personal Visitation. ISBN 9780595168187
Sisemore, J.T. edited by Ananias Gonzalez. Translated by Josue Grijalva. Practiquemos la Visitacion,