

# Course of Study School of Ohio

COS 323 – Congregational Care  
Hybrid Course  
On Campus UTS: March 20 - 21, 2015  
Continuing On-Line to May 9

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## COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course focuses on the pastor's understanding of human nature with attention to methods and skills in care and counseling. Each person participates in the assessment of her/his personal style of care and counseling.

## COURSE GOALS

Students will be able to:

1. Implement and oversee appropriate types of care in varieties of settings—prisons, hospitals, nursing homes.
2. Organize caring ministries with the congregation.
3. Discern and implement appropriate boundaries—knowing when and to whom to refer people and when and when not to share information.
4. Reflect on and practice skills of sensitive caregiving, with a particular focus on listening—using cases and analysis of role-playing.

## Texts:

1. Justes, Emma (2006). *Hearing beyond the Words: How to Become a Listening Pastor*. Nashville, TN: Abingdon Press.
2. Hoeft, Jeanne, L. Shannon Jung and Joretta Marshall (2013). *Practicing Care in Rural Congregations and Communities*. Minneapolis, MN. Fortress Press.
3. Webb, Larry (2011). *Crisis Counseling in the Congregation*. Nashville, TN. Abingdon Press.
4. Wimberly, Edward (2006). *African American Pastoral Care and Counseling: The Politics of Oppression and Empowerment*. Nashville, TN. Abingdon Press.

## Assignments:

### I. Required Reading for the Course: (see above)

- A. *Hearing Beyond the Words*
- B. *Practicing Care in Rural Congregations and Communities*.

- C. *Crisis Counseling in the Congregation*
- D. *African American Pastoral Care and Counseling*

## II. Share a Learning Experience:

- A. Watch videos and Post reflective response using *Hearing Beyond the Words*. See the on line course instructions for details.
- B. Provide a video (selected on line—not created by you) to share your learning, see instructions in the on-line course instructions.

## IIIa. Reflection on Reading: (20%)

- A. **Read:** Wimberly's book (Be sure you have the 2006 publication.)  
**Write:** A short reaction paper to what you have read answering:
  1. How **will this book be helpful** to you in your pastoral care and counseling?
  2. Where do you find this work to be **less than helpful** to you or **where do you disagree** with the author?

**Length:** 5 pages.

Post your Draft by **April 3<sup>rd</sup>**.

After you have written this paper, you are to post it online for discussion and feedback from your classmates. **Post Draft by Apr. 3<sup>rd</sup>. Reply to two others (as assigned during class) by Apr. 7<sup>th</sup>**. Make revisions according to the feedback you are given prior to submitting the paper for final evaluation by the instructor.

You are expected to read one another's work **thoroughly and with respect**. You will be expected to **provide considered and not surface responses** to one another. The object is to enable your colleagues to produce the best work they can. Ask questions, offer challenges and suggestions, but not with the object of getting your colleague to agree with your view, but to help them think through their own views in depth. If you have positive responses, make them very explicit and not just "good job". It will be obvious when you post and have not really tried to read and respond in depth. You have the right to expect the same from your classmates.

**Your final draft of critiqued and revised paper is due by Apr. 10<sup>th</sup>. Submit to the drop box in United Online.**

## IIIb. Reflection on Reading: (20%)

- A. **Read:** *Practicing Care in Rural Congregations and Communities*  
 Each of the chapters in this book begins with a scenario from ministry experiences that relates to the topic of the chapter. Most are very difficult situations for church, pastor and even community.

**1. Select** one of these Chapter Scenarios that “rings a bell” for you in your own experience. Consider how the situation was dealt with as it is reported in the book. **Briefly describe** your understanding of the situation and go on to **suggest** an alternative response to the situation. I do not presume that the authors see the situations perfectly. Maybe your experience of a similar situation informs your perception of it in a helpful way. This assignment presupposes that there may be more than one helpful and healing way to respond to a situation. **Include** a brief theological reflection that gives your response a foundation.

**Length:** 5 pages.

Post your Draft by **April 17<sup>th</sup>**.

After you have written this paper, you are to post it online for discussion and feedback from your classmates. **Post Draft by Apr. 14<sup>th</sup>. Reply to two others (as assigned during class) by Apr. 21<sup>st</sup>**. Make revisions according to the feedback you are given prior to submitting the paper for final evaluation by the instructor.

You are expected to read one another’s work **thoroughly and with respect**. You will be expected to **provide considered and not surface responses** to one another. The object is to enable your colleagues to produce the best work they can. Ask questions, offer challenges and suggestions, but not with the object of getting your colleague to agree with your view, but to help them think through their own views in depth. If you have positive responses, make them very explicit and not just “good job”. It will be obvious when you post and have not really tried to read and respond in depth. You have the right to expect the same from your classmates.

**Your final draft of critiqued and revised paper is due by Apr. 28<sup>th</sup>. Submit to the drop box in United Online.**

#### **IV. Practice in Care and Counseling: (30%)**

**Using:** *Crisis Counseling in the Congregation*

**Write:** a brief description of a pastoral care situation that you have experienced in your ministry. Your paper should include responses to the following questions:

- A. **Who?** Briefly describe the person and their situation. (**SEE NOTE BELOW** \*)
- B. **What?** What is **the issue** about which they have sought your care? This might include other people involved in the situation. The answer to “What?” should speak to you that it is an occasion for pastoral care or counseling.

- C. **How?** Give some detail about **how you responded pastorally** to what was presented to you. It would be appropriate to include a short word-by-word exchange between you and the person(s). What you need to do is give me a clear picture of how you cared for the person(s).
- D. **Identify what theological issue** this encounter raises for you and discuss it in relation to the situation as it was presented to you and as you understand it.
- E. **Evaluate your work in this situation using your theology as well as the course readings.** How did you do as a pastor giving care? Were you faithful to your theology?  
**Make use of the course readings in order to do your best work.**

**Length:** Approximately 5 pages.

**This Paper should be submitted to the drop box on United Online by May 9<sup>th</sup>.**

**\* NOTE: In all of your work respect the confidentiality of the people you write about and do not use their names.**