



Course Syllabus

Course Title:	Pastoral Care
Semester:	Fall 2021
Instructor:	Rev. Carol Ross Irwin
Instructor contact:	carolrossirwin@gmail.com

Course Description

An introduction to the role of the pastor in caring and counseling covering: The effect of the role of pastor on the person under care; the influence of the personality of the pastor in care and counseling; the need to refer to others; introductions to listening skills, home visiting, hospital visitation, and visiting in special settings; helping parishioners deal with marriage, death and other major events in life. Resources, services, and problems in conducting marriages and funerals will be presented. Counseling techniques and resources will be discussed.

Course Objectives

By the conclusion of this course, students will be able to:

1. TBD

Online Classroom Format

All class sessions will be held online using Google Meet. All course materials, including the submission & grading of assignments, will take place on Google Classroom. Please watch the [tutorial](#) on navigating Google Classroom, if you are unfamiliar with the platform.

Required Texts

TBD

Recommended Texts

TBD

Course Requirements

1. TBD

Grading

A final grade will be calculated based on the following:

TBD

Grades to be assigned at the end of class shall be:

A+ = 97-100	A = 93-96
B+ = 89-92	B = 85-88
C+ = 81-84	C = 77-80
D+ = 73-76	D = 69-72
Not Passing = 68 and below	

Academic Policies

Plagiarism policy:

A.C.T.S. defines Plagiarism as “using someone’s ideas, words, or data, without proper acknowledgement, as one’s own original work.” To avoid plagiarism, you must 1) cite the original author every time you use his or her exact written or spoken word (by enclosing them with quotation marks if fewer than four lines or indenting as a block quote if four or more lines) or 2) paraphrase someone’s written or spoken words and recognize the author/source in the body of the text or as a footnote. Plagiarism is an act of dishonesty and violation of academic integrity.

If an Instructor determines that an act of plagiarism has occurred, after talking with the student, the Academic Dean will be notified. Possible consequences will be considered, including: a failing grade for the work, a failing grade for the entire course, asking the student to redo the assignment, etc.

Late Assignment policy:

TBD

Revision policy:

TBD

Course schedule

Session 1 August 21

- Please provide several pages (1-3 pages) identifying yourself, your current place of ministry, and why you are taking this course. Share important parts of your life so that

those who read it may have a sense of who you are. There needs to be enough details to know about your life, but not so much that it is time consuming to read or you overshare for the circumstances.

- Read chapters 1-4 of Pastoral Care in the Small Membership Church by James L. Killen, JR.
- Read: Listening and Caring Skills in Ministry: A Guide for Groups and Leaders by John Savage

Session 2 August 21

Listening skills – knowing what is said and what is not said

- Listening exercises- find a practice partner to do 3 listening exercises
 - listen to them tell you something fact based (favorite vacation, wonderful trip) Repeat back to them until you include all the facts correctly. Write a paragraph about how you did
 - ask to be told about something emotional – but happily emotional. Ask questions until your partner agrees you understand and have correctly named the emotions expressed Write a summary paragraph about what you heard
 - Talk about something emotionally difficult – a significant loss in their life, for example, and again ask questions until the other person agrees you understand their feelings. Provide an Analysis of the conversation
- Read “Good Grief”
- Read chapter 7 in Pastoral Care in the Small Membership Church
- Recommended:
 - Watch youtube video: TedX Philadelphia, Ronnie Polaneozky, *The Power of Deliberate Listening*

Session 3 August 28

Grief – what you will deal with most

Definition and understanding grief

- Read chapter 9 in Pastoral Care in the Small Membership Church “Holding a Funeral”
- Continue your listening practices – talk to someone who has experienced a recent loss (not necessarily a death) ask them to teach you about grief based on their experience and write about what you learned – not the details of their loss.

Session 4 September 11

Death and Dying

Funeral preparation and actual performing a funeral

- Assignment: Write funeral service and funeral sermon for someone- either for someone that you are expecting to do a funeral for soon or someone you know. Needs to be a real person, but not a family member

Session 5 September 18

Pastoral Care and hospital and institution visits

What to understand about the institutions, rules signs and the ways they want to work with you

- Read **the five love languages** by Gary Chapman
- Find a copy of the standard wedding ceremony
- Read Chapter 10 in Pastoral Care in the Small Membership Church
- No written work this week!

Session 6 September 25

Marriage

Premarriage counseling – what you should cover and how, how to run a wedding rehearsal, marriage counseling

Taking care of your marriage

Assignment:

- Write out a complete wedding ceremony. You may use the traditional ceremony as a basis, but add your words on marriage personalized, a unity ceremony (unity candle, sand ceremony, braided cord, Flowers, something you have seen or make up). I want a sense that I know what makes the couple special

Session 7 October 2

Pastoral Care and Preaching

How your preaching impacts your pastoral care

Types of illustrations that you use

Ways to preach relationship skills

Assignment

Write a sermon about a pastoral care topic or including a pastoral care topic

- At least 2000 words
- Provide information on your setting and the group that will be receiving the message
- Due in three weeks on October 23, 2019
- It will be graded on clarity and use of good illustrations that are relatable to your setting and how it relates to pastoral care

October 16

Mental Health Issues in the Church – Reverend Ruth Moore

Session 8 October 23

Self-care – how do you keep from burning out or wearing out

How much to give and when to say no

Caring for your family – because they don't have a pastor anymore

- Read in Pastoral Care in the Small Membership Church Chapters 12-16
- Complete your sermon

Session 9 -October 26

Dealing with Crisis-job loss, fire, natural disaster

- List three things that you want to know more about or feel like you don't really understand or something about pastoral care that I didn't really cover

Session12 November 5

Putting it all together