

## 511.615 Contemporary Approaches to Pastoral Care Course Assessment and Delivery Outline

Distance Learning/BTC  
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Semester 1, 2015  
NQF Level: 6, 15 credits

### CONTENT OVERVIEW

- a) Biblical and theological perspectives on the nature of persons and groups; the human predicament; salvation and wholeness.
- b) Biblical patterns and models of pastoral care, including the role of the people of God as a caring community.
- c) The maturity theme, individual and corporate, within the New Testament; the relationships between pastor-teacher functions and pastoral care functions; proactive and reactive styles.
- d) The distinction between pastoral care and pastoral counselling; the relationship between pastoral care and the regular life of the church, including Christian education and liturgy.
- e) Pastoral care in major life-stages and transition; common crises of life in childhood, youth, early adulthood, middle age, old age, with attention to Christian initiation and nurture.
- f) Pastoral care of families and single people; preparation for marriage; vocational guidance.
- g) Caring for the carers; supervision; support groups; the role of the church and church leadership.

### ASSESSMENT TASKS AND DUE DATES

#### 1. Theological Reflection

<i>Learning outcomes</i>	1, 2, 3
<i>Due Date</i>	Midnight Sunday at the end of week 5
<i>Percentage weighting</i>	20%
<i>Length</i>	1000 words

Write a 1000 word reflection explaining the theological mandate for pastoral care as the central task of pastoral ministry. Reflections will be presented in class for discussion during weeks 4 and 5 and the written reflection in essay format with footnotes and references is to be submitted on Moodle by the date above

#### 2. Pastoral Interview and Report

<i>Learning outcomes</i>	4, 5, 6
<i>Due Date</i>	Midnight Sunday at the end of week 9
<i>Percentage weighting</i>	35%
<i>Length</i>	2000 words

You are required to interview the person with primary responsibility for pastoral care within your ministry setting regarding pastoral care in the life of their church, and then present a written report of the interview

**i. The Interview:**

You will need to arrange a time to meet face-to-face with the person responsible for pastoral care (telephone interviews will not be acceptable.) You should plan on about an hour for the interview. Below you will find some suitable questions to explore. These questions are suggestions only; feel free to add your own questions. Be sure to have your questions well prepared before the interview and be very careful not to imply criticism in your manner of asking questions.

**ii. The Written Report.**

- a) Write out in your own words what you learned about the church and its pastoral care strategies and systems. (Do not simply write a verbatim report of the interview in a question and answer format.)
- b) Identify (1) what is the most common pastoral need they come across; (2) what was the most difficult pastoral situations they have dealt with; and (3) how did/does these events shape them and their ministry
- c) Comment on the strengths and weaknesses of their current pastoral care systems. Try to be realistic, given the size of the church, available resources and leadership etc. Note any ideas or approaches to pastoral care which you feel are worth considering in other local churches. Also, note any comments on the family life/personal life of those in pastoral care ministry, for example pressures experienced and how they deal with them?
- d) Supposing that you were appointed to the pastoral care team, what recommendations might you make and why? Note that part (c) is to be supported by explanatory footnotes from books on the course bibliography or your wider reading and research.

The report should be written in normal essay format. Section (a) should not constitute more than approximately 30% of the report.

**iii. Suggestions for Interview Questions:**

- Who is regarded as responsible for pastoral care in the church? (The pastor? elders/leaders? pastoral team? lay helpers?)
- How is pastoral care organised and carried out? e.g. Is it focused on crises/needly situations?
- Is there any "general"/preventative pastoral visitation or hospitality?
- How are decisions about pastoral care made in the church?
- How does communication about pastoral care take place between the leadership and the congregation and vice-versa?
- What are the most common types of pastoral care need encountered?
- Which age-groups receive the most pastoral care and why?
- How are new people welcomed and incorporated?
- How are new young Christians nurtured (1 to 1? in a group?)
- How are people helped to grow and to find their own ministries? What training or equipping opportunities are offered, either within that local church and/or external to the church?
- What is the function of cells/home-groups and what part do they play in the pastoral care strategy of the church (where relevant)? How are they organised/led? What materials/approaches are used?

### 3. Integrative Exercise

*Learning Outcomes* 2, 3, 4, 5, 6  
*Due Date* Midnight Sunday at the end of Exam week.  
*Percentage Weighing* 45%  
*Length* 2500 words

In this integrative exercise you will interview three people who have experienced pastoral care in order to determine what was most helpful for them during their pastoral situation. The results of these interviews will then form the foundation for you to write three interpreted case studies based on the interviews. These interpreted case studies will (1) identify the core principles of pastoral care exemplified in the pastoral situations and (2) relate them to key theological principles. You must show that you have engaged with pastoral care literature in the bibliography by footnoting where relevant.

As part of this exercise you will devise a list of questions (minimum of 6) that will form the basis of your interview. These are to be included as an appendix to your case studies and are worth 5% of the grade.

*Important: All information about the interviewees (who must be anonymous) is confidential, and can only be used with their permission.*

### CRITERIA FOR ASSESSMENT

#### Reflection

- Depth of theological understanding of pastoral ministry
- Engagement with material
- Constructive engagement with others
- Structure and presentation

#### Pastoral Interview and Report

- Care and insight in describing the church and its pastoral care systems
- Depth of analysis of pastoral care systems
- Helpfulness and value of suggestions for improvement
- Evidence of interaction with reference materials
- Communication and Presentation: Clarity, format, spelling, grammar; Annotation and bibliography.

#### Integrative Exercise

- Clear and thoughtful questions
- Integration of experience and theory
- Evaluation of core principles in relation to reference materials.
- Depth of Treatment
- Coherence and presentation, footnoting and bibliography.

### LEARNING HOURS

Tutorials and preparation	50 hours
Reflection	20% 20 hours
Pastoral Interview and Report	35% 35 hours
Integrative exercise	45% 45 hours
<b>Total:</b>	<b>150 hours</b>

## TEXTBOOKS

The required texts for this course are:

- Goodliff, Paul. *Care in a Confused Climate*. London: Darton, Longman and Todd, 1998.
- Price, Wayne W. *In Transition: Navigating Life's Major Changes*. Harrisburg: Morehouse Publishing, 2002.
- Stairs, Jean. *Listening for the Soul*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2000.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

*Please note: the following bibliography consists of a compilation of many of the books included in the reference lists found at the end of each lesson. Students are advised to check these smaller reference lists for material on specific topics as there are some references which have not been transferred to this master list.*

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- Meaning*. New York: Harper San Francisco, 1995.
- Frazer, Randy. *The Connecting Church: Beyond Small Groups to Authentic Community*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2001.
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- Jamieson, Alan. *A Churchless Faith: Faith Journeys Beyond Evangelical, Pentecost and Charismatic Churches*. Wellington, NZ: Philip Garside Pub., 2000.
- Jamieson, Alan. *Called Again: In and Beyond the Deserts of Faith*. Wellington, NZ: Philip Garside Pub., 2004.
- Jamieson, Alan. *Chrysalis: The Hidden Transformation in the Journey of Faith*. Milton Keynes: Paternoster, 2007.
- Jamieson, Alan. *Five Years On: Continuing Faith Journeys of Those who Left the Church*. Wellington, NZ: The Portland Trust, 2006.
- Kaldor, Peter & Rod Bullpitt. *Burnout in Church Leaders*. Adelaide: Open Book, 2001.
- Lester, Andrew D. *Hope in Pastoral Care and Counselling*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox, 1995.
- Levinson, Daniel J., Charlotte N. Darrow, Edward B. Klein, Maria H. Levinson, Braxton McKee. *Seasons of a Man's Life*. New York: A Knopf, 1978.
- Linn, Mathew et al. *Healing the Eight Stages of Life*. Mahwah, N.J: Paulist Press, 1988.
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