Course Description and Outcomes

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

Students will be able to:

1) Implement and oversee appropriate types of care in a variety of settings including prisons, hospitals, assisted living facilities, and homes.
2) Organize caring ministries within 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, using role play and analysis of case studies.
5) Recognize the ongoing need for self-care and develop an individual plan including devotional time, exercise, and Sabbath keeping.

Required Textbooks


Supplementary Reading for Class Discussion

**Pre-Course Assignment**  
(email pre-course assignment to amy.elizabeth.walker@emory.edu no later than August 22)

In preparation for our first weekend of work and study together, read Hoeft, Jung and Marshall’s book, *Practicing Care in Rural Congregations and Communities*, as well as Wimberly’s book, *African American Pastoral Care and Counseling*. As you read, take time to reflect in depth on who you are both personally and publically. How has your life been shaped by family, friends, experiences and the places in which you have lived and worked? Think particularly about race, sexual orientation, culture and socio-economic status. How might your sense of self enhance and/or make more difficult your ability to relate to a rural congregation or small community? What thoughts and ideas presented in each book seem most important to you in shaping the way in which you see yourself providing congregational care?

Then write a 6-8 page reflection paper which is to be emailed to the Course of Study office by August 22, 2016. As we seek to build a covenant group within the confines of our class, be prepared to share your reflections with your classmates when we gather in September.

**Interim Assignment**  
(email interim assignment to amy.elizabeth.walker@emory.edu no later than October 24)

In preparation for our final weekend of work and study together, read Webb’s book, *Crisis Counseling in the Congregation*, and write a 6-8 page reflection paper on how the skills presented can and will be enhanced by your natural giftedness. In what areas might you feel more or less comfortable? What skills seem most important to you in providing solid pastoral counseling? Weave your thoughts, reflections and observations into an imagined crisis scenario either in your congregation, the community or both and demonstrate in your writing the necessary skills and available resources you think most important to meet the present and future needs of the situation including how you will care for yourself in the process. Prepare to share your scenario as we reconvene in November.

**Final Assignment**  
(email final assignment to amy.elizabeth.walker@emory.edu no later than November 18)
In a 5-6 page paper, reflect upon what you’ve learned about congregational and community care through your readings, writings, gatherings, and reflections. What are your growth areas? And what does your plan for caring for yourself include? (Hint: think body, mind and spirit). As you balance the demands of your church and your family, remember that you must be part of the equation. After all, you are preparing for a lifetime of dedication to the Lord’s work and you cannot do that without maintaining your balance!
**Class Expectations and Grading**

- 25% - Pre-Course Assignment
- 30% - Interim Assignment
- 20% - Final Assignment
- 25% - Class Participation

**Guidelines for Written Assignments**

- All papers should be typed, double-spaced, and on 8.5 x 11” paper.
- The font should be Times New Roman, 12 point.
- Margins should be 1” on all sides.
- All papers must include a page number and the student’s last name in the header or footer.
- Note the question you are answering at the beginning of each new section or page.
- All papers must be properly cited. Please use MLA formatting. This is the best website for learning more about MLA format: [https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/1/](https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/1/)

**Inclusive Language Covenant**

The faculty of Emory Course of Study School has adopted a covenant statement encouraging inclusiveness in the use of language, as follows:

The Inclusive Language Covenant is designed to create a linguistic environment in which all students, staff, and faculty can grow in understanding and appreciating the rich diversity of God’s people. The COS faculty commits itself through continued discussion, reflection, and exploration to using language in such a way that we respond to the fullness of God’s presence among us as much by our choice of words as by our care for one another. Recognizing that our experience with inclusive language is an integral part of theological formation, we invite students and others to share as partners with us in this learning process.

We understand “covenant” more in terms of its biblical and theological meaning than in a legal or contractual context. Covenant signifies the common commitment of a community of faith in response to God’s revelation and in participation with one another. The values implied in the covenant have morally persuaded us to try to generate patterns of speech and behavior that bond the members of the community in mutual respect. We expect all members of the community to address issues of diversity constructively. The entire Inclusive Language Covenant can be found on the COS website, and you are encouraged to read the whole covenant.
Directions to Email Pre-Course Assignments

SEND TO – Email your pre-course assignments to: amy.elizabeth.walker@emory.edu

- You are encouraged to email the instructor with questions about the assignments, but do not email your pre-course assignment to them.

DEADLINE – Email must be received no later than 11:59p.m. EST on August 22, 2016.
Pre-course work received after the deadline will be subject to the late penalty schedule below:
- Pre-course work received between August 23-29 will receive a one-letter grade deduction.
- Pre-course work received between August 30 - September 2 will receive a two-letter grade deduction.
- Students who have not turned in pre-course work by September 3 will be dropped from the class.

EMAIL SUBJECT LINE – The subject of your email should be “Pre-Course Work – COS 323”

THE EMAIL – Your full name, phone number, and email address should be included at the beginning of your email. Pre-course work must be sent as an attachment and not in the body of the email.

a. Only Microsoft Word documents will be accepted.

b. All assignments for each course must be in one document. You should send only one attachment with all course assignments; emails sent with multiple documents will not be accepted.

PLAGIARISM – The “Plagiarism Policy” and “Plagiarism Defined” paragraphs below (in red) must be included in the body of your email, not within your pre-course work. The inclusion of the policy and definition in the body of the email verifies that you agree to it and your email will represent your signature (which is a requirement). If the email does not include the plagiarism policy and definition it will not be accepted.

Plagiarism Policy - I have read the plagiarism definition below and verify that this assignment represents my own work, except where credit is given.

Plagiarism Defined: “You plagiarize when, intentionally or not, you use someone else’s words or ideas but fail to credit that person, leading your readers to think that those words are yours. In all fields, you plagiarize when you use a source’s words or ideas without citing that source. In most fields, you plagiarize even when you do credit the source but use its exact words without using quotation marks or block indentation” (201-202). Booth, Wayne C. Booth, Gregory G. Colomb, and Joseph M. Williams. The Craft of Research, Second Edition. Chicago, IL: University of Chicago Press, 2003.

You will receive a confirmation of receipt within 48 hours of submitting your pre-course work.