

- 1. COURSE DESCRIPTION:** The aim of this course is to introduce the student to what is foundational to the offering of all types of pastoral care in the Christian Church. This course is designed to explore the historical (tradition) and contemporary components of pastoral care and to help in the formulation of appropriate religious (communal), spiritual (personal) and professional and ethical (ministerial) responses to the various needs and situations that are presented to the pastoral minister in service in the church.
- 2. COURSE OBJECTIVES:** To familiarize the student with the history and practice of pastoral care in the Christian tradition. To assist the student in growing in self-awareness as a pastoral care minister in his or her personal and professional (vocational) identity. To begin to develop in the student a theological and ethical perspective on the practice of pastoral care. To provide an opportunity for the student to develop a code of professional ministerial responsibility with accountability and some fundamental skills (e.g., to guide, to reconcile, to nurture) essential for effective pastoral ministry. The first half of the semester will concentrate on the basic principles of Christian pastoral care. The second half will look more precisely at the elements of pastoral practice useful for providing good pastoral care.
- 3. COURSE EVALUATION CRITERIA:** The student's letter grade will be determined by their participation in written work (60%), oral presentation (15%), and online group work (25%).
- 4. CURRICULUM NOTES:**
  - Required Texts:**
    - A. Cahalan, Kathleen A. *Introducing the Practice of Ministry*. Collegeville, MN: Liturgical Press, 2010.
    - B. Doehring, Carrie. *The Practice of Pastoral Care: A Postmodern Approach*. Louisville, KY: Westminster/John Knox; 2006.
    - C. Gula, Richard M. *Ethics in Pastoral Ministry*. New York: Paulist Press, 1996.
    - D. Lynch, Peter. *The Church's Story: A History of Pastoral Care and Vision*. Boston: Pauline Books & Media, 2005.
    - E. Shaughnessy, Mary Angela. *Ministry and the Law: What You Need to Know*. Mahwah, NJ: Paulist Press, 1998.
    - F. Additional readings on special topics from other sources will be assigned by the professor.